

# AFTER-WORDS

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



VOLUME XLIII, ISSUE 2

WWW.DEANZA.EDU/FODARA

March 2026

## *Valentine's Party 2026!*



Part of the group enjoys the early Spring-like weather just outside the party room!

On Thursday, February 12, FODARA held its annual Valentine's Day Wine, Cheese, and Chocolate event in the backyard party room at the home of Treasurer Barbara Illowsky. Before the event, Barbara and her husband, Dan, beautifully decorated the space with a variety of Valentine's decorations and tablecloths, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.

The 28 FODARA members and friends who attended enjoyed socializing while savoring delicious cheeses, crackers, assorted chocolates, and a variety of wines and non-alcoholic beverages. FODARA member Adrienne Pierre commented, "I had a nice time at the FODARA function. It makes you realize you've been more than coworkers—you've been friends for the past 30 years."

The highlight of the event was a wonderful slideshow presentation by Barbara about her December climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro and her volunteer activities in Uganda. She said her favorite part of the eight-day climb up the world's highest free-standing mountain above sea level was the ever-changing and beautiful landscape. After completing the hike and letting her family know she was safe, her son told her, "You are my bad-a\_\_ mama!" I couldn't agree more—it shows that FODARA retirees can accomplish anything they set their minds to.



FODARA members came early to hear about Barbara Illowsky's adventures on Mount Kilimanjaro.

The FODARA Board thanks Barbara and Dan for opening their home, and FODARA members and



Joy and love were on display by FODARA members (and Snoopy!)

winemakers Vicky Moreno and Don Nickel for donating their delicious homemade Los Novios wine. We also thank the board members who contributed wine, beverages, chocolate, cheese, crackers, and cookies. Their generosity helped keep expenses low and allowed us to add over \$480 from event fees to the FODARA Student Scholarship Fund.

We hope you enjoy the photos posted by our webmaster, Cindy Castillo, and will join us for our next event—our annual FODARA Picnic in mid-June. The registration form will appear in the May newsletter, and the date and location will be posted on the FODARA website in a few weeks. (*Note: The picnic will NOT be held on June 11, as currently listed.*)

- *Linda Conroy*

### Looking for a few good techies and/or enthusiastic folks!

How are your computer skills? Some FODARA long-serving board members are once again retiring, this time from our Board of Directors. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their leadership and service. And that's why we need YOU! We will need a [Listserv Administrator](#) and a [Webmaster](#), starting in July. If you are interested in joining the Board, but not in these techie positions, we're also looking for some at-large members.

Will you join us? We'd love you to volunteer to join this enthusiastic group and steer FODARA into the next chapter!! We'd like to keep FODARA going into the future. We provide a widely read newsletter, *After-Words*, and coordinate events locally where retirees can join other retirees for fun, food, and drink!! We also raise funds for students with our annual scholarships, thus giving back to the field of education where we all spent a chapter of our lives. And, we have fun working together! We will train, mentor, and introduce you to the joys of FODARA.

If you are interested (even mildly), please contact ANY of our Board members. OR simply contact our president, Mike Paccioretti, and he can answer questions. All our contact information is on our website at <https://www.deanza.edu/fodara/board.html>

- *Barbara Illowsky & Cindy Castillo*

### JLMBC Update

This year's first meeting of the JLMBC convened via Zoom for a short agenda to discuss a timeline of possible events and to establish a workable schedule of future meetings. Like in previous years, JLMBC will meet monthly and then biweekly as specific data on 2026-2027 rates come into play from CalPERS. Negotiations on salaries and benefits have been 'finalized' around the end of the summer session for the bargaining units to ratify at the beginning of the fall quarter. Now funded by Basic Aid from the State instead of the more variable Weekly Student Contact Hours, the District and Negotiating Teams will have earlier and better indications about the State budget numbers. Time will tell. The district continues to research the background about IRMAA reimbursement for pre-1997 retirees.

- *Susanne Chan, FHDA Benefits*

## Cindy Castillo is stepping down from the FODARA Board!

To the FODARA Board –

March 5, 2026

Foothill-De Anza came into my life in 1968 when I was 16 years old, and my “stay-at-home” mom, Wilma Wolgast, got her first job at the district offices. I took a class or two at De Anza while attending San Jose State, while Mom transferred into a job at the De Anza Activities Office. She was in charge of overseeing De Anza Days. I helped her out with logistics at De Anza Days for several years on a volunteer basis.

In 1977, while working at a bank in Palo Alto, I successfully applied for a position in the Financial Aid Office and started work on October 24, 1977. I was hired into several positions in that office, eventually becoming the Director of Financial Aid in 1986. My bilingual Spanish skills were highly desired at the time due to our Chilean refugee students. We had students from all over the world in financial aid, and I loved being part of it. I came into contact with FODARA as I oversaw the selection and disbursement of FODARA scholarships among the dozens we offered each year. And, I ran into my high school English teacher, Bruce Sturm, who retired to be the FODARA After-Words Editor, recruiting Linda Lane when he stepped down! Current Board Secretary Tom Roza was there on my last day, March 2, 2012, when I retired from that position after 35 years of service.

Mom retired in 1990, not being able to comfortably transition from an electric typewriter to a Mac computer! She served on the FODARA Board after retiring, through the 1990s. She served with FODARA Founding Members Marie Faber and Harry Harvey, as they had been co-workers, while Lescher Dowling was serving as president. Upon her death in 2006, I endowed the Wilma Wolgast Memorial Scholarship, for which I gladly read and select winners each year in her memory.

When I retired in 2012, Linda Thor was the chancellor and asked me to serve on the FODARA Board and transition the group from paper to electronic, which I did. I got a website page from De Anza College. With some initial ETS training, I was able to create the page we still use today. I was able to use the district Lyris server for our FODARA listserv, which I had purchased with financial aid funds to send emails to our financial aid students. Lyris finally died in 2021, and I discovered SendGrid’s free version as an alternative and was able to get set up on my own and populate it with the email file downloaded from Lyris. In 2025, it became “pay only,” so it is charged to my credit card and reimbursed from FODARA funds.

As you can see on our website, our electronic After-Words editions are posted back to September 2012! With the help of others (including current Board members Maureen Gates, Mike Paccioretti, and Janice Carr), we were able to get emails for existing recipients of After-Words to begin contact by email and reduce the slower process of printing and mailing out newsletters. This saved countless hours of folding and stuffing, often making the newsletter outdated by the time it was received in the mail!

For fourteen years now, I have been on the FODARA Board as Webmaster and Listserv Administrator, capping 58 years of De Anza and FHDA being in my life. I have been to almost every Board meeting and FODARA event in those 14 years, often with people I knew from employment but also making new friends from the district. I have enjoyed FODARA and watched it morph and change over the years.

But the time has come to say goodbye to the Board and be just a FODARA member. The May meeting is at my house, and I’d love to have this as an agenda item and discuss a possible transition plan for some time in 2026.

Thanks, *Cindy*

## Super Bowl FUN with Marilyn Booye!!!



I spent 6 weeks working with the security team for the Super Bowl. It was interesting watching Levi Stadium turn into Super Bowl City. I met a lot of awesome people and even had the opportunity to hold the actual Lombardi trophy. On game day I was assigned to the VIP Celebrity entrance. I was able to go into the stadium and see a little pre-game and later, the half time show. That was cool. I did get a picture with my favorite celebrity, my little sister, Janet Owens, who is a rockstar at Levi stadium. We were all given a hat and a team pin. I was able to earn three more pins by merit. I was given two for passing two NFL security field tests and received another for excellent service. Pretty nice!

Here is a list of VIPs who came through my line or section:



Michael Strahan, Tom Brady, Emmitt Smith, Drew Brees, Travis and Jason Kelce (separately), Eli Manning, Alex Smith, Joe Montana, Roger Craig, Steve Young, Kyle Brandt, Bobby Wagner, Larry Fitzgerald, Arik Armstead, Jalen Hurts, Bad Bunny, Cardi B, Beyoncé, Jay-Z and Ivy, Lady Gaga, T-Pain, E-40, Kenny G, Chris Pratt, Coco Jones, Green Day, Arden Cho, and Kim Kardashian.

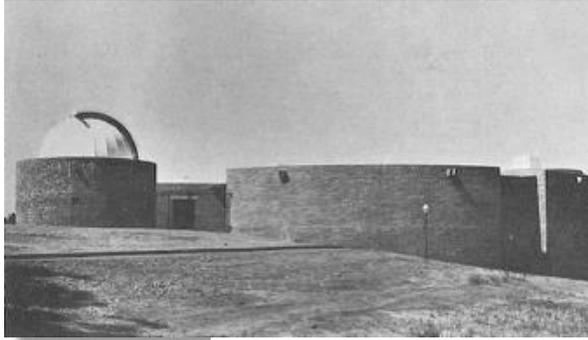


Overall, a very cool experience.

- Marilyn Booye  
(De Anza College, EOPS/CARE Supervisor)

*From the archives...*

## The Foothill College Electronics Museum



*The building to the right of the observatory was completed in 1969 and contained the Electronics Museum. The center of the building was an open courtyard - a dome was added in the late 1990s.*

industry. It would be one of only four such museums in the country, and the only one on the west coast.

The museum was conceived by the Perham Foundation, whose mission was to “to own, manage, operate and control a museum and educational facility for the collection, development and preservation of educational and historical materials and for the dissemination of the same.” Douglas Perham, the founder, recognized that failing health and limited resources were slowing down the realization of the goal he had striven for years to attain, so his Foundation set out find a location to preserve the priceless artifacts and documents that were the beginnings of electronics in the San Francisco Bay Area. Perham already had a collection of items on display in the New Almaden Museum in San Jose, California. In search of



*A dedication ceremony was held in November of 1965. Marvin Vann, left, of Los Altos, donated a 16-inch telescope for the observatory. Foothill President H.H. Seamans and Board President Robert Smithwick are center and right in this image.*

From 1971 through 1988, the Foothill College Electronics Museum was housed in what is now known as the Krause Center for Innovation. The building and the adjacent observatory were originally presented to the public as the Foothill College Space Science Center. The building was constructed to contain a museum to preserve and display artifacts and documents that were the beginnings of the electronics

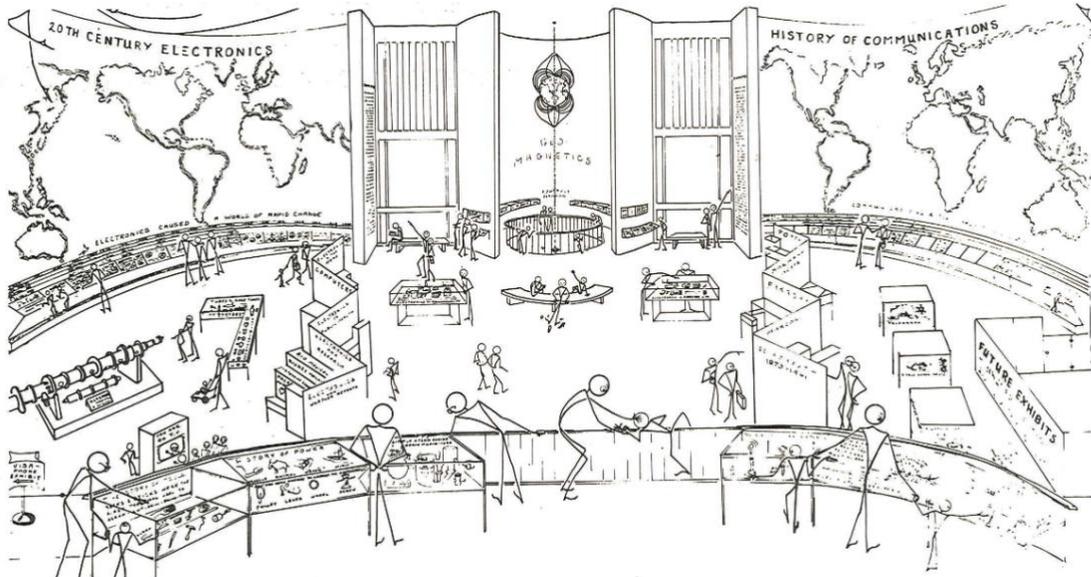


*A dome was added to the building when it became the Krause Center for Innovation.*

a new, larger location, the Perham Foundation officers began to have meetings and discussions with local groups. These meetings were put on hold when the Foundation received a letter from Dr. Calvin Flint, then president of Foothill College, stating the college’s interest in the establishment of such a museum on the newly completed Foothill campus. The Foundation moved swiftly and signed a contract with the Board of Trustees in January of 1964.

Ground was broken on the new building in 1965 after the Perham Foundation had raised almost \$200,000 to support the project. Foothill received a state grant of \$300,000, providing the college with about one half million dollars in total. The new museum would be directly adjacent to the Foothill

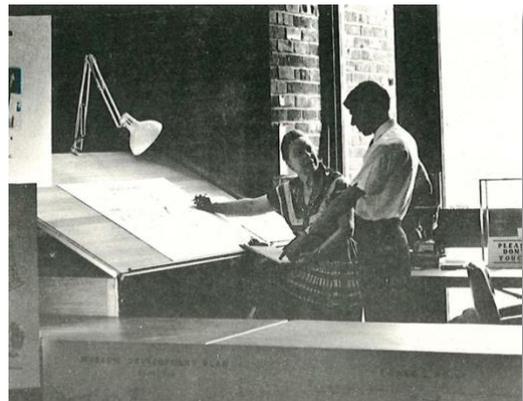
Observatory and would become part of Space Science Center complex, which included the planetariums at both Foothill and De Anza. The college pledged income from a 5-cent community services tax to support educational and community programs and maintain the center, which would be managed by Foothill Community Services and the Perham Foundation. The new building was completed in the summer of 1969, and the first meeting of the Perham Foundation Board of Directors was held in the building in August of that same summer.



A conceptual drawing of the lower floor of the building, where the museum would be located. In the back center of the drawing there is a circular space that would contain the Foucault pendulum, which had previously been located outdoors near the 5500 building. The completed museum was much more modest than these original plans.

News of the new museum caught the eye of Marie de Forest, wife of the late Lee de Forest, an American engineer and inventor. Lee de Forest invented the first practical electronic sound amplifier, the triode vacuum tube, in 1908. This enabled the development of the electronic oscillator, which made radio broadcasting and long-distance telephone lines possible. This also led to the development of sound in motion pictures. Mrs. de Forest offered most of her late husband's collection to the museum, including his scientific papers. This was a very prestigious addition to the new museum.

Mr. Thomas G. Perkins of Pasadena, California was chosen to be the museum's curator. Mr. Perkins brought with him a background in electrical engineering, mechanics, instrumentation and optics, along with numerous display and development projects for schools, museums and government agencies. A Collections Assistant, a Technical Assistant and a Technical Supervisor had also been added to the Space Science Center staff.



Tom Perkins, the first curator, discusses a display sketch with his assistant and wife Jeanne Perkins

The museum opened to the public in 1971, with a limited display of materials; most were still in storage. The museum would be fully operational by 1973, by which time almost 30,000 visitors, many from local schools, had passed through the doors. The museum continued to roll out new exhibits during the 1970s until Proposition 13 was passed in 1978. This proposition offered local homeowners the security of limiting property taxes to one percent of the assessed value and would limit property tax increases to a maximum of two percent per year. Many

homeowners were pleased, but schools and community service organizations were not. The very same proposition that nearly felled the Flint Center also delivered a near fatal blow to the Electronics Museum. The Space Science Center staff, which had grown to twelve and included a full-time astronomer, were all dismissed and museum hours drastically curtailed. Members of the Perham Foundation volunteered to keep the museum going on a minimal basis, but college support dwindled substantially. Gradually, the college began to move non-museum related programs into much of the facility's space and efforts to fund additional staff failed.

The museum would continue to operate with limited hours and volunteers, on a shoestring budget, until the college finally decided that the space should be used for instruction. Dr. Robert Smithwick said that "the college, which was built for 4,000 students, has 18,000. We need to grow and if we are not using all available space for instructional purposes, it is harder to qualify for state matching funds for capital outlays." Smithwick was on the Perham Foundation Board as well as the FHDA Board of Trustees, making for a very awkward situation.

Negotiations with the Perham Foundation were fraught with tension. Foothill College proposed that the museum be turned over to the college entirely, so that its contents would become part of the curriculum of science courses. The Perham Foundation would serve as consultants and advisors. The Foundation found this offer completely unacceptable and threatened legal action. In a December 28, 1988, letter to the Board of Trustees, the last director of the museum referred to the college administration's "on-going conspiracy to take over the museum and disperse the collections." The museum closed on December 31, 1988.

A plan was made to renovate the building for instructional use, which included adding a dome over the open courtyard in the center of the building. It reopened in 2000 as the Krause Center for Innovation, which offered courses to K-12 teachers to enhance technology skills in the teaching profession.

Most of the museum items went into storage for many years. In 2003 the Perham Foundation donated the Lee de Forest collection to History San José. The location of the remainder of the collection is unknown.



*The Krause Center for Innovation, as it appears today. The area covered by the dome was originally an open courtyard, with offices and meeting spaces circling the upper floor. The lower floor contained the museum. The round bump out at the rear of the building was created to support the Foucault pendulum.*

*- Marty Kahn*



## Richard L. Henning

April 6, 1935 - February 4, 2026

Wow! Did he ever have a wonderful life! Those who knew Dick grieve his passing but smile at the long life he lived and how much he contributed to the enjoyment of his many friends. He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Paulette Lajou Henning. Dick idolized Paulette, and she was adored by everyone she met, many commenting on her delightful French accent. And in his marriage to Paulette, Dick gained a large, loving family, the Stouffers. Paulette's son Eric and daughter Carine and 5 grandchildren: Tori, Caitlin, Meredith, Kyle, and Maddi, their spouses, and 13 great-grandchildren. He also had a son, Tom from a previous marriage. His children and grandchildren brought immense happiness to his life.



Dick was born in Pasadena, California; his parents were Charles Elmer Henning and Genevieve Marie. He had two brothers, Bill and Bob (deceased). He was raised in Taft, California, a small oil town 39 miles from Bakersfield. While devoid of some advantages of larger cities, the Taft school system was consistently one of the best in the state. He was the first student in his class of 1953 to be inducted into the Taft High School Hall of Fame. He began his career in 1960 at Sunnyvale High School as a teacher of English and Public Speaking and was the drama coach directing school plays. He was a gifted high school and college teacher who cared deeply about his students. In 1967, he was hired as a full-time administrator and a sometimes professor of speech and English at Foothill College.

During the second year as Director of Student Activities, 1968, he lined up a series of speakers and in 1970 a series of rock groups for students and members of the community. The speaker's series, Foothill College Celebrity Forum, lasted 52 years until the Flint Center theater closed in 2020. The Celebrity Forum was recognized by the prestigious International Platform Association as the "Best Speakers Series in the Nation."

He was very active in the community and served as President of several non-profit organizations. He served for 12 years on the Board of Directors of the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce, was a founding Board Member of the Los Altos Sister Cities and President of the Rotary Club of Los Altos in 1971-72.

He has won many awards including the State of California Community Services Man of the Year, Los Altos of the Year, Los Altos Hill's Gentry Magazine Community Star Award and the Palo Alto Avenidas Lifetime Award and Mountain View's CSA's 2016 Hometown Hero. He won the 45th annual Los Altos Community Services Award for outstanding service and volunteerism.

From 1984 to 2015, he led 25 safaris to Africa. His last safari was a celebration of his 80th birthday in Botswana with 20 friends, Paulette and Carine. Dick brought joy and laughter to the serious business of making the world a better place. He will be deeply missed.

- *Dr. Kristina Whalen*

President, Foothill College

To view a video interview with Dick Henning, please click here: [A Tribute to Dick Henning](#)



## FODARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026

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<b>After-Words postal delivery</b>	<i>Janice Carr</i> ( <a href="mailto:janicecarr@pacbell.net">janicecarr@pacbell.net</a> ), <i>Linda Conroy</i> ( <a href="mailto:lsiqcon@aol.com">lsiqcon@aol.com</a> )	
<b>Scholarships</b>	<i>Mike Brandy</i> ( <a href="mailto:brandymike@gmail.com">brandymike@gmail.com</a> )	
<b>Social Events</b>	<i>Linda Conroy</i> ( <a href="mailto:lsiqcon@aol.com">lsiqcon@aol.com</a> ), <i>La Donna Yumori-Kaku</i> ( <a href="mailto:yumorikakyladonna@fhda.edu">yumorikakyladonna@fhda.edu</a> )	

## FODARA CALENDAR 2026

<b>St. Patrick's Pub Party</b>	Wednesday, March 18, 12:30pm	Fibbar MaGee's, Sunnyvale
<b>Board Meeting</b>	Tuesday, May 5, 1pm	Webmaster's Home
<b>Annual Picnic</b>	Wednesday, June 23, 3pm	Cuesta Park, Mountain View