

DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER March 21, 2021

Now online at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/dvcranewslettermarch212021/home>

DVCRA Spring Zoom Social
Friday, April 23, 2021
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars!

We hope you will join us for our Spring 2021 DVCRA Zoom Social. With our annual luncheon again off the table because of Covid-19, we are looking forward to connecting and catching up with everyone while staying safe and healthy, using last fall's Zoom event as a model.

WHERE: Your home, your computer, smart phone, or iPad – all via Zoom

WHEN: Friday, April 23, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 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 the 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. Zoom is a platform used to bring people together (and DVC is using it to conduct live classes).

Go to this link for the [ZOOM SOCIAL website](#) to find out more. On the website, you will find information on the 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 Silent Auction

If the above link doesn't work, cut and paste:

<https://sites.google.com/view/dvcretireesassociation/home>

The actual Zoom link for the event will be emailed to you after you RSVP.

Email Irene Menegas today to RSVP: imenegas@comcast.net

Submitted by Ellen Kruse
DVCRA Board Member, Luncheon Coordinator

DVCRA Grows Up

You may remember that in 2019, the DVCRA voted on changing our bylaws and articles of association in order to establish our identity as a non-profit entity in the eyes of the IRS and the California Franchise Tax Board. We now even have our very own tax ID number.

Not so exciting you say? Perhaps. But the news is good news.

All this paperwork allows DVCRA to have a bank account, and file, but not pay, taxes -- just like a real grown-up organization. For many years, DVCRA relied on the generosity of members to support us with a bank account. No more. We are legal. Efforts by Chris Leivas and other board members made this happen, and we owe all of them a real debt of gratitude.

In 2020, we awarded 16 scholarships for \$1,000 each. That number ties with the the Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship and the Bernard Osher Foundation for the for the second largest number of scholarships from one organization, second only to Rossmoor. In 2021, we will award 18 scholarships of \$1000 each and continue our practice of awarding scholarship to both continuing and transferring students. For the first time we are designating scholarships to Umoja and Puente students specifically. In addition, this year we will be awarding the Bernice Dandridge Memorial Scholarship donated by members of the DVCRA Board in honor of Bernice's tireless work heading our DVCRA scholarship committee.

Eighteen scholarships is a record number for us. So let's be generous and make 2022 even more successful and perhaps take the lead in numbers of scholarships. After all, the students are our legacy.

Submitted by Karen Castle
Association Coordinator

DVCRA Welcomes New Members Concern that Numbers Slip Again

We would all like to welcome these recent retirees who joined DVCRA in 2020-2021: Tom Barber, Jessica (Inclan) Barksdale, Lupe Dannels, Martha Dixon, Andy

Kivel, Michele Krup, Becky Marr, Tess Perko, and Fred Wood. We are very happy to have you join us in staying connected to friends and colleagues and continuing to support students at DVC, particularly through our scholarship fund.

With our new members, our paid membership currently stands at 146 for 2020-2021, a slight drop from the previous year. Unfortunately, this decrease continues the downward trend our organization has experienced over the past several years; see chart below for details. We're always looking for ways to keep DVCRA strong, and if you have any suggestions for ways to do that, please share them with any member of the DVCRA Board. Also, please check with your friends and colleagues to make sure everyone who wants to be a DVCRA member has joined.

It's too early to renew your membership now, but watch for a renewal reminder this June with instructions for how to pay your dues and make a contribution to the scholarship fund, if you care to do so. And gentle reminders to your friends at renewal time will really help.

If you have questions about your membership status, please contact Sue Shattuck at sshattuck@earthlink.net or 925-855-5534.

DVCRA Membership

2015 - 2016	173
2016 - 2017	161
2017 - 2018	156
2018 - 2019	143
2019 - 2020	148
2020 - 2021	146

Submitted by Sue Shattuck
Membership Coordinator

Diablo Valley College Retirees Association Financial Report: January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

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

The following DVCRA financial information is for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020:

- We have \$31,573 in cash held in our bank accounts at Travis Credit Union and the DVC Foundation.

- Our fund raising activities (including donations, memberships, and auctions) generated \$19,494 available for scholarships.
- We had \$16,088 in expenditures including \$16,000 for scholarships and \$88 for office expenses.

The Board has approved 18 scholarships for \$1,000 each for 2021. This will bring our total scholarships awarded to students to more than \$126,000 since 2008.

We want to thank our members for their continuing generosity to the students of DVC and hope people continue to give generously in what are still very tough times for so many students.

Submitted by Chris Leivas
Treasurer

Let's Begin

By Tom Barber (retired 2020)

Let's begin. I began teaching in 1973 at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento where I was a student four years earlier. The summer I graduated from college (1973), the principal from CBHS called me and asked if I was interested in teaching. I had no plans except to continue working at Del Monte Cannery. Summer in Sacramento meant, and still means, tomatoes, and you can see them littered all over Highways 50, 80, and 5 from June to October. Trucks filled with tomatoes spew them along the freeways as they lumber from the nearby fields, headed to one of the canneries.

I quit the Del Monte cannery job before the tomato season was over, so that I might begin my teaching career as a religion and English teacher as well as freshman baseball coach. I was 21, had a bachelor of arts degree in English, and no experience teaching anything. Since CBHS is a private school, I did not even need a teaching credential.

Forty-seven years later on March 11, 2020, I taught my last face-to-face class. I knew I was going to retire at the end of the spring 2020 semester, but not many others knew. I imagined announcing it towards the end of the semester to my students. I imagined my last class, and what I would say. I even imagined a giant party in which I would invite former and present colleagues to dance, eat, drink, talk, and laugh. Maybe a speech or two. But mostly just exulting in the moment.

Had I known on that day in March that I would never see my students in the flesh again, I'm not sure I would have done anything differently. I still would welcome each student with a fist bump (remember the days before Covid?) and write the agenda on the board. The roll sheet would work its way around the room, and we would begin with some talk, some writing, some sharing, and lots of encouragement.

"Okay, who's first and what are we working on today?"

Some days we would cheat. I would find a passage from that day's assignment, and we would write imitations of that section. Students would eventually read their imitations,

and we would finger snap or “golf clap” their efforts. Students who had read always looked slightly stunned. No one had ever clapped or snapped for something they had written.

At the end of the last class, I would not have made a speech or climbed on my desk a la Robin Williams in *Dead Poets Society* to make a culminating address. I imagined doing what I always did: walk to my office and be slightly surprised by the number of students waiting outside my door.

Then the spring training baseball game on March 12 (Dodgers v White Sox) was cancelled, and everything changed. That morning my friend, Laury Fischer, and I took the 6:15 a.m. flight from Oakland to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, where, annually, we indulge in our passion of all-things-baseball. It’s a pilgrimage we’ve made for many years.

But this year was different.

We were ambivalent about going because of the news regarding a particularly virulent virus spreading around the world. Still, at 4:00 a.m., I showed up at Laury’s house and within minutes we were on our way to the airport, where no one was wearing masks, and no one was socially distanced. (At this point in the pandemic, I have a hard time imagining that world.) Soon we were Phoenix bound, but not until we traveled through turbulence so bad that I took out my phone and scrolled through pictures of my loved ones. We went up and down violently, then the pilot’s door banged open and the lurching left and right began. The pilot looked like the Wizard of Oz, when it is revealed that the powerful one is only a human with a knack for the dramatic.

Eventually after thirty minutes (which was probably five) we landed in Phoenix, picked up our rental car and found a place for a pre-game breakfast. We had two games scheduled on that Thursday, so we finished our meals and headed out to Camelback Ranch, home of the Dodgers (boo) and White Sox (yay). We might even be early enough to watch some batting practice.

At the parking lot entrance, the attendant just shook his head as we tried to enter.

“All games have been cancelled,” he said.

Did he mean all games or just this game? That’s when I received a text from my son informing me that all of Spring Training had been cancelled; he hoped he caught me before I left for Phoenix.

We eventually booked a flight home for that night, which entailed going through the terrifying turbulence twice in one day (again, I scrolled through pictures), and landed in Oakland at 8:30 p.m. We had basically spent \$600 for breakfast in Phoenix. It was a pretty good breakfast.

I didn’t return to DVC until July 6, 2020 to clean out my office. That day, I saw no one. As I ruthlessly threw stuff away, the only living things I saw during my stay that afternoon were wild turkeys. One would come up to the sliding glass door and peck at the glass. I felt so alone. Just me and the turkeys.

This was not going according to my retirement plans. My office used to hum with activity since I encouraged students to revise their essays. They would read to me, and I would suggest revisions or just ask them questions about the content of their papers. Students would work on their papers at the empty desk in my office while I read another student's essay. Students would revolve around me writing, revising, complaining, and writing some more. Office hours became fluid. When no more students were in the revising carousel, office hours were over.

When I finished cleaning out my office, when I had packed up my beloved cow bell and some other unique gifts from students, I was finally staring at the bare walls of the office. It wasn't my office anymore. Just me and an occasional turkey pecking the glass. I expected to see a tumbleweed roll pass on the hot windy July day.

My career was over; I was done. My father would have said, "You put in a good shift."

Not what I had imagined. For 47 years from mid-August to the end of May, I taught or did something close to teaching. (Okay that first year there was no teaching, just survival.) Sometimes in those early years when my wife and I had little money, I taught in the summer.

I was a teacher. Now what was I? Would I sit on my front porch and yell at the kids letting their dogs pee in my front yard? Would I learn how to play the ukulele? Would I work on my Spanish? I'm still trying to figure that out.

What I hadn't expected to do was to fall in love.

My son and daughter-in-law work, mostly at home, which can be impossible with a 3-year old running around and all the pre-schools closed. Grammy (my wife's grandmother name) and Pops (you guessed it) live close by, so soon we had Izzy (the 3-year old) first for two, three, and then four days a week.

Slowly, I learned to be a grandfather or rather I learned a new identity: Pops. Pops has learned how to make tents out of blankets and camp in the living room. Pops has learned that a special collection of stuffed animals are really babies that we have to take care of, spoil, teach, and even send to "timeout." Pops has revived the Skull Mountain stories he used to tell his own children many years ago. (Although the names of the characters have changed, the villain has remained the same: Evil Dr. Tommy Lasorada.)

Sometimes we stare into space, pretending to watch a movie that I narrate. When it was safe enough, we went to playgrounds, state parks, and the beach. One long afternoon, we gathered sticks, grass, and dandelion flowers and made a bird's nest. We spent a long time waiting for a bird to accept this free gift from the universe. We talked, adjusted the nest, and waited. And waited. It was my moment of Zen.

And in this way I fell in love.

So when the preschools opened again a month ago, Izzy enrolled and began attending. Regularly. She needs to be around other kids, she needs to learn to share, she needs to learn to take turns, and she needs to make friends with kids her age. I know that.

But who is going to take care of the babies? It's been weeks since I set up camp in the living room. I still have many Skull Mountain stories to tell her. Well, they'll have to wait for the occasional weekend gathering.

Where is that ukulele?

CATCHING UP WITH JUDY WALTERS: NEW 4CD BOARD MEMBER

Interviewed by Laury Fischer

In November 2020, DVCRA's Judy Walters, former DVC President and DVCRA Board Member, was elected to the Contra Costa Community College School Board District with the endorsement of both of 4CD's classified and faculty unions as well as many members of DVCRA.

I thought this would be a good time to catch up with Judy for a chat; she is just three+ months into her new role as 4CD Board member.

Laury Fischer: What problems and challenges did you see on the Board that made you want to run for this office?

Judy Walters: I saw an unstable Board that was both dysfunctional and corrosive to the leadership in the District. In my eyes, the institutional memory of the district and campuses was at risk. I was encouraged to run by the unions in the district, the Faculty Senates, and numerous people in and out of the district. My initial thoughts were not on specific policy work, but on developing a highly functional Board. The Board had recently received a vote of no confidence from the Faculty, and I was disturbed and heart-broken at how poorly people working in the District Office were being treated. I wanted to help fix that.

LF: What did you want to accomplish both in the short and long run, and how has your perception of those problems and challenges changed.

JW: At our January meeting, the Board came up with a list of six goals, and we will make these goals public in March. I am particularly interested in serving on the Board's new Policy and Procedures committee, and I hope to chair that committee for our District.

Of course, I understand that I am just one of five Board members, and we are learning how to work together. My family reminds me that I am not the CEO of the District (laughs), and I always keep that in mind.

One of our main goals will be to stabilize the personnel at the District Office which will be a challenge after years of disruption.

A second big thing is money. We have to develop a Student-Centered Funding Formula which is going to be very challenging during these years of declining enrollment in the

District. We need approximately 15,000 more students to reach the goals of that funding. So one key will be enrollment management. In addition, we need to improve our outreach to the high schools as well as bring back international students whose numbers on our campuses have declined significantly.

LF: What's been the most surprising good thing you found since joining the board.

JW: I've been surprised and very impressed at how well people at the District Office are working together during COVID. When I go to the Office, not only do I see people taking proper safety precautions, I see people working together extremely well. There is improved communication and improved morale at the District office, and this is so important. Communication between Board members is very good; however, since three of us meeting together, even informally, constitutes a quorum, this is not allowed.

LF: Is there any message you'd like to send to your fellow members of DVCRA?

JW: One thing I would want all the Retirees to know is that the work we are doing to support scholarships and the food bank at DVC are critically important, and we are doing a great job. Please continue that work. The Food Pantry is a very important service to the community, and the scholarships we provide are so important. The work we do shines and helps us all stay young.

As you might remember, my own story is the reason I am so committed and passionate about community colleges. I was raised in southeast Idaho. My dad had a 3rd grade education; my mother graduated from 8th grade. When I came to California, I discovered for the first time that everybody could get an education. All people. It was a breath of fresh air.

My dad saw me graduate from college with my B.A. in 1970; my mom was alive and attended my graduation when I received my PhD. I am so proud to have made community colleges my life's work and serving on the 4CD Board is the next step.

I am so looking forward to that day when we all can meet in person – not only the DVCRA but also working in person with Board. I've worked with so many wonderful people of good will at DVC -- far too many to name here -- and I am trying to honor all of us with my service on the Board and to honor the entire college community, especially our students, with my work now.

Teaching and Creating Theatre Under and Through Covid and Other Conditions or What I do During Retirement

By Ed Trujillo (retired 2015)

Editor's Note: In February 2021, our colleague and fellow retiree, Ed Trujillo was honored with the Kennedy Center Medallion given to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the teaching and producing of theatre and who have significantly dedicated their time, artistry, and enthusiasm to the development of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The award is the most prestigious regional award bestowed by the Festival and is considered "one of the great

honors in theater education." In addition, Ed was selected as the first Chair of the Festival's Representation, Equity, and Diversity committee. I invited Ed to contribute a piece about teaching Drama during this pandemic, and here he gives us snapshots of three different experiences. ~ ~ Laury Fischer

At the beginning of last year, I was teaching the History of Chicano/a Cinema at Los Medanos College for the third time. In person.

And then the monster arrived.

I was thrown into the Zoom world; I was not prepared.

One of the lighter moments happened when I thought I was engaging well with the students. Then I heard all of this racket of clanging and banging, and found out one of my students was making posole for her father's birthday -- right in class! I was not so much angry for her behavior, but because I probably would never be able to taste it.

I was lost for a while, but things did get a little better. By the time the semester was winding down, it hard for me to institute any creative techniques that I was developing. The technical staff were absolutely supportive, but it was too late for me.

I missed real eye contact, roving around the room, and strolling about when the students were in small groups. I missed the unmuted laughter and the sound of guffaws at blunders I would make each session.

But in addition to my regular teaching at DVC and LMC, I have been a member of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for most of my professional life. Each year we put on a festival and up to 1200 students and faculty attend, compete, and participate in all aspects of theatre: acting, directing, dramaturgy, stage management, lighting, set design, costume design, props, sound design, playwriting, musical theatre -- and everything else that we do.

Then two things happened: Covid hit and George Floyd was killed. We had to decide what to do. First we said yes to having an all virtual festival, and second, we had to respond to the George Floyd death, Black Lives Matters, and all of its tributaries.

All of the disciplines of theatre usually require hands-on involvement. Using Zoom and other platforms proved daunting and frustrating, but we did it and almost 600 people attended the Kennedy Festival Regional Festival this past February.

You can imagine how it was: I taught an acting/audition workshop and had to keep saying: "Can you move your bed out of the way?" "Please step back." "You don't need to shout so loud." "Would you wear that to an audition!?"

On the other hand, schools were able to bring fully mounted productions on streaming platforms with masks and other protocols. We had many guests/presenters and the good news was that we did not have to pay for travel and hotels. We theatre people are very "touchy feelie" but none of that happened! Air hugs, how stupid.

Our region has for many years been committed to inclusion and diversity, but this time around we asked lots of questions: What does that mean and what have we really done

to make profound and necessary changes for a true seismic shift? We had to ask ourselves: Who has been at the table? Are course curriculum and syllabi inclusive? Are our seasons really diverse and representative of our communities or are they just examples of tokenism? Who can afford to go to festival and to theatre in general? Are staff, faculty and administration representative of BIPOC, LGBTQ+, the disabled, and the economically challenged? Are students adequately being served and are their voices being heard? Is casting fair, equitable and open?

Sadly, many of the answers were not what we wanted to hear, so we made some changes that will make us proud of this important art form. Some of the workshops and changes included: Sonya Renee Taylor's "The Body is Not an Apology," "Storytelling in Times of Hate - A Verbatim Approach," "Be Free: Black Engaged Fundamental Racial Equity Everyday," "Trans* Theatre: A Roundtable Conversation," "Disability and Fatness: An Affinity Space," "Corazón Of A Latina," "Equitizing Theatre History: Rethinking Our Approach as Educators," "Media Representation: A Conversation with the National Hispanic Media Coalition," "Crafting Theatrical Art in Indigenous Spaces," "We See You White American Theatre Panel," and many more.

This was a start and an important one.

This past March, from my basement office in Martinez, over a six-week period, I just finished directing *En las Sombras* (In The Shadows) by Jordan Ramirez Puckett for Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington. It was entirely virtual.

The play tells the story of two young siblings in a mythical, pre-Hispanic underworld where they are trying to defeat terrible gods and to become gods themselves. They fight for their freedom by performing tasks laid out by the gods. We then see them shift to the present, and they are now in a detention center on the border, being forced to separate forever. The play reveals the brutality of separation and asks the audience, What can we do? What will we do?

For the first five weeks, all of the actors and tech staff were in their dorm rooms or apartments. Except for one person, I did not know any of them. Sometimes the Wifi connections were bad; I had frozen images of the actors staring at me with half-closed eyes, like something out of "The Twilight Zone."

In the olden days, when I directed at DVC or around the Bay, I would kiss my wife good-bye after an early dinner and head back to campus. Now, we kept the same ritual but I went downstairs to the basement for rehearsal.

But guess what happened? I just got into the rehearsal mode and so did the actors; we worked hard, I gave lots of feedback, they listened, collaborated, got exhausted and made some wonderful character discoveries. I said stuff like "Could you move stage right and then move down stage, and try not to run into your bed?" and it worked. I actually had an actor fall asleep because there was a large gap between his next lines. I thought it was funny.

I had excellent stage managers who gave notes and called all rehearsals. We had production meetings every Friday morning with about 15-20 people. I was worried about the human connection, but their humanity came through, warts and all. Mostly without the warts.

Then “we” moved into the theatre. Rather all of them moved into the theatre. Mind you I’m still Martinez. They followed Covid protocols for inside and were six feet apart with masks in their own designated areas on stage. We presented the production via Readers Theatre; scripts on music stands, with simple costumes and props with stage projections, set pieces and lighting. The challenge was not to make it a video but a visual representation of live theatre.

We tried to keep it simple avoiding extreme close-ups and switching cameras back and forth. It was a juggling act. We had trouble miking me because the cast and crew were on a different streaming platform than I was on at home. Eventually, we presented three live-streaming events. We had to cancel one event because of glitches in one of the platforms. It was incredibly frustrating, but the crew and actors were professional, and we were happy with the final results.

We told the story, made it live; it was effective theatre. I would not give up the experience in hindsight, but the challenges were daunting.

THANK YOU FOR OCTOBER 2020 DONATIONS

Thank you to the donors below for their generous donations to the Silent Auction at our Zoom “luncheon” in October 2020. Money collected from your winning bids goes directly to our scholarship fund for DVC continuing and transfer students. Please look at our current silent auction items, listed in this newsletter, and bid generously; our students need our help more than ever.

Donor	Items Donated
Tim Murphy	Two-night stay, Hyatt Carmel Inn
Ellen Kruse	Handmade masks
Chuck Cottril	Hand-turned, 12 " carob wooden bowl
Gary Goodshaw	Six handmade pens
Crispian Bakery (Alameda)	Gift certificate
DVC Drama Department	Virtual season tickets (2 pair)
DVC Book Center	Gift cards (2)
Walnut Creek Yacht Club	Gift card
Jack's Restaurant, Pleasant Hill	Gift card for dinner
Lunardi's Markets	Gift cards (2)
Trader Joe's	Bag of groceries
Sloat Garden Center	Gift card
Diablo Foods, Lafayette	Gift card

Submitted by Nancy Zink
Directory Maintainer and Unions, District, Benefits Liaison

Seeking Auction Donations from DVCRA Members

First of all, a big thank you to our colleagues who have donated items for the silent auction in the past.

- Clark Sturges and Chris Leivas have donated Giants baseball tickets for many years.
- Ginny Horner donated a quilted bag.
- Elisabeth van Bavel donated a necklace.
- Barbara Sawyer, Dick Shoemaker, Nancy Zink, Jerry Cross, Marge Lasky, and Katrina Keating (though not even retired yet) donated books.
- Chuck Cottril has donated bowls, wine stoppers, and covered containers at every luncheon since 2015.
- Gary Goodshaw has donated hand-crafted pens made of various woods and metals.
- Leon Borowski donated 3 bottles of fine wine. (Many DVCRA members raved about the high quality of Leon's wine.)
- Tim Murphy donated 3 stays at different condos at 2 different luncheons and at our last Zoom Event.

- Judy Myers donated her expertise and family recipe for making toffee.
- Barbara Sawyer donated wine.
- Joy Broom donated a brooch.
- Ellen Kruse has donated treats from Crispian Bakery in Alameda, wine, and assistance at Judy Myers's Toffee Workshop.

If you have something you'd like to share and donate for the silent auction coming up on April 23, 2021, please contact Ellen Kruse at enkruse@comcast.net.

Submitted by Ellen Kruse
Luncheon Coordinator

In Memoriam

Chambers Dan Adams

We are sad to report the passing of Chambers "Dan" Adams in October 2019. Dan began his career with DVC in 1965 as a foreign language instructor where he taught French and Spanish; also, he knew how to write in Greek. He received his BA degree and completed four years of graduate work from the University of California, Berkeley. Dan retired from DVC in 1988.

●●●●●●●●

James Magee

It is with profound sadness that we inform you that James Magee, full-time math faculty at DVC, passed away on March 9, 2021 after a short battle with brain cancer.

James started his career at DVC in the fall of 1991. A gentle, warm, kind, and caring colleague, loved by his students and his peers, James had a passion for mathematics and traveling. During his years at the college, he mentored students and new faculty, served as Academic Senate representative, and engaged in improving the math online curriculum and tutoring practices.

Nancy Zink adds that, “James and I were hired at DVC at the same time, and we worked together teaching the English and Math Tutoring Class. He was, indeed, a very special person: a wonderful colleague and friend as well as a generous and tireless support to students. He had a smile for everyone and a cheerful spirit that would lift anyone's day.”

A devoted father to his 9-year old daughter, Ella Grace, and loving partner to his wife Michele, James will be greatly missed by all of us. The family has decided to postpone the memorial service until a time that physical distancing restrictions due to COVID-19 are lifted. In addition, they are asking that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the James Magee Memorial Scholarship fund that will become available through the DVC Foundation.

DVC News and Information

Are Classrooms Re-opening?

DVC is still in the process of deciding how many classes will be held live on campus in the fall; the final decision has not been made and departments are preparing for a variety of different situations with the likelihood that we will mostly be teaching online in the fall. Summer classes at DVC are almost all going to be online -- some taught synchronously (live), some taught a-synchronously (no live component of the class).

In contrast, the UCs, CSUs, several private universities, and many unified school districts throughout the Bay Area have announced plans for reopening nearly fully in-person for fall semester, 2021. As you have been reading in the papers, local school districts all over northern California are starting to re-open, if hesitantly, in March and April. Community colleges throughout the state, however, seem to be more cautionary on their reopening plans. Of course, so many things are in flux, so stay in touch with public information about all school openings, K through College.

●●●●●●●●

DVC Speech and Debate Team Wins State Championship

DVC's Speech and Debate team won first place at the California Community College Forensics Association (CCCFA) State Championship Tournament, held virtually March 10 – 14th. This is the first time in DVC history that the Speech and Debate team, also referred to as Forensics, has won a state championship, and the first time in 45 years that an institution in Northern California has taken the top spot.

Fifteen DVC students competed in head-to-head debating, public address, limited-preparation speaking, and dramatic performance. This year's State Championship

addressed issues that ranged from anti-Asian discrimination and Black culture in art, to the objectification of people with disabilities and other socio-political issues.

DVC's team was coached by Blake Longfellow, DVC's Director of Forensics, who joined forces with the college's Forensic coaches: Paul Villa, Andrew Morgan, Robert Hawkins, and Sasan Kasravi. Congratulations to faculty, students, and their families.

Want to see the full list of awards? Head to the [CCCFA State Championship site](#).



Repatriation Of Native American Remains

College President Susan Lamb updated the community regarding the DVC's efforts to repatriate the Native American remains donated to the DVC's museum in the 1950s and 1960s. The college has submitted notice to the national Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) program which has 90 days to review and return final approval. After that, the list is published in the Federal Register within 30-60 days. Once these legal requirements are completed, the college will begin working with local tribes and college constituencies to form a President's Advisory Council to address the next steps in the local repatriation process.



DVC's New Telehealth Program, TimelyMD, Helps Students in Need of Health Services

(from Jenny Orme, DVC Inquirer)

After a year of negotiations and planning, the Associated Students and administration of DVC have launched TimelyMD, the college's first-ever student health service. As the impact of the coronavirus continue to pose severe health and economic challenges, this free day-and-night telehealth service is now accessible to all DVC students via cell phone or computer. This is something students, administration, faculty, and staff have been working on for years - and it's finally arrived.



OUT IN THE WORLD

Virtually and In Person

Readers have expressed their appreciation of this regular feature of curated things to do, good things to read, and a miscellany of activities. Many thanks this month especially to Pam McNeilly, but also Rob Peters, Irene Menegas, and Karen Castle for their wonderful recommendations. ~~ Laury Fischer

We Are Still Learning

Even [Harvard University](#) has free courses, most are one week long. Check "expiration" date for each of these. (from Pam McNeilly)

Editor's favorites:

- Lost Without Longitude: Explore the history of navigation, from stars to satellites.

- John Snow and the Cholera Epidemic of 1854
- Women Making History: Ten Objects, Many Stories: Learn how American women created, confronted, and embraced change in the 20th century while exploring ten objects from Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library



Health Story Collaborative: Coping With Covid 19 (from Rob Peters)

A fantastic list of readings including recommendations on physical and mental health including sections on self-care, managing anxiety, family resources. Peters particularly recommends:

- The Clay Center for Young Healthy Minds. A useful overview for helping young kids – and grandkids – cope with their fears and social protocols during the pandemic, as well as teens in the family or extended families
- The Mayo Clinic -- an excellent, free newsletter that is cross-referenced, updated, and easily accessible for a wide range of readers. Highly regarded.



Wonderful Reads

(suggested by Laury Fischer)

Grandparents Could Ease the Burden of Homeschooling

It’s a win-win: Elders get a way to combat loneliness; teachers and parents get help they desperately need, and children get another grown-up to guide them through remote learning. By Robin Marantz Henig
(from Laury Fischer)

Love Puzzles?

All It Takes Is Inexhaustible Patience, Limitless Time, and a Warped Mind

A fascinating conversation with Adrienne Raphel, crossword puzzle historian, writer of puzzles, and author of Thinking Inside the Box: Adventures with Crossword and the Puzzling People Who Can’t Live Without Them. (from Laury Fischer)



Feel Better

(from Pam McNeilly)

Senior Planet from AARP offers many virtual and wellness fitness classes and events. Many to choose from.

Editor’s Choices:

- Chair Yoga
- Stronger Bones
- Morning Fitness

All Reebok Virtual Gym Classes on YouTube. Different abilities and different length classes including:

Editor's Choices:

- 90-second shoulder breaks
- 4-minute mobility workout
- 20-minute leg pump



Getting Out in the World?

Depending on when you read this and considering your own safety, it might be time to explore in person the [California Parks and Recreation Department](#) (from Irene Menegas).

Get basic information here to find a park, make a reservation, buy a pass, etc. Irene reminds us: “[With much of the summer excepted] ... for \$20, anyone over 62 can get a Limited Use Golden Bear Pass, which allows free admission to most (not all) state parks with admission fees (usually \$9 or so, depending on the park).” She notes that it’s “truly an off-season pass” – but great for us in California.



BAY TRAIL MAPS

When you’re ready, this is a fantastic way to explore the nearly 350 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail. This box holds 25 map cards, each with part of the Bay Trail marked out – for riding, strolling, hiking. Great way to get outside and enjoy this beautiful weather. Their website tells places around the Bay Area where the map cards are available.



Senior Discounts on Car Rentals

With many of us fully vaccinated, it looks like travel might be in our futures. Many of the car rental sites have updated their discounts for seniors. Here are the three best particularly for AARP members.

[Avis Senior Discounts](#): AARP members save \$10-\$25 off Avis Car Rental

[Budget Rent-A-Car Senior Discount](#): Everyday savings of 10-25% on all vehicles. Use Budget Customer Discount (BCD) # Y508537 to get the lowest rate(s) for AARP members (50+)

[Hertz Senior Discount](#): Hertz offers exclusive rental car deals for renters 50+. Use discount code CDP# 2007815 for savings up to 20%



Things That Are Open

Slowly, but very surely, things are starting to open, and our good weather might be just give us the opportunity to venture out -- if you’re feeling safe. These local sites are great places to visit when you're ready:

- [UC Botanical Gardens](#)

The Garden is open! Make a reservation online. Take a look at what’s in [bloom](#).

- [San Francisco & Bay Area Museums: What's Open](#)

These are now open. Many others listed on the website – be sure to check for updated information.

- [Children's Fairyland](#) (Oakland)
- [Museum of Craft and Design](#) (San Francisco)
- [Bay Area Discovery Museum](#) (Sausalito)



Can't travel in person? Try these Online Travels

(from Pam McNeilly)

Take a Virtual Visit to a National Park and Museum

- [New Bedford Whaling Museum](#)
- [Clara Barton Historical Site](#)

Visit These 24/7 Webcams on the National Park and Museum website:

- National Mall (visit the Cherry Blossoms)
- Statue of Liberty

[International Space Station](#)

Looking for high definition views of Earth from the space station? Visit the [ISS HD Earth Viewing Experiment \(HDEV\) on UStream](#) or look for [NASA Live: Earth Views From the Space Station on YouTube](#).



Peregrine Falcons

The Peregrine Falcons are back. And nesting on the Berkeley Campus. This [webcam](#) allows you to spy on them 24/7. They are adorable.



Every Radio Station On Earth

Rob Peters endorses this interactive map where you can point and click and listen to what seems like the live feed of every radio on earth.

<http://radio.garden/live/toulouse/radiopresences>. Chicago radio sounds better than ever (I listened - L Fischer).

The Future is in the Past

Drive-In Movies Have Returned

It's Finally Time to Return to Bay Area Theaters – In Your Car.
Recommended:

- [West Wind Drive-In](#) – Concord

- [Fort Mason Flix](#) – SF. Includes films for kids, opera, film noir, even new releases.

••••••••

Radio on TV (on YouTube)

Listen with your grandkids – or just sit in the dark and enjoy.

Editor's Choices:

- [Gunsmoke](#)
- [Philo Vance: Detective](#)
- [The Adventures of Superman](#)

10 Fantastic Ways to Explore the Internet

10 Fantastic Ways to Explore the Internet

Editor's Choice:

- Find a television news story you missed. Search our [Television News Archive](#) for all the channels that presented any story you're interested in. A good glimpse back into recent history.
- Remember video games before there were video games? Play a classic video game on an simulated old-time console, right in the browser. Show some young people what video games used to look like. Choose from hundreds of games in the [Internet Arcade](#).
- Need More Grateful Dead (and who doesn't?) The [Live Music Archive](#) holds more than 12,000 Grateful Dead concerts.

DVCRA BOARD MEMBERS

Association Coordinator - Karen Castle

Immediate Past Association Coordinators - Judy Walters and Diane Scott-Summers

Treasurer - Chris Leivas

Secretary - Irene Menegas

Membership Meeting/Luncheon Coordinator - Ellen Kruse and Rachel Westlake

Scholarship Coordinator - Mary Ulrich

Newsletter Editor - Laury Fischer

Member Directory Maintainer - Nancy Zink

Membership Coordinator - Sue Shattuck

New Member Recruiter and Newsletter Sharp-eyed Proofreader - Linda Robbins

Unions, District, Benefits Liaison - Nancy Zink