

Spring 2019 Newsletter

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DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE RETIREES NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2019

DVCRA SPRING LUNCHEON

Friday, April 26, 2019

Diablo Room

11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hospitality Services and Food Court Building

Come and enjoy the fellowship of our DVC community, a luncheon prepared by the students and chefs of the Culinary Arts Department, and a chance to hear from Chancellor Fred Wood.

RESERVATIONS

Please make a reservation by sending a check for \$15 made out to DVC Retirees Association and addressed to

DVC Retirees Association
Diablo Valley College
321 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Please mail your check so we receive it by Wednesday, April 17, 2019. For questions, please contact Irene Menegas at imenegas@comcast.net or 925-946-0420.

When you send in your reservation, please indicate if you would like a vegetarian option for lunch.

Thank you for pre-paying promptly. Your cooperation means that we can avoid

paying for more lunches than we need.

DVCRA SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute to the DVCRA Scholarship Fund at this time and would like your contribution to be tax deductible, please write a second check made out to the DVC Foundation, and in the notation area, write "DVCRA Scholarship Fund."

Thanks to your donations, DVCRA provided \$14,400 for scholarships in 2017-18 and will provide \$14,000 for scholarships this academic year, 2018-19.

LUNCHEON

Menu

The students and faculty of the Culinary Arts Program will prepare and serve a Cinco de Mayo themed buffet lunch.

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FACULTY LECTURE

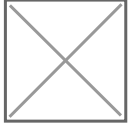
April 9 & 10

Please join us for this year's DVC faculty lecture.

The Academic Senate has selected Shelly Pierson, DVC Kinesiology professor, as the 55th DVC Faculty Lecturer. Pierson's talk is entitled "Exercise and the Brain: An Important Link in Education."

Pierson reminds us that "the real reason we feel so good when we break a sweat is that it wakes up our brain to function at full capacity, and it has amazing side effects on the rest of the body. Research shows that this happens through aerobic exercise, mindfulness-meditation, and believe it or not, rich and fulfilling relationships and experiences. Because our brains respond to what we do in our lives and with our bodies when we make positive changes to our lifestyle we think sharper, increase memory capacity, work with greater focus and improve our mood."

Please join us for Shelly's lecture: Tuesday, April 9th (12:45 – 1:45 p.m.) or Wednesday, April 10th (6:30 p.m. with reception). **Both events in the Diablo Room**



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Diablo Valley College Retirees Association Financial Report Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2018

The primary purpose of 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 \$77,400 in scholarships through 2018. We award and fund scholarships in the spring, and our major fundraising efforts occur during the summer. Consequently, the funds raised in 2018 will be used to fund the scholarships in 2019. The following DVCRA financial information is for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018:

- We have \$24,788 in cash held in our bank accounts at Travis Credit Union and the DVC Foundation.
- Our fundraising activities in 2018 (including donations, memberships, and auctions) generated \$16,877 available for scholarships. This is a 7% increase compared to the same time period in 2017.
- We had \$16,876 in expenditures during 2018 including \$14,400 for scholarships, \$1,996 for luncheons, and \$290 for office expenses. Also, we transferred \$190 to the DVC Foundation for donations we received for the DVC food pantry.

Due to several major gifts received in the last few months of 2018, we were able to increase our initial allocation of \$10,000 for 2019 scholarships to \$14,000. The Board has approved fourteen scholarships for \$1,000 each. Eight scholarships will go to continuing DVC students, and six scholarships will go to transferring students.

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

Chris Leivas, Treasurer

SEEKING SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Most of our scholarships are funded by members' dues and direct contributions to the DVCRA. Thank you all for those important contributions. In addition, the Silent Auction at the luncheons is a small, fun way to contribute to the scholarship fund. The proceeds from auctions at the Spring and Fall Luncheons fund at least one scholarship per year. We approach businesses in the community for donations, but what makes the Silent Auction special are the donations from our colleagues.

Here are some items our colleagues have donated in the past. Perhaps they will serve as inspiration for your donations. Thank you to our colleague donors.

- ★ Clark Sturges has for many years donated Giants baseball tickets.
- ★ Chris Leivas is donating Giants baseball tickets this year.
- ★ Ginny Horner donated a quilted bag she designed and sewed.
- ★ Elisabeth van Bavel donated a necklace she designed and crafted.
- ★ Barbara Sawyer, Dick Shoemaker, Nancy Zink, Jerry Cross, and Katrina Keating (though not retired yet) donated books.
- ★ Chuck Cottril has donated bowls, wine stoppers, and covered containers at every luncheon since 2015.
- ★ Leon Borowski, winemaker extraordinaire, donated two bottles of fine wine. (I can attest to the "extraordinaire" part.)
- ★ Tim Murphy donated a two-night stay at a Lake Tahoe condo.
- ★ Judy Myers donated her expertise and family recipe for making toffee at a toffee-making workshop.
- ★ Barbara Sawyer has donated many bottles of wine from her friends' winery, Hafner Winery.
- ★ Joy Broom donated a work of art brooch she created.

We also appreciate those of you who attend the luncheons and bid on the Silent Auction items. Both donors and bidders contribute toward student scholarships. If you have something you'd like to donate, please contact me at enkruse@comcast.net.

~~ Ellen Kruse

SILENT AUCTION for DVC Student Scholarships Apr. 26, 2019

**This is just the start of the list of Silent Auction items.
We expect more items will be added.**

ITEM/VALUE	MINIMUM BID*
☛ Chocolate Workshop for two (2) at Rachel Dunn Chocolates in Concord, expires 3/1/2020. Valued at \$110	\$55*
☛ Two DVC Book Center Gift Cards, \$25 each	\$10
☛ Giants Game for Two, Club Level, Section 224, 3 rd Base Side. Friday, June 7, Dodgers, 7:15 p.m. Face value: \$194 (for two)	\$100*
☛ Giants Game for Two, Club Level, Section 224, 3 rd Base Side. Sunday, June 16, Brewers, 1:05, p.m. Face value: \$194 (for two)	\$100*
--OR--	
Sunday, July 21, Mets, 1:05 p.m. Face value: \$194 (for two)	
☛ Two Sloat Garden Center Gift Cards, \$50 each	\$25
☛ Two Lunardi's Gift Cards, \$25 each	\$10
☛ Wooden Creation by Chuck Cottril	TBD
* Minimum bid increase: \$5	

THANK YOU: The Diablo Valley College Retirees Association would like to thank these donors for their generous donations to our SILENT AUCTION for DVC Student Scholarships at our October 2018 luncheon. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by the recipients. Please thank them when appropriate by shopping at their wonderful establishments.

★ Crispian Bakery Candy Workshop for 6. 1700 Park Str., Ste 120, Alameda 94501
★ Diablo Foods Gift Card, 3615 Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 94549
★ DVC Book Center, Gift Certificates and Merchandise
★ Trader Joe's Fall Goodie Bag, 1150 Concord Ave, Concord, CA 94520
★ Norseman Restaurant Gift Certificates
★ Tim Murphy, Lake Tahoe Retreat Mini-Vacation
★ Sloat Garden Center (various locations in Bay Area)
★ Barbara and Bob Sawyer: wine
★ Ellen and Bill Kruse: wine
★ Nancy and Ed Zink, copy of "No Reprieve" by Jim Jacobs
★ Chuck Cottril: hand-crafted jewelry box
★ Jerry Cross and Pauline Bondonno Cross, copies of "Knowing Yourself Inside Out" by Jerry Cross and Pauline Bondonno Cross

DVC's DRAMA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS ITS LAST SHOW OF THE SEASON



Tickets can be purchased over the phone at 925-969-2358 or online at www.dvcdrama.net.

If tickets are purchased online, they need to be printed out before arriving at the theater.

Shows are Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m.; Sun 5/12 & 5/19 at 2:30 p.m.

Location: Arena Theater

More information at the DVC Drama Website:
www.DVCDrama.net

DVCRA BYLAW REVISION VO

Reminder: If you have paid your 2018-2019 dues (payable July 1, 2018), you have already received email about proposed minor changes in the DVC Bylaws (sent March 22), and we are urging you to vote by **April 19th**. Feel free to contact Irene Me at imenegas@comcast.net or call her at 925-946- if you think you have paid your dues and didn't receive the email. The purpose of the changes is to establish the Retirees Association as a nonprofit organization (501c7) in the eyes of the IRS and California's Franchise Tax Board (FTB). The second reason for the proposed changes is to align our bylaws with current Association practices. The DVCRA Board does not intend to change the Association in any way, nor to change its practices. The results of the vote will be announced at the upcoming April luncheon.

TIPS OF THE MONTH

✓ SENIOR FRIENDLY WEBSITES: Is the website you're looking at senior-friendly? Find out here:

- <https://www.illumimage.com/files/2014/05/webinar-050913.pdf>

✓ "SENIOR LIVING" WEBSITE has published a list of websites they think are the best and most useful websites for seniors. See what you think:

- <https://www.seniorliving.org/leisure/top-senior-websites>

✓ KANOPY is a free movie-streaming website almost certainly available directly through your public library. It has 1000's of films – classic and new – for free including incredible films: *LadyBird*; *I Am Not Your Negro*; *Stone*; *Uprising*; *Marwencol*; and *Helvetica: Typography, Graphic Design, and Global Visual Culture*.

Enjoy – Let me know what you think of the films and comments about the newsletter to Laury Fischer.
(LauryFischer@gmail.com)

DVCRA Newsletter: Editor: Laury Fischer
Proofreading and Advisor: Linda Robb

In Memorium

MARVIN McKEAN

Died Oct. 5, 2018

Marv McKean, retired Coach and Physical Education faculty, came to DVC in 1954 as a student and was a member of the football, basketball, and DVC's first-ever championship baseball team in 1955. After receiving an MA in Physical Education from San Jose State in 1959 he returned to DVC in 1964 as a Physical Education instructor, Assistant Football coach, and Men's Tennis coach. In 1974 he was named the Head Football coach at LMC winning the school's first football championship in 1975. In 1984 he returned to DVC as the Men's Tennis coach winning the Golden Gate Conference in 1994 and finishing second in Northern California. In 1990 he also won the Golden Gate Conference championship as the Women's Tennis coach. Marv retired in 1998. In 2018 Marv was inducted into DVC's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Marv is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sandra, one sister, three children, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service celebrating Marv's life was held in October. In honor of Marv's deep love for the city in which he was born, lived and died, the family requests memorial gifts be made to the Concord Historical Society (P.O. Box 404, Concord, CA 94522).

PETAL TURNER

Petal Turner, wife of the late Everett Turner, also in the Art Department passed away last year. We have no information about cards or memorials.



NANCY HODGSON

Nancy Hodgson, wife of Bob Hodgson, died last July after having suffered from a massive heart attack. Please send cards to Bob Hodgson at 120 Summit Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

TED MAH

Died March, 2019

Ted Mah, retired member of the Business Division at Diablo Valley College, passed away in March, 2019. Ted was the head of the Business Division for at least three terms of three years each. He was kind, patient, generous, and uniquely diplomatic. Everyone who was privileged to know Ted will miss him greatly. A memorial service is scheduled for Sunday, April 7th. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ted's daughter, Cynthia at 510-387-7721 (cynthiamah@pacbell.net)

PETE CORONA

Pete Corona, part of DVC's Community Education program, passed away at age 90, an age at which he was still teaching his popular *Fit After 50* class. Pete was a native California who received state and national recognition for his leadership in education. He was honored by the President of the United States, the governor of California, as well as numerous government and educational organizations. He taught educational leadership on six continents for over six decades. He published two books on the communities he grew up in: *Sunol: Never Too Small to Succeed* and *Little Italy: The Way It Was*. Pete is survived by his wife, Yolanda, their children and many grandchildren. No services are planned, but please send your condolences, to DVC's Community Education office, and they will forward them to Yolanda who will love to hear from you.

Memorial Announcements

The *In Memorium* section of our website includes a list of our colleagues who have passed. There are tributes for some of them, so please take a look. And if you have memories or anecdotes to share, please send them to Karen Castle (castlekg@gmail.com). We have the space and this will help keep our community spirit alive.

Major Changes in DVC's Developmental and Remedial Programs

Editor's Note: On January 1, 2018, California implemented AB 705, a bill designed to increase the possibility that students will complete transfer-level English and math classes within one year. This legislation effectively eliminates remedial and developmental courses at the college especially in English (which represented approximately 50% of English's course offerings each semester). Nearly all students will now enroll in transfer-level English classes in their first semester. I talked to DVC English Professor James Wilson, one of the AB 705 English Dept. coordinators, about the background and impact the bill. Lightly edited, here's what James told me:

Basically, the state's research shows so clearly that a startling percentage of students who start community college at the basic skills or developmental (remedial) level, don't ever make it to transfer-level courses. At the lowest levels, less than one-third who enroll in remedial courses, complete transfer-level English. Extensive research also shows that those same students placed immediately at the transfer level, will be much more likely to succeed, get their degree, and transfer to a four-year university.

In addition, there's a large equity piece at work here. Traditionally, students placed in our pre-transfer classes were students of color and students from poor school districts. Essentially, these students were initially kept out of a transfer-level courses and so many just never made it to the next level. DVC will now provide *all students* with equal access to the same courses in English and math. This represents a major barrier to their success being taken down and that is very

exciting.

For the first time next fall, our English Department will offer a two-unit support course that students who previously had been deemed "developmental" will take along with English 122 (DVC's transfer-level English composition course). Both courses will be taught by the same instructor, and the new course will provide additional time (two units), focus, and instruction that will make these students significantly more likely to succeed at the college overall and in English specifically.

The math department has a more complicated task than English, but they are also developing support courses and, like English, will be placing students into transfer-level mathematics in their first year at the college.

This bill is creating a major cultural shift in the English Department that is both maddening and exciting. It is going to mean that some students previously considered "under-prepared" will now enter DVC and take a one-semester support class simultaneously with their transfer-level English course. Previously, we gave these students time to warm up not just to English and math but to college as a whole; this will no longer be the case.

During their first semester, we will now expect students to learn the student-ing skills (e.g. time-management, note taking, in-class essay writing) that we used to emphasize in developmental classes.

Since math and English courses are gateway courses to so many other classes across the curriculum, it is certainly going to be a challenge for all of us on campus (instructors, counselors, librarians, classified staff, administrators) to learn how to provide the kinds of services students need to succeed, given this major shift in our course offerings.

And that's what we are preparing for.

I do have some concerns about the implications of all this on English classes, and how it is going to affect our teaching, given the increase of numbers of students in transfer-level English who previously took between one and four semesters to get there. It is going to be a tricky shift for all of us. The population of our classes has changed, and it will be a challenge for all of us to get a new set of our students to meet the standards of the class in just one semester. The challenge will continue to unfold over the next few years as we learn to work with this new, broader population.

But the English Department has been preparing for more than a year -- through so many valuable conversations, meetings, changes in curriculum, and ongoing professional development. The department is definitely up to the challenge.

SPRING LOCAL SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

Events selected by Laury Fischer
Cut and paste the URL or Google the event for more information.

DVC SPEAKERS

• *Celebrating Stephen Hawking: How Black Holes Are Not Quite Black - A Non-Technical Talk With Astronomer. Andrew Fraknoi.* Sun. April 7, 2 – 4 p.m. Performing Arts Center, DVC PH Campus. \$25.

• *100 Race, Education, Power. DVC Equity Speakers Series. Dr. Jeremiah Sims.*

Tues., April 23, San Ramon Campus, TBD, 12:45 – 2:10 p.m.

Wed., April 24, Pleasant Hill Campus, Diablo Room 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Information here:
<https://www.dvc.edu/events/index.html#event=23658286>.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

• *View From the Top: Being a Biotech Entrepreneur in a 155-Year Old Company.* Judy Chou, Senior VP & Global Head of Biotech, Bayer Pharmaceuticals. Th., April 4. Noon – 1 p.m. Sutardja Dail Hall, Banatao Auditorium 3rd Floor. Free

• *Docent-led Tour of the UC Botanical Garden.* every Sunday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday (with exceptions), 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Information Here:
https://events.berkeley.edu/?event_ID=124806&date=2019-04-04&tab=all_events

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

• *Haunted Grounds: Experiencing the Dead at St. Matthews Church.* Wed. April 10. 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. On Campus, 114 Dante Hall.

Anthropologist Matthew McCoy will speak about how Catholic and Protestant communities in East Belfast make sense of local histories of violence.

Information here:
<https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/events>

Downtown Walnut Creek Walking Tour

Liberty Bell Plaza, 1400 Mt. Diablo Blvd, WC
Sat., April 13, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

The Walnut Creek Historical Society sponsors this guided walking tour, an easy 90-minute tour on city sidewalks that brings to life the early times of Walnut Creek.

You're Doing What? Older Women's Tales of Achievement and Adventure

Editor's Note: In 2018, retired DVC history professor, Marge Lasky, emailed a general invitation to women friends, acquaintances, and, ultimately, strangers to submit narratives to describe their late-life achievements and adventures. She received 135 responses which she collected and published the three ways:

• a book, "You're Doing What? Older Women's Tales of Achievement and Adventure"

• a website: OlderWomen'sTales.com

• a special edition of "History of Women in the Americas."

Eleven of our DVC colleagues appear in one of these three sources, and it was such a pleasure to read the narratives of people you might well remember: Rita Delgado (listed as "anonymous," but now public with her story), Pam McNeilly, Elaine Dunlop, Deya Hill, Susan Lundgren, Sherry Lou MacGregor, Lynn MacMichael, Gay Ostarella,

Marilyn Shoemaker, Gabriela Taylor, and Marge Lasky herself.

The narratives are divided into chapters including "Comparing Generations," "Overcoming Adversity," "I Never Thought I'd Do This," and "One More Tale" (Marge's story).

I thought our readers would be interested in a conversation between current DVC history professor, Melissa Jacobsen, who started teaching at DVC in 1989, and Marge, who retired in 2003. Both have taught the Women's History class at the college, a course Marge developed and then expanded.

We met for a lively hour on the Pleasant Hill campus, and here is an edited version of their

conversation. Book signings are listed at the end of the article. "You're Doing What?" is available on Amazon. ~ Laury Fischer

Melissa Jacobson (MJ): What were you looking for when you sent out the invitation for the narratives?

Marge Lasky (ML): I was looking for women to give details about their lives as they got older. What I was trying to elicit was a kind of analysis in terms of what their lives were like now. But I also wanted some contrast with past generations, and why they thought those changes had come about. I was looking for people to explain how they saw their lives in relationship to others: their mothers, their aunts, their grandmothers.

Continued on next page

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ML (con't): But big surprise: people wrote what they wanted to write. The book became what *they* wanted, not what I was expecting.

MJ: What about the DVC women? How are they represented in the book?

ML: In so many different ways and in no one way. Between the book and the website, eleven DVC retirees are in the book, and you can't generalize about them as a group. Here are three good examples.

Take Rita Delgado, who was anonymous in the book, but is now public about her narrative. Hers is a very powerful piece about how her mother desired to identify as Spanish, but Rita, because of all the political elements in her life, wanted to be recognized as a Chicana; she really identifies as Mexican and explains why in her narrative.

Or Susan Lundgren. Susan was a counselor and writes about how she *knew* she had to move out of the area when she retired. She's makes the choice to leave and move away from the Bay Area to Mendocino (and arranged a book signing there).

And Sherry Lou McGregor who is coming to grips with her Native American identity, in fact, steps into a tribal canoe.

MJ: One question that occurred to me is whether you thought the book would be really different if all the narratives were written by men.

ML: That's a great question and you're going to hate my answer: I think the chapters would in general be pretty much the same kinds of stories. I can see the same kinds of reactions with men as women even today and particularly men of my generation. Well, there probably would be a chapter on older men who marry younger women, but other than that, the same

MJ: Travel comes up a lot. Women wanting to see places like Mount Kilimanjaro or hike Sedona. To me, it seems like travel was a kind of feminist statement

ML: I don't see it all that way. I don't know how if travel means has any difference in meaning to men and women:

MJ: But your generation of women seems like is the first who would could say, "*I'm going to travel*," and that it's not an overstatement for women now to say, "I'm going to go Thailand, or Vietnam or India" and pick up and go. Almost the feeling like they are trying to prove something.

ML: Well, in my own case, when I travel by myself, it's not that I'm expressing my feminism or my freedom; it's just that I kind of like to do things by myself. And that I'm not afraid to do things by myself. Feminism has helped me in that perception, and I think it's also freed other women, women in the book, to believe that they can do this sort of thing.

Laury Fischer (LF): Could women have done what your friends and women in this book, travel in the way they do, say, in 1942?

ML: Well, women did pick up and go. But it was different.

MJ: I guess I'm thinking of women in the 1800s who couldn't travel alone. Some women might have had a canoe or a bicycle which would have been very liberating but it was pretty rare.

ML: I would be cautious about thinking about women like that who are in the book. They don't talk about travel that way. They think, "I want to see Vietnam, and I have the resources and the health. I'm going." But they don't talk about it in terms of their being free to go.

ML: One thing I noticed about the narratives as a whole is that the women really don't write about feminism directly, but the issue of what feminism is so built into everybody's life now. I think we just don't reflect upon it very much.

ML (con't): All of us owe a great deal of debt to feminism and to the movement for, in fact, opening up possibilities, if not always the real ones. But don't forget that race and economics has so much to do with kinds of choices people get to make. I think we need to be cautious. The women in my book are women of resources. Women who generally have an education; women who did not suffer economically. Although some of them came from working-class families, they didn't suffer economically. I think for the most part their choices were, in fact, not so bad. In fact, perhaps the difficulty in the society is figuring out what does retirement actually mean? The question of "what am I going to do" sometimes prevents people from retiring. But I think that one of the benefits of this book is that it says maybe things will come to *you* when you retire. That's essentially what happened to so many women in the book: things came to them. Even things that scared them.

For example, Elizabeth Chafcoult was a speech therapist here in the States, and somebody in Cambodia googled her out of nowhere. He wrote to her and asked if she could help a father who needed speech therapy. And that simple contact led to her starting the Speech Therapy Institute in Cambodia, a nonprofit she started in 2013. She had never conceptualized this at all. And this work started in retirement. It came to her; she didn't seek it out.

MJ: The book certainly opens up the question of what are you going to do with the rest of your life. And at least partly answers it. Thank you, Marge

Book Readings. Join Marge and some of her contributors at these events:

Thursday, May 2, 6 p.m. Book Passage Sausalito

Saturday, May 11, 2-4 p.m. Orinda

Saturday, May 18, 10:30 a.m. Oakland Piedmont Branch of AAUW (check the website)

Tuesday, May 21, 7 p.m. Moe's Books, Berkeley

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Author

uf4retired

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