

DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE RETIREES NEWSLETTER

October 10, 2020

ZOOM SOCIAL! **DVCRA Fall Online Event** **Friday, October 30, 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

As you know, we had to cancel our April 2020 DVCRA Luncheon because the campus was closed due to the corona virus pandemic. To replace our Fall 2020 Luncheon, we are going to hold a virtual gathering using the Zoom platform to “meet” from the comforts of our own homes. No need for Covid-19 masks! No need for N95 smoke-filtering masks!

WHERE: Your home, your computer, smart phone, or iPad – all via Zoom (see right-hand column)

WHEN: Friday, October 30, 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

WHO: DVCRA Members

COST: Free

If you haven't been able to attend the luncheons before—because of transportation, mobility issues, or you live out of state—this is the perfect opportunity for you to join us. We miss you. Come and enjoy the fellowship of our DVC retirement community.

The goal of ***ZOOM SOCIAL!*** is to keep our DVC Retirees Association vibrant. We have enjoyed the camaraderie at our luncheons and have been very successful at raising funds for scholarships for DVC students. We hope this event continues those community-building and fundraising efforts.

Like students, but with no homework, we will gather in one large Zoom “Room” for greetings and organization. Zoom is a platform used to bring people together (and DVC is using it to conduct live classes). At our event, we will move into Breakout Rooms for more manageable conversations. We already have some Breakout Rooms set up (check out the [website](#)), or you can create your own Room with your friends. Towards the end of the event, we will gather again in one large Room for good-byes and conversation.

The actual link for the event will be emailed to you after you RSVP. Email Irene Menegas today to RSVP: imenegas@comcast.net

Please go to the ***ZOOM SOCIAL!*** website for more information on our Zoom event including:

- how to get started on Zoom
- how to RSVP
- the schedule of the event
- the Rooms you can join
- how to contribute to the Scholarship Fund
- how to participate in the online Silent Auction

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bit.ly/3Ilz4c6

- If you have questions about how to set up or use Zoom, contact Karen Castle: castle.kg@gmail.com, or call her at 925-209-6317. She would love to talk you through the process and answer your questions.

The actual link for the event will be emailed to you after you RSVP to imenegas@comcast.net

DVCRA SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanks to your donations, DVCRA provided \$16,000 for scholarships in 2019-20 and will provide \$14,000 for scholarships the 2020-2021 academic year. We will, however, need to increase our fundraising efforts in order to continue this level of support for 2021-22.

Please consider sending a check for \$15 (the cost of the luncheon) or more (many have been very generous) to continue our scholarship program at the level we have been maintaining. We recommend a donation of \$40, and appreciate all donations.

DVC students need our help more than ever, and this is a perfect time to help out. If you would like to contribute to the DVCRA Scholarship Fund and would like your contribution to be tax deductible, please write a check ***made out to the DVC Foundation***, and in the notation area, write in "DVCRA Scholarship Fund." (details on last page of Newsletter)

Mail your check to:

DVCRA
321 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

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This Year's Silent Auction

A smaller, but significant, contribution to our scholarship program are your donations and bids to the Silent Auction. This year, we will be holding an *online* silent auction which will be open for bidding from October 5, 2020 to noon on Sunday, November 1, 2020. The bidding has already started. Get your bids in today.

To bid, go to [ZOOM SOCIAL!](#) website. There will be a [Silent Auction link](#) on the banner at the upper right corner of the home page of the Event website. There you will find descriptions and photos of the items and links to the bidding sheets. Let's make this a real success.

- [ZOOM SOCIAL! Event Link](#): bit.ly/31lz4c6
- [Silent Auction Link](#): bit.ly/36IQ7AY

continued next column

You will be notified if you won on November 1 and informed where to mail your check for the auction items. Auction items will be mailed or arrangements to drop them off will be made. Here is a partial list of the auction items. See all items and bid [here](#).

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CURRENT ONLINE SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

- Two nights in a suite at the Hyatt Carmel Highlands, arriving Sun, March 14, 2021, departing Tues., March 16, donated by Tim Murphy
- Hand-turned carob bowl, donated by Chuck Cottril
- Handmade pens (6) donated by Gary Goodshaw (separate bids for each)
- \$50 gift certificate donated by Walnut Creek Yacht Club
- \$50 gift certificate donated by Sloat Garden Center
- \$25 gift certificate donated by Diablo Foods
- \$25 gift certificates donated by DVC Book Center
- Two \$25 gift certificates donated by Jack's Restaurant (two separate bids)
- \$25 gift certificate donated by Crispian Bakery, Alameda'
- Made-to-Order Face Masks by Ellen Kruse -- \$13 each

See article on next page for details

NOTE: If you're having trouble entering a bid, email Ellen Kruse at enkruse@comcast.net. Tell her what you want to bid on and the amount, and she will enter it for you. This website and online silent auction is new to all of us, and we know links and computers may not work as we'd like them to. Let's try this experiment knowing there's usually a work-around.

Editor's note about LINKS in the Newsletter: They work; they don't work. They worked yesterday; they don't work today. They work if you wait 10 seconds. Or they don't.

First, I apologize. I have tried so many ways to make this easy, so everyone could click and be taken, magically, to the place they want to go.

The solution: If the link doesn't work, I've have included a brightly-colored URL or bit.ly. Cut and Paste it into your browser (Firefox, Safari). That will work. I'll see you there. Thank you for your patience.

Facemasks: My Small Contribution

by Ellen Kruse

Early on in my isolation, after watching too much TV and drinking too much wine, I started sewing face masks for family and friends and later for the staff at my daughter's bakery, Crispian Bakery in Alameda. A customer and friend of ours admired the masks the staff were wearing at the bakery's booth at the Moraga Farmers Market, and when she found out I made the masks, she wondered whether I could make masks for her family.

This occurred in April when masks were pretty scarce, and I realized that other customers of Crispian might also want masks. At the same time, the Alameda Food Bank couldn't get its usual donation of leftover bread and pastries from the bakery, so I made masks, displayed them at the bakery window, and, in exchange for a mask, I asked for a donation to the Alameda Food Bank.

The fundraiser took off.

The need at food banks nationwide is dire. Whereas the Alameda Food Bank used to serve 800 families a month, they now serve 2,000 a *week*. Their people told me that for each dollar donated because of the face masks I made, they can purchase seven dollars worth of food. They love that members of the community have contributed to this fundraiser, and I love how my hobby has helped feed people.

In June, Terri Cassidy, Hedy Wong, Nancy Harvey, and I decided it was finally safe to continue our walks at Sun Valley Mall as long as we walked outside the mall. We hadn't walked since March, so as part of our catching up, I told them about my sewing face masks and raising funds for the food bank, which at that time had raised more than \$1,200.

During our mall walk, we were startled when a couple of news vans pulled right up to us; turns out, we were newsworthy because we happened to be walking on the first day the mall re-opened. Terri and Hedy appeared on the Channel 7 evening news that night. Matt Bigler of KCBS Radio was in another van, and he interviewed me regarding the mall opening. But

about my making face masks and the donations they generated for the Alameda Food Bank.

That's the story Bigler aired. He added the sound effect of a sewing machine, so his radio news story sounded like he interviewed me while I was sewing.

I kept sewing face masks almost to the end of July when I had to have emergency surgery for a detached retina, and all sewing stopped for me. However, Dorothy, one of my hiking friends in the Alameda Women's Hiking Group, found out about the face mask fundraiser and my surgery and took matters into her own hands. Boy does she sew! She began dropping off her masks at Crispian. By the end of July when I had to stop, I had sewn over 300 masks; Dorothy sewed over 500 with donations going to the Navajo Nation.

It is heartwarming how people give a little extra for masks to support important causes, especially now that masks are available at drug stores for a dollar each. In addition, my friends, including many members of the DVCRA, have requested masks and made very generous donations to the Alameda Food Bank. The customers of Crispian Bakery, my family, and friends have as of September, contributed more than \$3,000 to the Alameda Food Bank.

Now that my eye has healed, I will get back to sewing face masks for the Alameda Food Bank again.

But before I do, however, I will sew face masks as a *fundraiser for the DVCRA*! I'll be happy to sew one for you – and your friends and family. Simply contribute \$13 for each mask, and most of the money goes to the DVCRA Scholarship Fund. Go to the [Silent Auction](#) page to sign up for as many as you like; I will email you photos of the selections for you to make your choice. All of the money goes to a GREAT cause, so order more than one.

Looks like we are going to need these masks for a long while; it's a good time to stock up.

View and select your beautiful face masks [here](#). Cut/Paste: bit.ly/36IQ7AY

DVCRA Welcomes New Members

Membership Renewal Continues

Welcome to the new DVC retirees who have joined our organization. We are so glad to have you with us. And to those of you who have already *renewed* your membership for 2020-2021, a big thanks to you as well.

Even with our new and renewed members, however, DVCRA continues to experience a downward trend in our membership. Over the past five years, our numbers have steadily decreased, going from 173 members in 2015-2016 to 148 members last year. So far this year, our membership stands at 121.

While most of us have been less busy this year, there are still many important concerns that may have distracted us from remembering to renew – protecting ourselves and loved ones from COVID-19, excessive heat, fires and smoky air, a critical election looming. So, if you realize you haven't renewed your membership, don't delay. **Renew now.** Unsure? Contact Sue Shattuck.

Write your check for the \$20 dues to the DVC Retirees Association and put it in the mail. For your convenience, a DVCRA Dues and Membership Form is the last page of this Newsletter; also, you can find a copy of it on our DVCRA website at www.uf4cdretired.org. Please copy and send the form along with your check, so we can correctly record your membership information. If you have any questions or difficulty, please contact Sue Shattuck at 925-855-5534 or write Sue: sshattuck@earthlink.net.

DVCRA would also appreciate any contribution you can make to our scholarship fund. Our efforts to reach this year's goal of giving 14 students \$1,000 each are challenged by our lower membership and our inability to hold our luncheons just at the time when our students have heightened financial needs. We are *suggesting a donation of \$40*, so we can help as many students as possible. Information about how to claim the donation as a tax deduction is at the end of the Newsletter.

Thank you – Stay Safe Everyone

Submitted by Sue Shattuck

DVC Retirees Association Financial Report

Jan. 1, 2020 to Aug. 15, 2020

The primary purpose for the DVCRA's fundraising is to award scholarships to DVC students. The association first awarded scholarships in 2008, and we have given out a total of \$108,400 in scholarships through 2020. We award and fund scholarships in the spring, and our major fundraising efforts occur during the summer. Consequently, the funds raised in 2020 will be used to fund the scholarships in 2021.

The Board has approved 14 scholarships for \$1,000 each for 2021. Eight scholarships will go to continuing DVC students, and six will go to transferring students. One of our transfer-student scholarships will go to an Umoja student, and one transfer scholarship will go to a Puente student.

The following DVCRA financial information is for the period January 1, 2020 to August 15, 2020:

- We have \$25,856 in cash held in our bank accounts at Travis Credit Union and the DVC Foundation.
- Our fundraising activities (including donations, memberships, and auctions) generated \$9,688 available for scholarships.
- We paid \$11,000 of the \$14,000 awarded for scholarships awarded in 2020.

Due to the impact of COVID 19 on our fundraising, we will use up to \$2,000 of our current reserves to fund the 2021 scholarships. In addition, we will need to raise approximately \$2,300 by the end of the year to meet our goal for 14 scholarships for \$1,000 each. The silent auction and voluntary contributions will help greatly in this effort. Please consider donating today; we suggest a donation of \$40. (information on the last page)

We would like to thank you for your continuing generosity and encourage all of our retirees to help us meet our 2021 scholarship goal.

~~ Submitted by Chris Leivas

THANK YOU FOR SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

Each year, the Diablo Valley College Retirees Association solicits donations for the Silent Auction that we conduct at our Spring and Fall luncheons. We received the donations listed below for our Spring 2020 event. Unfortunately, we did not hold the luncheon and were not able to offer these wonderful items.

However, we would like to thank these individuals and groups for their continued support and generosity. They understand how valuable their contributions are to funding the scholarships we offer to our continuing and transferring students.

- ★ Two Club Level Seats for SF Giants game donated by Chris Leivas
- ★ Wooden Creation by Chuck Cottril
- ★ Sloat Garden Center Gift Card (\$50)
- ★ Cookbook by Gene Hambelton
- ★ Gift Certificates to Norseman Room (2 @ \$40)
- ★ Season Tickets (Two Sets) for DVC Drama Department's 2020-21 Season
- ★ Diablo Foods Gift Card
- ★ DVC Book Center Gift Cards (2 @ \$25)
- ★ Two Tickets, Berkeley Repertory Theater

Please see the list for our Fall 2020 [Silent Auction](#) items and remember to bid generously; the money goes directly to the DVCRA Scholarship Fund.

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~~ submitted by Nancy Zink

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PICTURES FROM PREVIOUS LUNCHEONS?

Check out pictures from previous luncheons by going to our website: uf4cdretired.org.

Scroll down page the "Welcome" box. Under the heading "PAGES," click on "Photos from Recent DVCRA Events."

DR. BRYAN REECE NAMED NEW CHANCELLOR OF CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

The Governing Board of the Contra Costa Community College District selected Dr. Bryan Reece to be its new Chancellor. Reece takes the place of Interim Chancellor Gene Huff after the Board decided not to renew Huff's contract. Dr. Reece will replace Fred Wood, who served for three years before his retirement. Reece joins our District after most recently serving as President of Norco College, part of the Riverside CCD.

Dr. Reece has been in higher education for more than 30 years, including 19 as a tenured faculty member in political science. In addition, he also has served as Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dean, and most recently college President.

At an Open Zoom Forum, Reece spoke passionately about his commitment to social justice and translating that commitment into meeting student needs in our district. At Norco, he founded a program to bring post-secondary education to inmates at a nearby California Rehabilitation Center. Also, at Norco, Reece sought to address the housing crisis that many veterans, foster youth, and homeless students were facing. He pledged to bring that passion to 4CD as well.

The Board had narrowed its search to two candidates, Dr. Reece and Raúl Rodríguez. Rodríguez, however, withdrew from the process after accepting an offer to extend his contract as Hartnell College's interim Superintendent last month.

As of the publication of this newsletter, Reece has officially been offered the position, and the Board has the goal of placing his contract up for public review and approval at their regular meeting on Wed., October 14.

For more information on Dr. Reece, read this week's story in [DVC's Inquirer](#). Cut-Paste: bit.ly/3iLkMQv

IN MEMORIA

Bernice Dandridge

Died August 19, 2020

For more than 28 years, Bernice Dandridge was a faculty member at DVC -- 16 years as full-time faculty and 12 years in a part-time role. She taught textiles in the apparel design program and started the fashion merchandising certificate program in the Fine and Applied Arts and Business Divisions.

As a full-time faculty member in business, Bernice served as department chair several times and for five years served as the chair of the entire division. During her tenure she was able to oversee the construction of the Business and Foreign Language and the Community Conference buildings.

In retirement, Bernice spent time both in California and Virginia where she ran a little café and managed apartment buildings. She retired in 2005.

Kathleen Costa

Died April 15, 2020

Kathleen Costa, retired Senior Dean of the San Ramon Campus, passed away on April 15, 2020.

Kathleen started her career at DVC in 1987. She held many roles at the college including clerical assistant to the Learning Disability specialist, part-time Disabled Students and Program Services counselor, full-time DSPS counselor, Faculty Senate Council corresponding secretary, interim DSPS manager, United Faculty vice-president for DVC, general counselor, academic and then senior dean at SRC. Kathleen retired in 2016.



Judy Sunayama Foster

Died May, 2020

Judy Foster, retired business faculty member, passed away in May, 2020.

Judy was a DVC student before being hired by the district as a full-time business instructor in Business-Office Technology at LMC in 1973. She transferred to DVC in 1986.

Judy participated at the ground-level of many challenges. As a member of LMC's first faculty group in 1973, Judy worked with other faculty and constituent groups to help the college develop its general education program, policies, and procedures, and also helped establish the GE program's presence in the community.

In 1983, Judy had the opportunity to work with Bill Harlan as he was developing the San Ramon Campus. Another experience was in store for her when the Student Learning Objective movement made its presence known in 2005. Being a part of all of those endeavors complemented a nearly 40-year teaching experience. Judy retired in 2011.

K. Glenn Onizuka

Died February 27, 2020

DVC Counselor, K. Glenn Onizuka began his career in education in 1959 in the Richmond Unified School District. In 1964, he was hired by Contra Costa College as a counselor, eventually teaching psychology and also initiating and then teaching in the Asian-American studies program. In 1981, Glenn moved to Laney College to be Dean of Student Services, the first Asian-American Dean in the California Community College system.

In 1986, Glenn returned to CCCC as a counselor and a teacher of Asian-American history at DVC.

Glenn was born in Stockton, CA and attended elementary school there until World War II when he and his family were removed and relocated to a Japanese-American internment camp in Rohwer, Arkansas, along with approximately 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry who were placed in ten camps around the United States. Glenn was a veteran of the Korean War, having served in military intelligence in both the United States and Japan.

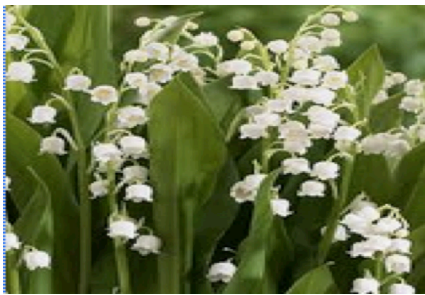
Returning to California after the war, Glenn earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Counseling at San Francisco State University. He retired in 1996.

IN MEMORIA

Barbara Ryan

September 26, 2019

Barbara Ryan was hired as the United Faculty Secretary in 1982. She was hired when the UF had no permanent space at DVC, and she worked out of Bill Harlan's faculty office. According to Bill, "she worked under trying circumstances, often without even a chair. . . . She was the presence of the UF for many years at DVC."



All the people who knew Barbara respected her and appreciated her cheerfulness, understanding, patience, and encouragement.

Nancy Zink, importantly, recalls how attentive, respected, and respectful Barbara was when Nancy was a part-time faculty member and felt exactly the same way when she became a full-timer. She treated everyone well; everyone was treated the same.

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Look for further tributes to our colleagues on the DVCRA web page at Uf4cdretired.org

VIRTUAL OUTINGS, SPEAKERS, MUSIC

DVC Retiree Rob Peters has been recommending virtual outings – travel quite a distance from your living room. These were inspired from Rob's suggestions:

• **The Future Climate: Leveraging the Economy of Build Wildfire Resistance**

Given the wild fires, the Greenbelt Alliance has invited Robert Ewing to discuss what better forest management should look like in the Bay Area.

bit.ly/36FkJD9

Thurs., Nov. 12, Noon, free

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• **A Virtual Walk in the Forest: Trees of the Bay Area**

Missing nature's fall colors? Then come indulge your inner druid and join us for a Zoom presentation about our native trees. bit.ly/33E7Fwb

Sat., Nov. 14, Noon, Free
(donation suggested)

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'History of Jazz in NYC' Webinar & 78rpm Listening Party: Vaudeville Days

Friday, Oct. 16th @ 3 PM (PST) \$10

DVC SPEAKERS



Racial Capitalism, Donald Trump, and the Future of U.S. Democracy

Raul Moreno Campos, Dept. of Chicana & Chicano Studies, UCSB

~ Th, 10/22, 12:30 – 2 p.m. Free

Zoom link (you must have zoom to attend this event). Sign in here five minutes early.

<https://4cd.zoom.us/j/94567136639>

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PHILHARMONIA LIVE FROM ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

bit.ly/2GOgVOB

Live concerts from around \$11.00. World class music at stay-at-home prices.

Suggested events:

• **Chan Conducts**

Mendelssohn Th, Nov. 12
(check time)

Elim Chan – conductor
Sergey Khachatryan – violin

• **Benedetti Plays Beethoven** Mon, Nov. 30 (check time)

P. Heras-Casado – conductor
Nicola Benedetti – violin

Judy Walters, DVC Retiree and Former College President, Running for 4CD Board of Trustees

Judy Walters, former President of Diablo Valley College, as well as former DVCRA Board member, is running for the Board of Trustees for our community college district.

Judy hopes to bring her 30+ years of experience in education to a Board badly in need of stability after a period of considerable controversy. Her experience is vast and varied. Besides being president of DVC, she has many other notable accomplishments: President or interim President of three additional community colleges; Dean, Division Dean, and Faculty Member; Interim Chancellor at the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District; she is even a current director of the California Jazz Conservatory.

Many believe her previous role as college president at very different colleges has given her just the experience and clarity she needs in our three-college district, and for better understanding in order to implement and guide what she believes is the proper relationship between the Board and the individual colleges. She is looking forward to working with the new Chancellor who will also be starting in the coming year.

All of her experience has given Judy clarity about the role of the Board of the Trustees: to focus mainly on budget and district policy oversight. She thinks recent decisions and actions have taken the 4CD Board far away from their primary responsibilities and hopes to return the Board to a more traditional role. This role includes fostering a great deal of autonomy and responsibility to the three colleges in our district – each so impressive and distinct.

Judy is clear about the fact that her education, years of experience in working in a variety of roles at community colleges, and her long-standing reputation of integrity will provide a deeper understanding as well as a new look at 4CD's policies and the Board's roles in shaping those policies.



Judy is running in Ward 2 which includes mainly Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Orinda, Alamo, Rossmoor, Moraga, and Rodeo where so many of our retirees live. Judy encourages DVC Retirees to vote in the upcoming election, and, of course, to vote for her.

One of the candidates she is running against in Ward 2 is current Board member, Vicki Gordon. Gordon has been named, along with Gregory Enholm and John Marquez, in a "Joint Resolution No Confidence" issued by both the Academic and Classified Senates at DVC. Gordon was also the subject of an investigation by 4CD's Executive Vice-Chancellor for "various acts of misconduct"; three of the four allegations against her were sustained. Judy believes that she will be able to re-establish the integrity of the board, and win back the confidence of the UF and classified staff.

Judy's list of endorsements is quite long and contains notable DVC Retirees including Peter Garcia, Diane Scott-Summers, Jeanie Dewhurst, and Irene Menegas (with apologies to the other esteemed endorsers who are listed on Walters' website). Also, she is endorsed by Tom Torlakson (former California Superintendent of Public Instruction) and Rebecca Barret (current President of the 4CD Board of Trustees). Perhaps, most notably, Walters has the rare endorsement of both of the District's United Faculty and Classified Union, unprecedented in the last decade.

More information available at Judy's [website](#):

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REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOV. 3

A Place I Never Wanted To Be: Online All the (Virtual) Time

by Laury Fischer (*Newsletter Editor*)

Like every university, college, and school in the country, DVC faced the challenge of how to address the effects of the pandemic back in March, 2020 when during the 8th week of the semester, all DVC classes went online. Similar to almost every teacher in the country, I suddenly was meeting online, in a virtual classroom, a group of 25 students. We had been meeting face-to-face, twice a week for the previous eight weeks, something I had done for over 45 years. Suddenly, I was now only seeing my students on a computer screen, in tiny little Zoom boxes for the final eight weeks of the semester.

Early last spring, DVC, with the consultation of students, administration, faculty, and classified staff, quickly decided to be fully online in fall, 2020 – perhaps the first college in the Bay Area to make that decision. At the start of this current semester, once again DVC was one of the first colleges to commit to being fully online in spring semester, 2021 as well. On Oct. 8, Interim Chancellor Huff re-affirmed that “instruction for Spring 2021 will again be mostly online,” which means that with very few exceptions, all of our 2,300 classes will be online.

About one-third of the classes, including mine, will be taught in part synchronously -- using Zoom for live classes taught in real time. The other two-thirds will be taught completely asynchronously - with no mandatory live, in-person meetings. Faculty in both groups typically hold one-on-one office hours in Zoom sessions, either by appointment or in regularly scheduled drop-in sessions, similar to what faculty used to do when our bodies were on campus.

It's a new world of teaching and learning. I am part of it, having decided to teach one course (English 126, Critical Thinking) online, meeting synchronously once a week for 80 minutes, and “meeting” the rest of the time in asynchronous sessions. For those classes, I post all of the assignments and readings on a platform called Canvas, where students pick up the work, email me questions, meet in online discussion groups, view posted videos, and ultimately, hand in their work through Canvas.

It's been quite an adjustment for everyone. There are many veteran teachers like me who have never taken or taught a class online and have been reluctant to do so; other faculty are more eager and experienced but still were hardly prepared for the stress of teaching a full-load online; students, many of whom have been as reluctant as I about taking classes online, are typically resilient and cheerful, but overwhelmed and visibly stressed.

This semester in the second week, I asked one very affable student how it was going; he kind of laughed, and said, “it's kind of hard getting used to all the different ways you instructors do everything. None of you even post your homework in the same place as each other; I have to go looking for it one place from you, another from my math teacher, another from my chem teacher. It's not so bad; we're all used to getting used to you.”

And the “getting used to” is quite an effort.

The efforts of the District in general, and, DVC specifically, to make the transition smooth and effective has been massive and mostly successful to my thinking.

Here's a snapshot of the scale of what we faced:

	Fall 2019 % online	Fall 2020 % online	Total Faculty
Pleasant Hill Campus	11 % 228 of 2050 total courses	100% 1800 total courses	661
San Ramon Campus	24% 48 of 209 courses	100% 180 courses	89
Total DVC	12% 277 of 2258 Total Courses	100% 1980 courses	750

Thank you to Santino Aguilar and Mary Gutierrez for this data

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Just as significant was the work that went into preparing faculty to teach online through an online course: Becoming an Effective Online Instructor (BEOI), a faculty-created, faculty-taught, four-week professional development course.

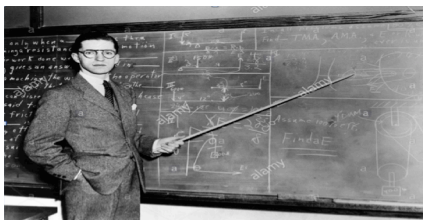
So yes, I became an online student in an online class whose curriculum was becoming an online instructor. The training was featured in a [story](#) in the *East Bay Times* (full disclosure: I am one of the instructors featured in that story).

bayareane.ws/3d5yBYI

In addition to this training, the United Faculty negotiated an excellent deal with the District: faculty were paid \$700 for completing the BEOI training. In addition, every instructor, full-time and part-time, no matter how many courses they are teaching right now, were paid a stipend of \$1,000 to compensate them for all the extra work they put in developing their classes. Personally, it is taking me an additional 6-10 hours each week to prepare my 80-minute live Zoom class.

Even (or especially) after 46 years of teaching, I didn't know if I was ready to make such a massive change in what I had enjoyed doing so much – both as a full-time and more recently as a part time instructor. One thing that it's taken me a while to come to terms with is that I no longer have that familiar way of knowing if a class went well. Those who have taught a while know very well when a class went well -- and when it didn't; we know during class how to shift gears, re-emphasize a point, digress, make a joke, check in with students. Both during and at the end of class, we all had a sixth or even seventh sense of what went well. And what didn't.

I don't think I have that now. At least not yet. I was telling this to my son, and, wisely, he said, "Sounds like you're a first-year teacher again, dad."



And I think I am.

Note: At our upcoming **Zoom Social** on Oct. 30, Laury Fischer will be leading a conversation on teaching online and its implications for students, faculty, staff, and the college. Hope to see you there.

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DVC INQUIRER HAS NEW LOOK AND NEW LEADERSHIP

DVC's much awarded and much read newspaper, *The Inquirer*, is now fully online, and covering many of the stories of interest to students and the community at large. Mickey Huff, history professor, is currently the chair of the Journalism Department, and is overseeing a revamping of the department's mission, curriculum, and philosophy. The department currently offers ten classes and has recently hired its one full-time instructor, Michael Levitin, co-founding editor of *The Occupied Wall Street Journal*.

A recent sample of headlines with links to recent stories will give you a sense of the state of this excellent program.

Impending District Accreditation Review Threatened by Governing Board Controversy [Sept. 30](#) If clicking link, doesn't work, Cut/Paste: Bit.ly/31czHoa

Confronted with Covid-19 Realities, Many Seek Answers in Conspiracy Theories [Sept. 30](#) Cut/Paste: bit.ly/2HUmYc2

INQUIRER PODCAST (new) Sports, Fires, 2020 Presidential Election, and Neal Skapura [Sept. 30](#) Cut/Paste: bit.ly/33rVCBH

Mandatory Meetings an Unexpected Hurdle for Online Classes [Sept. 30](#). Cut/Paste: bit.ly/2SpeStn

College District Moves Ahead with Chancellor Negotiations Amid Unanimous No-Confidence Vote [Sept. 24](#). Cut/Paste: Bit.ly/3lg3IJr

COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS – BACK WHERE THEY BELONG?

By Laury Fischer (with archival assistance from Irene Menegas)

“Smile 4 U.” “Don’t Mess With This Building.” “Power On.” And nearly 500 individual’s names.

These messages might seem like a description of the autograph page of a yearbook, but they actually what’s engraved on some of the Commemorative Bricks that have returned to DVC Commons Area after five years in storage.

Whenever you feel comfortable returning to campus, you might enjoy strolling by the Student Union and visiting those lovely commemorative bricks which were removed when the old cafeteria was razed and replaced by now not-so-new buildings: Student Services, Food Court, and Hospitality Services. The whole Commons area has been transformed, and as promised by President Susan Lamb, the bricks were safe and sound in storage, demanded no extra care and feeding, and have now been returned and reside near the Student Union. They’d love short visit.

The story of the bricks is a little slice of DVC history. In 1990 (shocking that that’s thirty years ago), DVC students assessed themselves \$1 per unit (with a \$10 maximum) to fund the construction of a student union – DVC’s first.

Students had a primary role in not only fundraising but in designing the building which was opened in 1998, and named the Margaret Leshar Student Union, still the only building on campus with someone’s name attached to it.

In 1998, Dick Shoemaker, then editor of this very Newsletter, quoted retiree Dick Smith stating his main concern that “there be no typos.” Now would be a good time to visit the bricks and see if Smith’s concerns were addressed.

The idea behind selling bricks was to provide funds for a variety of needs that might have arisen during the construction of the new building. But the bricks would also give people a chance to have their name or a phrase commemorated in a beautiful, and evolving, place on campus.

The quad area on campus was being reimaged to make way for a new buildings and a whole new look; it’s completely transformed. As part of this construction project to provide a more uniform look to the Quad, the bricks were removed and placed in storage in 2015. The central part of campus has now been completely transformed and worth a visit when you feel it’s safe to come on campus (the campus is open now for a limited number of activities, but is basically empty. Even parking is easy).

Contributors paid \$50 for a brick and could include their name, a brief message, or both. At least 470 bricks were sold which raised \$23,500 to help maintain the Student Union. The return of the bricks is one of the many signs that things are returning, however, slowly to normal.

Photo below by Garen Avanesian. More lovely photos on our [website](#). Cut-paste: bit.ly/33GoYwh



USING OUR TIME WELL

The last Newsletter contained lots of suggestions of things we could do as we first faced shelter-in-place for an indefinite period of time. The response was very positive, so with some suggestions from Rob Peters and Linda Robbins, the list continues – and some even lead us outside. What a concept.

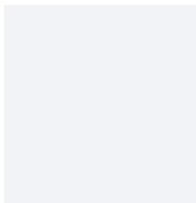
TRANSCRIPTION PROJECTS

• Zooniverse

A number of you wrote, saying you enjoyed crowd-sourced transcriptions – where from home you help do serious scientific, historical, literary, etc. work.

[Zooniverse](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects) is an incredible site where scholars post projects that require “people-powered research.” The variety is exciting; these caught my eye. Others found here: <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects>

- ⦿ [decoding formerly secret Civil War telegrams](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects). [bit.ly/2SxLrpd](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects)
- ⦿ transcribing handwritten conference notes written by [Supreme Court Justices](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects) [bit.ly/2F8ygrx](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects)
- ⦿ identifying [fish species in paintings](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects) to gain information on biodiversity and commercial use of fish species [bit.ly/3jF8pGB](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects)
- ⦿ transcribing the groundbreaking work of early [women astronomers](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects) [bit.ly/3IjXiDF](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects)
- ⦿ unlocking [Nature's Archive](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects) by transcribing manuscripts from the Archives of London's Natural History Museum: [bit.ly/34HvEJU](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects)



Projects on Zooniverse are listed by categories: art, history, social science, climate, language, etc. There is something wonderful there for you.

Current DVCRA Board Members

Karen Castle	Coordinator
Cnris Leivas	Treasurer
Irene Menegas	Secretary
Ellen Kruse	Luncheon Coordinator
Sue Shattuck	Membership Coordinator
Nancy Zink	Directory & Benefits Liaison
Linda Robbins	New Members & Newsletter Support
Laury Fischer	Newsletter Editor
OPEN POSITION	Scholarship Coordinator

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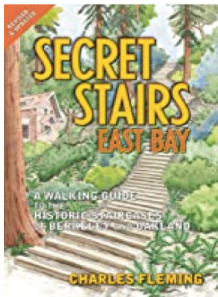
Irene Menegas rambling through the archives found this list of DVCRA Board Members in 1998 – just 22 years ago.

1998 DVCRA Board Members

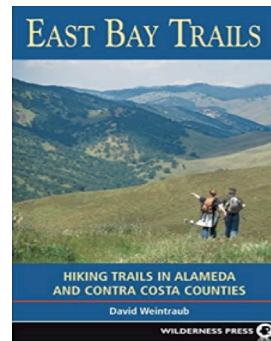
Bob Martincich	President
Dick Nordstrom	Service and Education Director
Gene Goselin	Social Director
Gloria Gilmore	Secretary-Treasurer
Ben Bowen, Arlene Grieve, Barbara Ryan	Phone Tree Coordinators
Dick Shoemaker	Newsletter Editor

Happy Trails

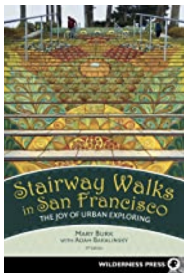
Many of us have stayed active since March, finding trails and outdoor journeys. Some, like me, have been more cautious. But as the clean air has returned, many more people have taken to hiking again. Linda Robbins and I both love Stairway Walk books, describing hidden stairways in San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley. *East Bay Trails* has a wonderful combination of the familiar and surprising trails in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. *Walkabout California* combines hiking coastal trails with stops and stay-overs at local inns.



**Secret Stairs:
East Bay: A
Walking Guide to
the Historic
Staircases of
Berkeley and
Oakland** by Charles
Fleming



**East Bay Trails: Hiking Trails in
Alameda and Contra Costa
Counties** by David Weintraub

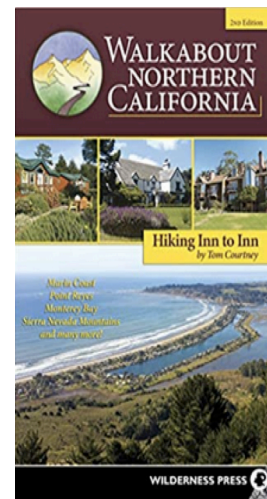


**Stairway Walks
in San
Francisco: The
Joy of Urban
Exploring**
by Mary Burk and Adah
Bakalinsky



Ghost Signs Mapping Event –

Sat. Oct. 17, On your schedule, explore the urban East Bay. Join the expanding effort to photograph and document hand-painted and other antique signs throughout the East Bay. **Cut-Paste:**
bit.ly/34H0t1j



Walkabout Northern California

by Tom Courtney

When you're ready, this book offers a little more adventurous hikes as it guides you hiking from Inn to Inn along various, beautiful trails in Northern California.

**HAVEN'T JOINED DVCRA FOR 2020-2021?
NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME
\$20 PER RETIREE FAMILY**

Name: _____
 Spouse/Partner (optional): _____
 Address: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Make check out to DVC Retirees Association (\$20 per retiree family)

SUGGESTED DONATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

1. \$15 FOR THE AMOUNT YOU WOULD HAVE PAID FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING THE LUNCHEON
2. SUGGESTED \$40 DONATION TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND
3. ALL OTHER AMOUNTS CHEERFULLY ACCEPTED
4. PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATIONS BY **NOVEMBER 1**
 (THOUGH WE WILL ACCEPT THEM ALL YEAR OF COURSE).
 UNDER THESE HARD TIMES, LET'S MAKE THIS A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR
 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DVC STUDENTS

TWO OPTIONS FOR PAYMENT

(1) Write a check for your total scholarship donation to the **DVC Foundation**. On the memo line write "DVCRA Scholarship Fund" (tax deductible). Then write a separate check to DVCRA for your dues.

OR

(2) Write a check for the entire amount to the **DVC Retirees Association** (not tax deductible)

**PLEASE SEND ALL DONATIONS – PREFERABLY IN THE SAME ENVELOPE –
BY **NOVEMBER 1** TO**

**DVC RETIREES ASSOCIATION
321 GOLF CLUB ROAD
PLEASANT HILL, CA 94523**

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FINAL NOTE

We know that DVC will be offering classes online again in Spring 2021, so we know that we will not be meeting in the Diablo Room for our Spring 2021 Luncheon. **IF** this October 30 Zoom Social works out, we will plan another event, probably on the last Friday in April 2021-- a "LET'S MEET REAL ZOOM" event. Tentatively mark your calendars for April 30.

**Stay Safe and Stay Well. Take Care of Each Other.
We Can't Wait to See Everyone. In Person. Whenever That Is.**