

DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE RETIREES NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2020

DVCRA May 1 Luncheon Cancelled

Save the Date:

DVCRA Fall Luncheon

October 30, 2020

ALL DVC CLASSES NOW ONLINE

By Laury Fischer (editor)

Starting March 16, because of the coronavirus pandemic, DVC stopped holding face-to-face meetings, and all classes began online instruction. A massive professional development effort led by Anne Kingsley, Kat King, Mario Tejada, and Jeanette Peavler provided in-person, online, and one-to-one trainings (also online) to help faculty and staff help students make the transition. As someone who taught for 45 years and never wanted to teach online, I've felt well-taught and supported throughout the process. And scared.

Initially, student services, tutoring, the library, and administrative and academic offices remained opened, but all but essential services were stopped by March 18th. By the end of that week, however, there were essentially no operations on any of the campuses in the Contra Costa District.

As of the publication date of the Newsletter, in-person classes are supposed to resume after spring break, April 13th, but there is widespread speculation that instruction at DVC, like UC Berkeley, will remain online until the end of the semester.

(update continued on last page)

The DVCRA Board hopes that you will all be safe and healthy so that we can gather again with good cheer in the fall when our current crisis is behind us.

For this academic year, 2019-20, the DVC Retirees Association, with your generosity, is offering \$14,000 in scholarships, and, as you know, a small portion of your luncheon check, our silent auction, and "fishbowl" donations raise funds for these scholarships.

The Board is going to make every effort to maintain our level of scholarships to our worthy students, and we have some suggestions throughout the Newsletter.

Here's our first suggestion:

- Consider donating at least the amount you would spend on the luncheon (\$15) toward our scholarship fund so we can offer scholarships next year for our 2020-21 applicants. It's easy: Send your check for \$15 made out to the DVC Foundation here:

DVC Retirees Association
Diablo Valley College
321 Golf Club Road

(Write "DVCRA Scholarship Fund" in the memo line if you would like your contributions to be tax deductible).

Here's another suggestion:

- Consider bidding on one of the silent auction items below, which are somewhat time-sensitive. If no bids are received, we will offer them at our October 30, 2020 luncheon but there will be less time in which to use them.

The bidding process is simple and described on the next page.

SILENT AUCTION BIDDING PROCESS

(1) As soon as possible after you receive this Newsletter, email your bid to Ellen Kruse at enkruse@comcast.net. Send your best bid at or over the minimum. Be sure to indicate which item(s) you are bidding for. The highest bid wins. If there is a tie, first bid in wins. Bidding closes on **April 10. Send checks by April 30.**

2) Please note that during the bidding period, no emails will be sent notifying people if they were outbid; you won't have the chance to raise your bid. Just send Ellen your best bid at the outset. Be generous. It's a fundraiser.

3) **On April 11**, or soon after, Ellen will email you letting you know whether your bid won or not, make arrangements for payment, and mail the certificate to you.

Online Silent Auction Items Bid Now – Raise Scholarship Funds

FIVE ITEMS TO BID ON

- * 2 Tickets to DVC Drama's 2020-21 Season of Shows (the whole season) Value: \$110
Minimum bid: \$55
- * 2 Tickets to DVC Drama's 2020-21 Season of Shows (the whole season) Value: \$110
Minimum bid: \$55
- * 2 Tickets to one Berkeley Rep 2020-21 subscription season show, to an available performance on Tuesday (8 p.m.), Thursday (2 or 8 p.m.), Friday (8 p.m. or Sunday (7 p.m.). Other limits and restrictions apply. Must be redeemed by June 30, 2021. Value: \$140 Minimum bid: \$70
- * 1 Norseman Gift Certificate to be used during the 2020-21 academic year. Value: \$40
Minimum bid: \$20
- * 1 Norseman Gift Certificate to be used during the 2020-21 academic year. Value: \$40
Minimum bid: \$20

Remember: Send your bid to Ellen Kruse at enkruse@comcast.net

Bidding closes April 10.

Thank You For Your Silent Auction Donations

Most of DVCRA's scholarships are funded by membership dues and direct contributions to the DVCRA. Thank you all of your important contributions. In addition, the Silent Auction at the luncheons has been a small, fun way to contribute to the scholarship fund. The proceeds from the silent auctions typically fund at least one entire scholarship per year. We hope to continue this even this spring, with no auction. See suggestions in the Newsletter for how you can help.

Thank you to the donors listed below for their generous donations to the Silent Auction held at the DVCRA's October 2019 luncheon. The money earned from your contributions goes directly to our scholarship fund for DVC's continuing and transfer

- ✿ Janice Bross at the DVC Foundation substantial assistance in getting 6 auction items
- ✿ Tim Murphy, DVCRA member, Hyatt Mini Vacation
- ✿ Gary Goodshaw, DVCRA member six handcrafted wooden pens
- ✿ Chuck Cottril, DVCRA member, handcrafted wooden bowl from camphor tree
- ✿ Lunardi's Markets, Walnut Creek, gift certificate
- ✿ Diablo Foods, Lafayette, gift certificate
- ✿ Jack's Restaurant & Bar, Pleasant Hill, gift certificate
- ✿ Sloat Garden Center (various locations in Bay Area)

If you have something you'd like to share and donate to our October luncheon, please contact Ellen Kruse. enkruse@comcast.net

~ submitted by Nancy Zink

Recruitment Efforts to Combat Declining Membership Numbers

In 2015-16, DVC Retirement Association had 173; this year, 2019-2020, we have 143 paid members. In each of these last five years, our paid membership has *dropped* about six members a year. The DVCRA Board has tried several ways to reverse this trend. For last year's October luncheon, members were offered a free lunch for themselves and their guest if they brought with them a prospective new or returning member.

This year, Chris Leivas suggested, and with the Board's approval, worked with the CCCCDC to create and mail recruitment letters to newly retired faculty and staff who haven't joined DVCRA and whose addresses the District can access. The Board continually looks for ways to bring in new members. Do you have an idea for how to increase our membership numbers? If so, please share it with Sue Shattuck at sshattuck@earthlink.net or 925-855-5534, or with any DVCRA Board member.

Declining membership numbers makes raising funds for DVC student scholarships more challenging. We are all justly proud of the almost \$100,000 DVCRA has donated for scholarships over the last several years and want to continue this worthy effort. Having to cancel the luncheon this year creates an additional challenge because our biannual luncheon and silent auction account for about 11% of the money we raise for scholarships each year.

To compensate for that loss this year, as mentioned above, consider, at the very least, donating *now* the \$15 per individual you would spend for the luncheon as well as what you might spend on the silent auction in your scholarship donation for 2020-2021.

Membership renewals and scholarship donations for 2020-2021 will be due starting on July 1, 2020. Watch for the reminder letter and membership dues form coming in your email in mid-June, and again, please consider increasing your scholarship donations when you pay your dues.

~~ submitted by Sue Shattuck

District Pauses Chancellor Search: Coronavirus Concerns

Gene Huff Remains as Interim Chancellor

On March 17, the Governing Board of the Contra Costa Community College District paused the search for the next Chancellor for 30 days due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

"The selection of the Chancellor is one of the Board's most important jobs," says Governing Board President Rebecca Barrett. "I join my fellow trustees in deciding to pause our search for 30 days. We need to give our District leadership, staff and students time to focus on the COVID-19 crisis as we transition our classes and support services to a mobile format as a result of restrictions resulting from efforts to minimize the rapid spread of the Coronavirus."

In the meantime Gene Huff continues to serve as Interim Chancellor of the CCCCDC. Huff's appointment to this position began on January 23, and he will continue to serve through the coronavirus crisis. Huff replaces Chancellor Fred Wood who retired at the end of 2019.

Huff began his service with the District in 2001 in Human Resources. He was promoted to Vice-Chancellor of Human Resources in 2004 and has been the District's chief negotiator since that time. He was promoted to his previous position of Executive Vice-Chancellor of Administrative Services in 2013. In that position, Huff has overseen fiscal services, human resources, information technology, police services, and risk management areas.

"The Governing Board is excited and grateful that Gene has agreed to serve as our Interim Chancellor," said Board President Rebecca Barrett. "His many years of steady administrative leadership in the District has prepared him for this opportunity, and we are confident the District will be in good hands until a permanent Chancellor is on board."



Forty Winks For Forty Bucks Nap-a-Thon Fundraiser

Suggestion #3 for Scholarship Fundraising:

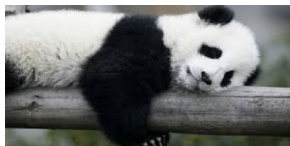
Here's a wonderful and fun idea: Join the Nap-a-Thon to raise money for DVC student scholarships. Get pledges from your spouse, your kids, your friends, your grandkids for doing what you should be (and probably are) doing every day: taking a nap.

Try to raise 40 bucks just by taking your well-deserved nap.

It's easy – and will really help students.

Here's how:

- Get your loved ones to make a pledge. If you're already donating your luncheon costs (\$15), you only need another \$25 to pledge (5 people, \$5 each).
- Take a nap. Collect the pledges. Send DVCRA the money.
- (optional) Have someone take a picture of you napping (and it's perfectly all right to stage the nap: props, pets, stand-ins all encouraged).



- (optional): Send an email of the nap-photo to Karen Castle (castle.kg@gmail.com) with the subject line: "I'm napping for DVC Scholarships." Karen will post it on the DVCRA website.
- Then mail your check to DVC Foundation (instructions on the back page).



With gratitude to the Nap-a-Thon for Disability Rights Education Defense Fund (DREDF) for inspiration.

Diablo Valley College Retirees' Association Financial Report

For the period Jan. 1, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2019

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 \$92,400 in scholarships through 2019. We award and fund scholarships in the spring, and our major fundraising efforts occur during the summer. Consequently, the funds raised in 2019 will be used to fund the scholarships in 2020.

The following DVCRA financial information is for the period January 1, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2019:

- We have \$28,167 in cash, held in our bank accounts at Travis Credit Union and the DVC Foundation.
- Our fundraising activities (including donations, memberships, and auctions) generated \$17,892 available for scholarships.
- We had \$16,136 in expenditures including \$14,000 for scholarships, \$1,723 for luncheons, and \$413 for office expenses.

The Board has approved 16 scholarships for \$1,000 each for 2020. Nine scholarships will go to continuing DVC students; seven scholarships will go to transferring students. This will bring our total scholarships awarded to students to a total over \$100,000 since we began giving scholarships in 2008.

We want to thank DVCRA members for their continuing generosity to the students of DVC.

~ Submitted by Chris Leivas



CHECK OUT OUR RETIREES' WEBSITE

Go to UF4Retired.org for photos, links to events, additional memorial announcements, etc.. Contact Karen Castle (Castle.kg@gmail.com) to submit your nap-a-thon photos, add to the memorial announcements, or provide additional information to our website. See you there.

All the World's a Stage: Late Life Lessons

by
Rob Peters

"All the world's a stage..."

Spoken by one of Shakespeare's more cynical malcontents -- Malvolio from "As You Like It" -- the infamous speech does not exactly inspire peppy bromides, spritzzy champagne, and New Year resolutions. Known as the "Seven Ages of Man" speech, it takes a cynical stab at framing the seven ages on the "stage" of life that a human lives through, only to meet the odd, confounding vicissitudes of very old age. Its last lines woefully describe a human's final, seventh act: *sans* teeth, *sans* eyes, *sans* taste, *sans* everything.

No happy ending here -- nor in many a life, although the play itself overall is quite a charming, funny redemptive comedy.

Leave it to the Bard to pull that off.

Several years ago, it was performed by a master thespian from the Oregon Ashland Shakespeare Festival at my college to a rapt class of budding theater majors. My undergraduate major, English, drew me to the event, and I was counseling a few of the students. I sat engaged, appreciative, inspired -- till the presentation ended with omitting the final, seventh age.

Dumbfounded, and questioning my aged memory banks, I later asked the drama instructor of the class for the reason: he was told that it was deemed too painful, too sad, and wouldn't be appreciated fully by the normally young adult class members. My ears and heart bristled -- so had his -- and I pledged somewhere in my inner "Don't-muck-with-the-Bard" spot that I would someday right that wrong, that insult.

What fools these mortals be...

As I've grown into my '60s, semi-retired, I jumped at the opportunity to enroll in a five-week class last fall, held next to the Berkeley Rep, with a master, recently-retired Cal instructor. I hadn't acted since college days, and I increasingly realized that at my own life-stage, number five or six I suspect, one doesn't "keep the lights on" and the body active by merely repeating the same daily, customary rituals: familiar food,

food times, shows, tunes, clothes, shopping lists, and other of life's hamster wheels. (Did I mention mid-morning Talmudic exchanges with Franklin, the usually-asleep cat? They help.)

I worked and studied alongside a great multi-generational, multi-cultural cross-section of a dozen Berkeley and Oakland folks: fresh-faced undergrads, a doctoral candidate in physics, parents, a professional model, advanced drama students, professionals in tech, law, and sales who believed that the craft and inexplicable "tricks" and timing and communication of theatre activity could easily be transplanted and tapped toward their careers and leadership goals.

There was no grand, final production, as in school. But by the end of the course, I had co-acted in a two-way dialogue; demonstrated a three-minute performance of my "typical" wake-up morning in the Peters household (*avec* Franklin cat); totally *mis*-understood, and thus mucked-up, an initial assignment and reading; played "the heavy" to a couple of other performers' dramatic scenes; cued others when they forgot their lines; and, of course, insisted on performing Malvolio's speech for a final presentation.

What were my take-aways, aside from appreciating how relatively easy it was to avoid traffic and take the comfy red "R" Sol Trans bus from Vallejo over to El Cerrito and a quick BART to downtown Berkeley?

- Remembering lines of powerful Elizabethan poetry is tougher than it seems, and over 150+ re-readings and rehearsals was no easy task;
- As our teacher said: Acting, a bit like the rest of life, has certain rules and traditions and craft. And yet, in the long run, its "success" often reaches and blows way past its rules, laws and traditions;
- Next time I'll defer to the instructor's suggestions, and not insist on a bloody Shakespeare piece first time out, and leave my prima donna cape outside;
- Then again, if there's any place on earth where the cape is most appropriate and useful, it may be the very moment when one is stepping upon the stage;

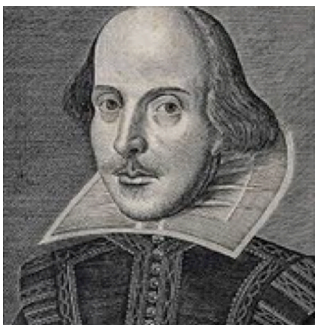
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IN MEMORIA

*(All The World's A Stage,
Peters (con't)*

- The awe and respect with which I view great actors acting, is tinged with a concrete realization: that while it's tough, slippery, repetitive work indeed, it's also all artifice, smoke and mirrors, tricks, and an indefinable journey of the imagination;
- Coleridge insisted that when appreciating theatre and literature, one need embrace a "willing suspension of disbelief." He didn't warn us about the power and beauty of the beliefs about to come our way;
- What a great joy at my age – and any age – to look gleefully ahead to when the next assignment is given, the next piece staged, the lesson learned and the next challenge nearing in a class: wow!

How fortunate to have been a part of that journey. Where are you headed?



Elaine Steele

Dec. 27, 2019

Elaine Steele was employed by DVC in 1969 as a substitute English instructor. In 1970, she was hired as a full-time instructor in the English Department. Elaine received her BA in English from the University of North Dakota. Prior to employment at DVC, she was an English teacher at the American School in Tokyo, Japan. Elaine retired from DVC in 1993.

Elaine was born in Crosby, North Dakota on July 1, 1920. She is survived by four children, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Her daughter, Lorraine writes that her mom always told her that "I'm lucky. I get paid to do what I love." For the previous three years, Elaine had been predominantly bed-ridden, but with an unwavering spirit, teased her physiotherapist that she aimed to dance again. Elaine set a beautifully high bar in terms of her years lived, the meaningfulness in how she's lived them, and what she has given to others.

John Shumway

September 30, 2019

John Shumway joined the DVC History Department in 1966. His original degree was in mathematics from the University of Minnesota. He later changed his interest to American History and received an MA from the University of California, Berkeley

For many years John was active in faculty governance. He was very involved with the Art and Lectures Committee and spent 11 years as a member of the United Faculty Board. John served as the 1977 Faculty Lecturer addressing "Joy on the Downward Curve."

Clifford Nelson

Cliff began his teaching career in the Biology Department at DVC in 1966. He received his BS from Southern Oregon College, and his MA in Biology from Colorado State College. Before teaching at DVC, Cliff was an instructor at Colorado State College, Cherry Creek High School in Denver, and San Jose State College. He also worked as a seasonal ranger and naturalist at Crater Lake, Oregon and Mt. Rainier, Washington. Cliff retired in 1995.

Making the Best of These Hard Times

Editor's Note: Because I don't think any of us have ever lived in a time quite like this, I thought it would be a good idea to make some suggestions of some activities, events, games, you could do online – by yourself, with people in your home, via Zoom or Skype, on your computer, maybe on your phone, with family, perhaps even your grandchildren. Except where noted, all of the editor's choices are mine.

Apologies if you already are familiar with these suggestions. Many were new to me, and I am hoping many are new to you. Much thanks to Katarina Wagner, former DVC student, for many of these suggestions; to DVC retiree Rob Peters for the Virtual Museum Tour idea; and to my wife, Sue Schweik, for her good ideas and editorial advice. Please let me know of other good ideas and whether these were of use. (LauryFischer@gmail.com)

Note: I have not been very successful at creating live links that you can click to get to a website. The links here are intermittent at best. If a link does not work either (a) cut and paste the link provided or (b) Google the information; you will almost certainly get the correct link. Enjoy. Laury Fischer

VISIT A MUSEUM

Stuck at Home? These 12 Famous Museums Offer Virtual Tours You Can Take on Your Couch <https://bit.ly/3dBxqjk>

Editor's Choices:

- Musée d'Orsay Paris (take the virtual walking tour; it's spectacular)
- Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (check out 200 paintings, 750 letters)

Want Even More Museum Tours? Do One-a-Day for 30 Days. Great Virtual Exercise <https://bit.ly/3bwhBZK>

Editor's Choices:

- Google Art Project
- New York Public Library: Photos, Maps, and Letters
- SFMoMa: Rauschenberg Collection



VISIT HOGWARTS

You can complete this digital escape room as a family or individual; also, you can compete against friends and try it multiple times. It's interactive with videos, quizzes, and puzzles. Even I liked it (editor).

<https://bit.ly/2QPotJF>



WATCH MOVIES, WATCH PAID TV. FOR FREE

1,150 Free Movies Online: Great Hollywood Classics, Indies, Noir, Westerns, Animation, Eclectic Everything <https://bit.ly/2wwA1ux>

Over 1000 Films – All Free

Editor's Choices:

- *6 Animations of Stories & Poems by Shel Silverstein* including work from “Where the Sidewalk Ends”
- *The Wizard of Oz* (two silent versions – real curiosities – from 1910 and 1925)
- *20 Buster Keaton films* (all silent)
- *Reefer Madness* – long before the days of legalized marijuana (1936)
- *A Star is Born* (the first one) – Frederic March and Janet Gaynor (1937)
- *Royal Wedding* – Fred Astaire and Jane Powell (1951)
- *The Jackie Robinson Story* – with the actual Jackie Robinson – while he was still playing (1950)
- *66 Oscar-Nominated and Award Winning Animated Shorts* – Courtesy of the National Film Board of Canada

Amazon and IMDB Release Batches of Free Kids' Shows

On March 26th, **Amazon** announced that they are making 1000s of kids series and specials for free. (Users must sign in with a valid Amazon account, also free).

Continues on next page

(Amazon's free children's series and specials, con't)

Variety Editors' Amazon Choices for Kids:

- *The Dangerous Book for Boys*
- *Lost in Oz*
- *Bug Diaries*
- *The Stinky Dirty Show*
- *Gortimer Gibbon's Life on Normal Street*
- *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*

IMDb TV has many free movies available on their website <https://www.imdb.com/tv/>

Editor's Choices for Children's Films:

- *Shrek Forever After*
- *Stuart Little and Stuart Little 2*
- *The Muppets Take Manhattan* and *Muppets from Space*
- *All Dogs Go to Heaven* and *All Dogs Go To Heaven 2*

Download 15 Free Mad Libs

Remember *Mad Libs*? These free downloads are designed for all age groups up to teenager. Great family Zoom fun with your school-aged family members.

<https://bit.ly/33MkW48>

Play Every Board Game Ever (almost)

Board Games Arena

If you are a game players, you have already played Boogle, Solitaire, Checkers, and almost every other game online – against a robot, a friend in Ukraine, your son-in-law, an online stranger.

But Board Games Arena has access to 100s of free games including the familiar (Yahtzee, Backgammon, Saboteur), and some you might have to find a young person to teach you (*Roll For the Galaxies*; *Killer vs. Inspector*).

Everything for the best price ever ~ free.

<https://en.boardgamearena.com/join>



How to Get Free Trials from the 21 Best Video Streaming Services

TV TIP OF THE WEEK: Free TV Trial Periods.

The number and expense of TV subscriptions can be overwhelming, but all of the paid TV subscriptions have free trial periods listed on the link below. **Just be sure to cancel in time to not get charged for the first month (I write it on my calendar).** Rumor has it that if there is more than one email account in your home, that email account may sign up for a similar free offer when the first expires. And so on. <https://bit.ly/2UqSge2>

Editor's Choices:

- *Disney +: Free Trial period: 7 days* (after that \$7/month). Disney+ gives you access to content from all of the Disney studios including Pixar, Marvel Studios, Lucasfilm, and National Geographic and includes movies like *Frozen II*, *Black Panther*, and *Free Solo*.
- *Showtime: Free Trial Period: 30 days* (after that \$11/month). **Selected Series:** *Homeland*; *Billions*; **Selected films:** *The King's Speech*; *Spotlight*; *Moon*.
- *Hulu: Free trial period: 30 days* (after that \$6/month). **Selected Series:** *Little Fires Everywhere*; *High Fidelity*. *Mythbusters* (great for the entire family) **Movies:** *Contagion* (beware – hits close to home). *A Quiet Place*.

Additional Free TV

(not listed above website)

Editor's Choice:

- *Criterion Channel: Free Trial Period: 14 days* (after that \$11/month). Varied international artsy collection includes *Amacord*, *Some Like It Hot*, *Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, *Nights of Cabiria*. <https://www.criterionchannel.com/>
- *Marquee TV: Free Trial: 30 day* after that \$9/month) <https://www.marquee.tv/freetrial>
- Royal Shakespeare Company: *Julius Caesar*, *Richard II*
- *The Royal Ballet: Alice in Wonderland*, *Giselle*
- *Death in Venice* (Britten), *Fairy Queen* (Purcell), and other 20th Century Opera

LISTEN TO ME

Radio Dramas

BBC Radio Dramas: A huge array of recently-recorded radio dramas. <https://bbc.in/3aBa23y>

Editor’s Choices on the BBC:

- *The Man With the Golden Gun* (yes, James Bond on the radio): Bond must eliminate international assassin, Scaramanga. In cold blood? Can he do it? <https://bbc.in/342cUEX>
- *Found*: A husband goes out for wine and comes back with a baby. Can a marriage cope with the arrival of a mystery child? Drama about class, greed and good intention. Riveting. <https://bbc.in/3dzENrJ>

Editor’s Choices for Radio Drama on YouTube: (yes YouTube becomes your radio – dim the lights)

- *Twilight Zone*: Updated radio-ized versions of the original classic series – great late-night, headphone listening. Recorded in 2002-2012 with contemporary casts. All the great episodes from your childhood including *The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street*; *Time Enough to Last*; *Four O’Clock* (12 Volumes). Start your search here: <https://bit.ly/2UIcGhu>
- *Agatha Christie Radio Dramas*: Many choices here for these wonderful radio shows including many from the 1930s and 1940s. Start with *Moving Finger* (Miss Marple 1942); *The Pale Horse*; *Murder is Easy*.

Tip: Search on *YouTube* for Agatha Christie Radio Dramas

Podcasts to Listen to While Social Distancing

<https://bit.ly/2JgrezB>

Editor’s Choices:

- *The Case of the Missing Hit*, on the Podcast “Reply All”: A listener discovers a hit song he remembers perfectly from nineties FM radio apparently does not exist and is un-Google-able; after hours of searching, he finds no evidence of it. Did that song even *exist*? Fantastic episode. Great podcast.
- *Pants on Fire* (great for kids): Each week, a kid faces two grown-ups, one an honest-to-goodness true expert, the other, well, a dirty, rotten liar! Featuring real kid contestants and a hilarious sound-effects-generating robot. *Pants on Fire* teaches kids to ask insightful questions, weigh the evidence, and trust their gut. Recommended episodes: pizza, magic, toilets, sleep. Listen with someone young (8-12 years old).

The Metropolitan Opera Streams Free Opera Online To Get You Through Covid

<https://www.metopera.org>

(from the Metropolitan Opera’s website): During this extraordinary and difficult time, the Met hopes to brighten the lives of our audience even while our stage is dark. Each day, a different encore presentation from the company’s *Live In HD* is being made available for free streaming.

Editor’s Choices:

- Thursday, April 2: Verdi’s *Don Carlo*
- Friday, April 3: Bizet’s *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*
- Saturday, April 4: Verdi’s *Macbeth*

My Favorite Broadway: The Leading Ladies – Full-length Two-hour Concert - - Carnegie Hall -1998

<https://bit.ly/2X4APIf>

An incredible array of Broadway leading ladies singing their favorite Broadway songs: Andrea McArdle (all grown up), Jennifer Holliday, Anna Kendrick (perhaps 10 years old), Linda Eder, Audra McDonald, Liza Minnelli.

Editor’s Choices:

- *Adelaide’s Lament* (“Guys and Dolls”) - Faith Prince
- *Ladies Who Lunch* (“Company”) – Elaine Stritch
- *And I’m Telling You* (“Dreamgirls”) – Jennifer Hudson

SF Symphony

During this pause of live performances, Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony’s groundbreaking **Keeping Score** project is now available for free streaming. Four episodes are already available, and additional episodes will be released each week through April 11, 2020. <https://bit.ly/34aHxHX>

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DVCRA Board Members

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

Broadway HD Is Letting You Watch Your Favorite Musicals For Free — For a Limited Time

Broadway HD has 100s of recordings of live performances of Broadway musicals, classics, and dramas. **Free Trial: 7 days** (after that \$9/month). <https://www.broadwayhd.com/>

Editor's Choices:

- *Macbeth* (with Patrick Stewart)
- *The Glass Menagerie* (Katherine Hepburn)
- *Death of a Salesman* (Lee J. Cobb)
- Celebrate Sondheim's 90th birthday by watching both *Gypsy* and *Sweeney Todd* on the same night.

Best of Broadway ~~ On YouTube

BroadwaySFromHome has selected 60 fabulous songs, interviews, medleys from recent Broadway productions. Sit back and enjoy. <https://bit.ly/33ZZCs4>

Editor's Choices:

- Judi Dench sings *Send in the Clowns*
- Lin-Manuel Miranda Teachers Us Broadway Slang
- *People Will Say We're In Love* from recent acclaimed revival of "Oklahoma"
- *Hamilton* cast performs at Obama's White House

NPR Music's Tiny Desk Concerts

<https://bit.ly/39sue6u>

Tiny Desk Concerts are usually only 15-20 minutes long. These are semi-acoustic sets recorded in the offices of NPR -- informal and delightful.

Editor's Choices:

Rhiannon Giddons, Roseanne Cash, Weyes Blood, Taylor Swift (yes, Taylor Swift -- fabulous), the Tallest Man on Earth.

Watch Adorable Animals All Day ~ The Most Joyous Thing You Will Do Today

- **Monterey Aquarium:** 10 live animals cameras. *Editor's Favorites:* Jelly Fish, Sea Otters (beyond adorable). <https://bit.ly/2UII4gP>
- **Explore.Org:** Dozens of live animal cams. *Editor's Favorites:* Zen Cam, Eagles, Senior Dogs.

UC Berkeley Lectures

UC Berkeley has welcomed Nobel Prize Laureates, scientists, politicians, philosophers, economists, and the most prestigious thinkers in varied disciplines to speak at both the *Berkeley Graduate Lectures* and the *Tanner Lectures*.

Berkeley Graduate Lectures:

<https://gradlectures.berkeley.edu/lecture/>

Editor's Choices:

- **Eugenie C. Scott:** *Why Do People Reject Good Science?* 2018
- **Marion Nestle:** *Food Politics and the 21st Century Food Movement.* 2017
- **Arlie Hochschild:** *Strangers in the Their Own Land: Challenges Climbing the "Empathy Wall"* 2017

Tanner Lectures:

<https://tannerlectures.berkeley.edu/archive/>

Editor's Choices:

- **Allan Gibbard,** Richard B. Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at University of Michigan. "Thinking How to Live Together." 2005-2006
- **Leon Botstein,** President, Bard College. "The History of Listening." (2010-2011)
- **Frances Kamm,** Littauer Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy, Harvard University. "The Trolley Problem Mysteries." (2012-2013)

Group Muse

<https://www.groupmuse.com>

Group Muse's motto is "intimate classical house shows all over the country." Join the new movement for age-old music – chamber music. Listen to excellent musicians doing "house concerts" from their living room. Type in your city to see what's playing this week, but remember, you are not limited by your city; there are excellent shows in Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and Berkeley, and you their living rooms from your own. Stream live online. Modest fee requested to pay musicians well-deserved money.

WHAT SHOULD I READ (or PERHAPS “READ”)?

Reading Time with Your Grandchildren and Young Children

<https://bit.ly/2QMDXhl>

Digital Archives Give You Free Access Thousands of Historical Children’s Books

What To Look For in the Digital Archives:

- Enter a digital archive of over 1,800 classic children’s books at the UCLA Children’s Book Collection, with books dating from 1728 to 1999
- Discover 6,000 new-old classics, and plenty of alphabet books, and children’s devotional books, at the University of Florida’s Baldwin Library of Historical Children’s Literature.
- Marvel at the Library of Congress’s small but significant online collection of children’s books from the 19th and 20th centuries
- And, finally, at Princeton’s online collections, browse Soviet children’s books published between 1917 and 1953, for a very different view of early childhood education.

Forever Free Books from Audible (audio books)

<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

Huge selection of *Forever Free* audio books, largely for young readers, like *Stone Soup* and *House on Pooh Corner*. But includes free recordings of many books for older readers including *Brave New World*, *Frankenstein*, *Jane Eyre*, even the *Canterbury Tales*.

Audible Books: Listen to Everything in the Universe for Free. For 30 Days.

Audible Books offers a 30-day free trial and has recordings of nearly every book, including best sellers, fiction, non-fiction, and classics. (after 30 days, \$15/month). **Audible.com**

William Blake Archive: All things Blake: Illuminated Books, Paintings, Drawings,

Manuscripts. Dazzling.

<http://www.blakearchive.org/>



What to Read in a Pandemic

<https://bit.ly/2QRicIF>

Editor’s Choices:

- *Station Eleven* (by Emily St. John Mandel) is essential reading for pandemic days—though it won’t be comforting. Moving between the start of an epidemic and the point when society is rebuilding, the novel emphasizes the importance of culture to society. Even when the world is collapsing, there’s room for Shakespeare and other art. (Laura Ashley)



- *Year of Wonders* (by Geraldine Brooks) details a year in the life of an English town during a plague epidemic. Its protagonist will take you along on her terrifying, and wondrous, year, where she provides crucial medical and emotional care, often at her own expense. (Cassia Roth)

Sheet Music, Magazines, Books— Unlimited for 30 days www.Scribd.com

I have never seen free collections of sheet music online, but Scribd has a good range -- not only of sheet music but also magazines, and yes, even, books. **Free Trial: 30 days (then \$9 month)**

Editor’s Choices:

- **Sheet Music:** songs from *Lion King*; *Wicked*; *Chopin’s Preludes*; *Grammy’s Records of the Year*
- **Magazines:** *Atlantic*, *Beijing Review*, *Money*
- **Books:** *Yellow House* (Sarah Broom, National Book Award Winner); *Celestial Bodies* (Jokah Alharti, Booker Prize Winner)

MISSING OPENING DAY? MARCH MADNESS?

Baseball

Opening Day was supposed to be about a week ago, March 26th, the earliest scheduled opening day in history. For many of us that left a hole in our schedules. Not to worry. MLB has selected *five classic games* from every team – including yours -- and includes the entire broadcast. Free. Your opening day could be a fantastic World Series game. <https://atmlb.com/2Jiubj2>

Editor's Choices:

- *Giants: 2014 World Series Game 7:* The Giants won Game 7 in Kansas City for their third World Series title in five years. Madison Bumgarner (now a Diamondback) pitched the final five innings in one of the greatest pitching performances of all time.
- *A's: 1989 World Series Game 3:* The Battle of the Bay resumes after the 1989 earthquake. The A's, who already had won the first two games, pound Giants pitching and Dave Stewart dominates.
- *White Sox: 2005 World Series Game 4:* The White Sox won Game 4 to sweep the World Series from the Astros. 'Nuf said. Go White Sox.

Not Enough Baseball? Head to YouTube search for the **MLB Vault** for 100s of more choices. Impressive array.

Never Been to the Baseball Hall of Fame? Here's Your Chance: Take the kids to one of the best museums in the known universe. <https://bit.ly/2WOgQHm>



March Madness

We all missed March Madness this year. Because of this, the *New York Times* asked some successful college basketball coaches to pick their favorite NCAA tournament games. (And if you can find someone to bet with, you have a sure winner).

Coaches' Choices:

- *John Calipari*, Kentucky: 2012 national championship game between Kansas and Kentucky.
- *Tom Izzo*, Michigan State: 1979 national championship game between Indiana State and Michigan State (watch the collegiate Larry Bird take on Magic Johnson).
- *Roy Williams*, North Carolina: 1982 men's national championship game between Georgetown and North Carolina.

Search YouTube for above games.

Want more hoops? Return to YouTube and search for "NCAA Men's/Women's Basketball final game" – every game you want is there just waiting for you.

British Library: Discovering Sacred Texts

This exhibit provides access to the richness and diversity of the texts from some of the world's greatest faiths. Discover more about the sacred texts from Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism and the Baha'i Faith, Jainism, and Zoroastrianism.

<https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts#>

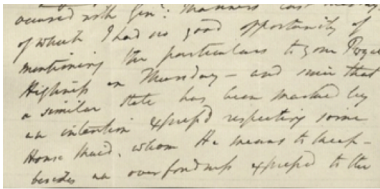
Editor's Choices:

- *Origins and Development of Sikh Faith: The Gurus.* Eleanor Nesbitt looks at the founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak, the concept of Guru in Sikhism, the central principles of the Gurus' teachings, and the sacred scripture – the Guru Granth Sahib.
- *The Abrahamic Religions:* Dr. Anna Sapir Abulafia looks at three of the Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and explores the role and narrative surrounding the figure of Abraham in their sacred texts and traditions.

BECOME A TRANSCRIBER

Transcribe the Medical papers of George III – for real

The Georgian Papers Programme needs transcribers for the medical papers of George III (yes, that King George, of England during the American Revolutionary War). The website will guide you through the painless process of becoming a transcriber. You will find sets of King George’s letters grouped together in periods of one to four months. There are plenty of documents to transcribe; your help is needed. <https://bit.ly/2Uo1NCK>



Report on George III's state of health by Sir Henry Hallford, 16 March 1811, MED/16/2/17 Royal Archives/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019

Join the Recipes Transcribe-athon Project

Working with the Folger Library, the Early Modern Recipes Online Collective is looking for people to transcribe volumes of recipes to make anonymous early modern medical recipes searchable for users around the world. This looks incredibly interesting. <https://bit.ly/2UMoGi5>



The receipt book of Catherine Bacon, Folger MS Va.621

Look Who’s Taking Down Their Paywall

At least temporarily, during the pandemic crisis, numbers of publications we normally pay for, have taken down their paywalls. This might be a good time to check out the periodicals: *Atlantic* magazine, *Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg News*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times* (Daily-hourly coronavirus updates only). All free – though not sure for how long. Their websites will tell you.

TAP YOUR INNER COOK

There are so many cooking shows online, it is difficult to even find a starting point. Here are two that might be fun for you to try

Bon Appetite Has A Cooking Show To Make All of Your Favorite Junk Food

In this delightful and surprisingly funny show, Chef Claire Saffitz attempts to recreate all of our favorite junk and comfort foods. My favorite shows attempt to produce Twinkies, Cheetos, Oreos, and Skittles (some successful, some not).

Find all of Season 1: <https://bit.ly/39wmOiR>

Julia Child Is Now Cooking Online

Though she passed away in 2004, Julie Child’s shows are available by searching through YouTube or Google. Remember her French Onion Soup? It’s the third recipe she ever made on TV (1962): <https://bit.ly/3byoAke>

COLORING BOOKS FOR US

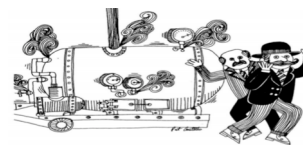
Free Coloring Books from 113 Museums

An amazing array of images to color – scientific illustrations, sacred images, even cartoons.

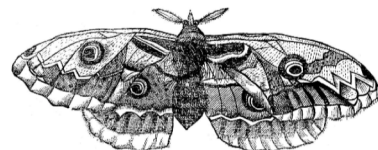
<http://library.nyam.org/colorourcollections/>

Editor’s Choices:

- *The Coloring Book of the Richardson-Sloane Special Collections*: “Hard-working illustrators tapping into the cartoon-y, thick-nibbed Zeitgeist.” <https://bit.ly/2xqPU5F>



- *Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec* <https://bit.ly/2UKyVTQ>



Stores with Senior Hours / Promotions

The website, Johnny FunCheap, announced that as of March 30, these stores had special hours for seniors (usually over 60). Check their websites as these policies might change.

Trader Joe's: Trader Joe's has senior hours every day between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. (store hours will remain 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.). Crew Members will maintain an additional line outside the front door for our senior customers.

Safeway: Senior customers and at-risk guests will have special shopping hours at Safeway stores between 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Not all locations. Check local websites.

Whole Foods: Customers 60+ can shop at Whole Foods at 8 a.m. every day – one hour early.

Berkeley Bowl: All senior citizens can shop daily from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (one hour before market opens).

Nob Hill & Raleys: Starting March 21st offers a discounted bag of grocery essentials for seniors every day for \$20 (plus a \$35 option with ready-to-eat meal). The bags are available for pick-up curbside, or you can send a text to have the bag delivered right to your car.

Lunardi's: Senior citizens (65 +) and those with disabilities are welcome to shop on Tuesdays & Thursdays between 7 a.m. – 8 a.m. We will continue to honor the 5% senior discount on these 2 days.

Target: Senior citizens and people with underlying health concerns can shop at Target stores nationwide every Wednesday starting at 8 a.m.

Walgreens: Tuesdays for the near future, Walgreens stores will open at 8 a.m., with the full hour from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. dedicated to senior citizens. This hour is also available to their caregivers and immediate families may also visit the store during this time. Additionally, we will offer our senior day discount all day on Tuesdays during this time. Customers age 55 and older will receive 30 percent off regularly priced Walgreens brands and 20 percent off regularly priced national brands.

Walmart: Until at least April 28, Walmart will host an hour-long senior shopping event every Tuesday for customers 60 and older, which will start one hour before stores open. Stores will be open from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. local time.

Dollar General: Dollar General designated the first hour as open daily to senior shoppers including Bay Area stores in Vallejo, Concord, Brentwood, Antioch.

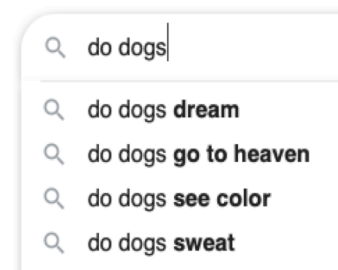
Costco: On Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Costco will temporarily implement special operating hours for members who are 60 and older. The pharmacy will also be open during this hour.

QUICK FUN GAME

What the Google?

- Quizmaster: Picks a phrase and enters it in Google Search bar (**Suggestions:** Who invented....; What's the best recipe for . . . ; What is the opposite of . . . ? Do cats . . . ? Is it rude to . . . ?)
- In the drop down below the Google Search the quizmaster sees the **Top Ten** hits. No one else does.
- Without looking, the other people in the game get one guess each for what's in the Top Ten on the quizmaster's. 10 points if they get the top hit, 9 points etc. (scoring is flexible). You can buy clues (1 pt. each). Be reckless: given everyone 2 guesses.
- Quizmaster role rotates.

Sample



Make up your own phrases; kids welcomed.

DVC Goes Online (updated March 31) (con't)

It's no surprise that the transition to online teaching has been quite stressful for many of us. Making a shift from face-to-face to online teaching is, to me personally, daunting. And no surprise, the stress on our students is considerable. Like me, many are in online classes for the first time, sometimes with as many as five classes – none by their own choice. Some international students have flown home. Many students have lost their jobs. Some do not have computers; many do not have access to WiFi. Many staff members now working at home did not have laptops. However, DVC's IT department managed to configure over 60 computers for staff and students who needed them.

Interim Chancellor, Gene Huff, informed us that as of 3/28 there had no confirmed, tested cases of COVID 19 for students or employees of the district. His email indicated that the District has not yet decided if graduation ceremonies were going to take place and whether online teaching is going to continue until the end of the semester. The District has created a new grade: EW (Emergency Withdrawal) so that students could drop a class up until May 15 and still get their fees back. Summer school registration has been delayed until at least April 20th; however, decisions about whether we will even be holding summer sessions will be decided April 7th. In related news, Chancellor Huff informed the campus that all Contra County public K-12 schools classes would be conducted online until at least May 1st.

As far as teaching, many instructors, and I am one of them, feel like they are learning to fly an airplane after it's already taken off. During my first Zoom class last week, I asked students for their technical help guiding me through our first class together and only asked that they not make me feel too foolish. They were wonderful: taught me how to do online chatting, share documents, take a poll, break them into small discussion groups, have a large group discussion; we even had some fun. It was a terrific reminder of how much all of us need our students. It made me feel that we could get through this. And we will.

These are hard times, but community – classroom, college, friends, neighbors, family – seems to be strongest when times are the toughest. My greatest hope is that you all stay strong, stay safe, and be kind to one other. All my best wishes.

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SUGGESTED DONATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

1. **\$15 FOR THE AMOUNT YOU WOULD HAVE PAID FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING THE LUNCHEON.**
2. **YOUR BID AMOUNT FOR SILENT AUCTION ITEMS (REMINDER: SUBMIT THE BID TO ELLEN KRUSE BY APRIL 10):
enkruse@comcast.net**
3. **\$40: FORTY BUCKS FOR FORTY WINKS**
4. **ALL OTHER AMOUNTS CHEERFULLY ACCEPTED**
5. **PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION BY **APRIL 30****

TWO OPTIONS FOR PAYMENT

- (1) Write a check to the **DVC Foundation** and on the memo line write "DVCRA Scholarship Fund" (tax deductible) **OR**
- (2) Write a check made out to the **DVC Retirees Association** (not tax deductible)

Suggested contribution for the Scholarship Fund: at least \$30

PLEASE SEND ALL DONATIONS – ANY AMOUNT – **BY APRIL 30**

AS ONE CHECK TO:

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

Next Luncheon: October 30, 2020: Mark Your Calendars Now. See you there