

DVC Retirees Association Newsletter Fall 2026

COME TO DVCRA'S 2026 FALL LUNCHEON!

Connect with friends and former colleagues over a hot buffet lunch in DVC's Diablo Room.

DATE:	Friday, October 30, 2026
TIME:	11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Diablo Room, HSF Building 3rd floor (there is an elevator)
COST:	$25 per person (guests welcome!)
FOOD:	Celebrate the flavors of fall with a warm and elegant seasonal luncheon. Enjoy tender Chicken Marsala with savory mushrooms or rich Braised Beef Short Ribs, accompanied by creamy Parmesan polenta, roasted autumn root vegetables, and a crisp seasonal salad. For our vegetarian guests, a hearty mushroom & lentil ragout will be offered as a thoughtfully prepared entrée alternative. To finish, indulge in a delicate Honey Panna Cotta with almond crumble and orange sauce - a sweet and refreshing end to a delicious autumn meal. Note that all meals are gluten free.
PARKING:	Lots 7 and 8, with a free permit (details below) or a permanent permit
PROGRAM:	DVCRA Scholarship Recipients will join us to tell us about the impact of their DVCRA Scholarships on their educational journeys. DVC Communication Studies Students from the award-winning Forensics Program will present several Oral Interpretations. Renita Mack, CCCCD Benefits Analyst, will update us on and answer questions about retiree health benefits.
RESERVE:	At time of payment, please specify the name of each attendee and which meal each wants (regular or vegetarian), as well as the number of parking permits needed. Reservations and payments must be received by Wednesday, October 21, 2026
PAYMENT:	By Check made out to DVC Retirees Association and mailed to: DVC Retirees Association 321 Golf Club Road Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
OR	By Electronic payment using the Fall Luncheon link on DVCRA.org

QUESTIONS:

For questions about the luncheon, contact Irene Menegas, imenegas@comcast.net or 925-946-0420.

For questions about electronic payment, contact Karen Castle, castlekg@gmail.com or 925-209-6317

For more details about logistics, read on.

DIRECTORY: If you attend the luncheon, you will receive a hard copy of the DVCRA Directory with members' contact information. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, the directory will be mailed to you.

PARKING: As always, Parking Lots 7 and 8 have the most convenient access for the event. Student Ambassadors will be on site to help you find your way to the Diablo Room. A parking permit is required. If you have a permanent DVC parking pass/sticker with no expiration date on your vehicle, you are good to go. If not, you can obtain a (free) daily permit by going to MyCampusPermit.com at any time prior to the event. Click on Daily Permits, choose Diablo Valley College, and enter the requested information, including a special code which we will provide upon request. You must also enter the license plate number of the vehicle you will bring to campus.

GETTING TO THE DIABLO ROOM: Lawrence Orme from DSS has again graciously agreed to be available to provide transportation from Parking Lot 7 by the BFL Community Conference Center for those who would like assistance.

IMPORTANT: Much as we would miss your presence, if you are feeling unwell, or experiencing any flu, RSV, or COVID symptoms in the week before October 30, please help us to keep everyone safe by not attending. If at some time after you have paid, but before the event, you find yourself unwell, please notify Irene or Karen, and let them know if you would like a refund, or if you prefer to apply your payment toward the scholarship fund.

We are looking forward to seeing you on October 30!

Academic Senate Dinner Theater, Oct 23, 2026, 5:30 p.m., Reserve by Oct 16

Dinner 5:30 p.m., the Norseman, Ticket: DVC Cashiers Office (925-229-2358) $44

Play: Clue Performing Arts Center 7:30 p.m. Ticket: $20 from Cashier's office

925-969- 2358 or DVCdrama.net.

EACH REQUIRES A TICKET

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
925-969-2358 or
dvcdrama.net/
Cashier's Office Hours: M-Th 10-3 p.m.

Our 4 CD Chancellor, DVC Student Made Good,

Mojdeh Mehdizadeh is Retiring.

Enduring Impact Campaign:

Honoring Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh and Supporting Student Success



As Chancellor Mojdeh Mehdizadeh prepares to retire in December 2026 after 39 years of service to the Contra Costa Community College District (4CD), the **Enduring Impact Campaign** aims to raise **$500,000 to support 4CD students** facing financial barriers to their education.

Under Mojdeh's leadership, tens of thousands of students have achieved their educational and career goals, thanks to her commitment to access, equity, belonging, and student success.

Where Needs are Greatest

Funds raised from the Enduring Impact Campaign will provide support where student needs are greatest, such as food insecurity with subsidized financial support, students' scholarships, emergency funds covering financial needs that obstruct the ability to stay in school, and other programmatic support on our campuses.

The need is significant: 47% of 4CD students are low-income, 31% are first-generation college students, 13% are single parents, and 68% experience at least one form of basic-needs.

Supporting student success is also an investment in the local community. The district generates approximately $2.3 billion in annual economic value for Contra Costa County, and associate degree holders earn an average of $11,500 more per year than individuals with only a high school diploma.

Let's show our respect and gratitude by supporting the Enduring Impact Campaign in honor of Mojdeh Medizaheh

Ways to Give

- Annual or multi-year pledges
- Gifts of stock
- IRA distributions
- Matching gift campaigns
- Corporate sponsorships
- Planned gifts and legacy giving opportunities
- Donor-advised funds

Recognition Opportunities

- Chancellor's Circle for gifts of $10,000+
- Event Recognition for Sponsors (reach out to Sara Marcellino for details)
- All donors will be honored publicly on an event donor wall and in all publications

Your gift builds hope, stability, and opportunity for thousands of students. Join us in celebrating Chancellor Mehdizadeh's legacy and creating an enduring impact for students throughout the Contra Costa Community College District.

Make a donation here: https://tinyurl.com/EnduringImpact

Checks can be mailed to:

Contra Costa College Foundation
Chancellor's Office
500 Court Street, 6th floor
Martinez, CA 94553

For more information, please contact Sara Marcellino

Executive Foundation Director
(510) 215-3805
smarcellino@4cd.edu

Watch for Details about the Big Party on Dec 8

Diablo Valley College Retirees Association
Financial Report

For the Period January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026

The following DVCRA financial information is for our members:

- ✓ $21,369 in total assets as of June 30, 2026 of which $12,896 is available for future operations and scholarships.
- ✓ Fundraising activities, year to date, to DVCRA and the Foundation for 2026 has generated $7,172 (vs. $9,790 for the same period in 2025).
- ✓ Having a member volunteer Board supported with additional project volunteers, resulted in nominal operating costs which were fully offset by interest income.

A primary goal of DVCRA is to fundraise for awarding scholarships to DVC students. The Association has awarded scholarships for many years. Since 2008, we have awarded 200 scholarships ($202,400.) through year ending 6/30/2026. We award scholarships in the Spring of each year and fund them in the following school year. The funds raised in calendar year 2026 will be used to fund the scholarships awarded in Spring 2027 for academic year 2027-2028.

The DVCRA Board at its Fall meeting, has tentatively approved fifteen scholarships of $1,000 each for 2027-2028. Seven scholarships will go to continuing DVC students and four scholarships will go to DVC transferring students. Two additional scholarships will go to DVC Puente students and two additional scholarships will go to DVC Umoja students. We hope to add scholarships for career education certificate students in future years.

Scholarship donations (not tax-deductible) can be made by credit card at the DVCRA web and payment site at DVCRA.org. The DVCRA.org site will also take credit card payments for luncheons and membership dues. Alternatively, checks payable to DVCRA or the DVC Foundation (for tax deductible donation) can be mailed to DVCRA, 321 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Scholarship donations can also be directly made to the DVC Foundation designating DVCRA scholarship fund--Account 751.

Your Board wants to thank our membership for their active participation and continuing generosity to the students of DVC and hopes to see you at our next luncheon event on October 30, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Murphy
DVCRA Treasurer



Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

The DVC Inquirer, current edition and archives are online at

dvcinquirer.com

Don't miss out

2026 – 2027 Membership

By Milagros Ojermark

Classified staff, faculty, and management who have retired from DVC are warmly invited to join the DVCRA. We connect a vibrant retired community dedicated to lifelong learning, mentorship, and student support.

To maintain our programs and empower the next generation of students, we ask that you renew your membership and consider contributing generously to our scholarship fund.

How to Renew & Support:

- **Membership Renewal ($20):** Renew your annual dues quickly via the DVCRA Membership Page, https://dvcra.org/
- **Scholarship Donation (Suggested $50):** Help fund scholarships for continuing and transferring students on the DVCRA Scholarships Page, https://dvcra.org/index.php/scholarships-2/

Member Benefits:

- **Printed Membership Directory:** Pick up your copy at the Fall Luncheon on October 30, 2026, or receive a hard copy by USPS if you cannot attend.
- **Event & College Updates:** Receive regular announcements for campus and DVCRA Events, https://dvcra.org/index.php/events/

Money Saving Member Reminders--Tax Savings

By Tim Murphy

- In 2026, charitable cash donations to a bona fide charity (e.g. DVC Foundation) of up to $1,000 (single, head of household) and up to $2,000 (joint) can be claimed and receive a tax deduction when **deductions are not itemized.**
- Distributions made **directly** from a taxable IRA made to a bona fide charity are excluded from taxable income (some limits).
- Larger lump sum distributions from a taxable IRA can be made to a bona fide charity in exchange for the distribution being excluded from taxable income (some limits) AND a **lifetime annuity** (single or joint).
- Designating a bona fide charity as a beneficiary (all or small percentage) on a life insurance policy, death benefit or IRA is an easy way to leave a legacy of your generosity.

Help Wanted:

Opportunities Galore for Having Fun, Doing Good in your Spare Time

By Karen Castle, DVCRA Coordinator

DVCRA wants **YOU, YOUR** ideas and **YOUR OPINIONS**. The best way to be heard is to join the DVCRA Board. And we really need your help. Several of the current board members are ready to take time off and fill in their bucket lists, whether by traveling or exploring new activities or just taking care of home and family. We especially need help in recruiting new members and following up with current members, working on the newsletter, and providing coordination and guidance for the whole organization. If you would like to do something a little different, you might consider working with a group organizing the DVC archives. Irene Menegas, imenegas@comcast.net, would have additional information on that opportunity.

So, please consider helping. Be on the Board or become a more active member to support as well as to continue to shape the organization. The jobs (including mine) are not onerous or terribly time-consuming. I would be happy to review what is involved and how much time commitment is needed for the various roles needing support. None demands year-round efforts, living near DVC or numerous hourly requirements. You will have a life, a richer life.

Don't worry about your schedule now. While we would love to find out that you want to be involved, there is a formal election process. If you choose to be a Board member, you would be elected in spring for a term to start July 1. If you choose to help in a less formal way, the task would be geared to fit your schedule and interests. You have time to make some room in your schedule.

Please volunteer or at least explore what the DVCRA needs and how much time you are willing to consider donating. Working for the DVCRA is definitely rewarding and fun.

Kaiser Extended Benefits

by Tim Murphy

Kaiser recently added a $70 per quarter **Over the Counter benefit**. Use it or lose it. Purchases are done online through Medline athome.medline.com/kpncal.

Kaiser provides free membership in **Calm** for meditation or self-improvement. Log in, choose the menu next to the home icon, a go to Resources, then Health and Wellness, then Self-care apps to find **Calm**.

Kaiser provides a new free benefit to **Bold** for online classes in strength, cardio, tai-chi, meditation, Pilates, etc. (sign up at agebold.com).

Membership Coordinator—DVCRA Board

By Nancy Zink

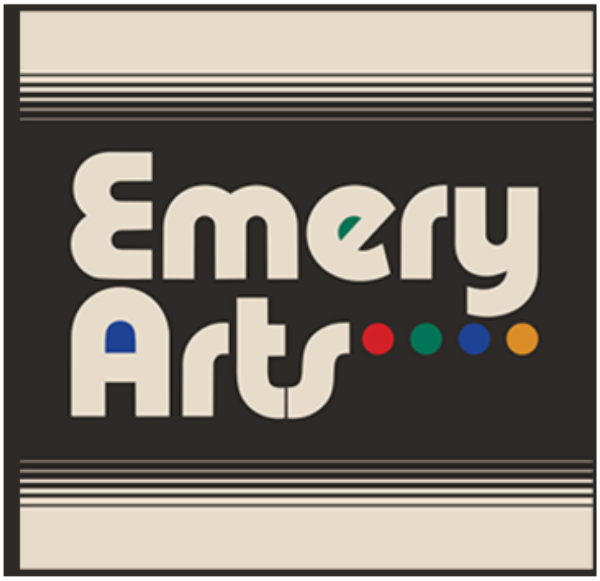
To underscore our need for active participation in the DVC Retirees Association, we would like to encourage a member of our Association to step up to fill the Membership Coordinator's position.

The Membership Coordinator reminds us about the start of the membership year, keeps records of new members and helps support new memberships. You can contact Milagros Ojermark, mjojermark@hotmail.com, for more information about this position. Milagros currently holds this position but will be retiring from the DVCRA Board in October 2026.

As required in our by-laws, elections happen at the Spring 2027 luncheon. If more than one person is interested in any position, current paid members will receive a ballot to vote for the office by email, for those who have them, and U.S. mail for those who do not have an email address. If such an election is necessary, the deadline for us to receive ballots would be before the luncheon. Results of the election will be announced at the spring luncheon because, as stated in the by-laws, "any uncontested position(s) will be filled by acclamation" at our last Association meeting of the year. The DVCRA year ends June 30.

So, if you are interested in this position, you would be coming in as an interim. This will give you time to get to know the position and decide if you want to become the Board member. If you are interested in this position, please contact Karen Castle, DVCRA Coordinator, at castle.kg@gmail.com.

We want to stay a viable and vibrant organization. To do that, we need your help.



The 40th Annual Emeryville Art Exhibition

5905 Shellmound St.,
Public Market Emeryville.

October 3 through 25, 2026,
11 a.m.- 6 p.m.,
Wednesdays through Sundays.

All events are free to the public.

Reminder from CERT

Provided by Milagros Ojermark

"Disasters often strike with little warning, making local preparation our first line of defense. Sourced from FEMA.gov, the following CERT guidelines highlight how we can support one another and ensure our households are ready for the unexpected."

The CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program offers valuable insight into the first few critical hours following an emergency related event and how individuals can become empowered to better prepare to sustain themselves, their families and their communities.

When emergencies happen CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of their communities.

Go-Bag, Bug-Out-Bag, GOOD-Bag

Whatever you call it, it is a portable kit that contains what you need to survive for at least 72 hours.

A Go-Bag will allow you to evacuate quickly if a disaster should strike. In addition to allowing you to survive a disaster evacuation, a Go-Bag may also be used when *sheltering in place* as a response to emergencies such as fires, power failures, chemical release, and other severe disasters.

You should have a Go-Bag for each member of your household and one for your pets. Keep your Go-Bag where it is easy to reach when you have to leave in a hurry--garage, hall closet, in your car, etc.

What goes into a Go-Bag? Clothes, shoes, medicine, copies of vital papers, eyeglasses, everything that you need for 3 days or maybe longer. Water is a must, but it's heavy. Food is not so important. Energy bars are a good item, but they have to be kept fresh. Keep your electronics (cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) plugged in but all together and ready to grab and go (including chargers and cables). If you live near a chemical plant, also have a *Safe Room Kit* that includes pre-cut plastic sheets to cover all windows, door and vents. A suggested safe room is a bedroom with an attached bathroom. Turn off any central HVAC. Have 2" wide tape to seal the plastic to the walls so no outside air can enter. Have an AM radio available to listen to reports.

The Survival Rule of 3's is:

- 3 minutes without air,
- 3 hours without shelter from extreme temperatures,
- 3 days without water and
- 3 weeks without food.

Thank You, Anonymous Donor!

By Karen Castle

This spring we will be able to offer 15 scholarships to our DVC students. Fifteen scholarships is one more than we offered in spring 2026. And we can offer even more scholarships if we have additional donations between now and January.

The reason that we are able to increase our offerings is thanks to an anonymous donor who kindly doubled all donations of $50 or more. That put an additional 8 scholarships in our reach. Without such a generous offer, we would be funding more like 7 scholarships total. So please, everyone, let's express our enormous gratitude for this ginormous generous anonymous gift.

As we look toward future scholarships, every additional student, every additional dollar helps. Each time we hear from our scholarship recipients, we find out that the scholarship is not only a financial help, but a big psychological push. Students tell us that they feel validated in their choice to follow a path to more education because they were given a scholarship. It's not just the money. It is us expressing our belief in each one of them.

So please, let's each reach deep and give as much as we can toward the DVCRA scholarships. Instructions can be found on our website at dvcra.org. Donations made directly to the DVC Foundation and specified for DVCRA Scholarship, 571, can be tax deductible if you itemize or if you make it as a Qualified Charitable Deduction.

If anyone is interested in offering a matching opportunity for donations, please let Tim Murphy know. There are no additional costs or onerous paperwork. If you prefer that it not be anonymous, that is fine too. If you are interested in offering a matching opportunity for donations, please let Tim Murphy, our Treasurer, know. His email is tjmcpadvc@yahoo.com. There will be no additional costs or onerous paperwork.

Don't Miss Your Medicare Part B Reimbursement

The deadline for reimbursement of 2025 deductions is Dec 31, 2026. Don't Miss Out. The form for reimbursement can be found at
https://4cd.edu/hr/benefits/retirees/medicare-part-b-reimbursement.pdf)

Find Out About Events at DVC, including Virtual ones

Dates, Times and Links to more information can be found at

dvc.edu/events

My Own Homage to Barcelona

By Charles Shackett

We spent the month of July in Barcelona—a trip that almost ended before it began. In the spring, sitting in a plane about to take off for Mexico, I opened a seemingly innocuous email from Iberia Airlines informing us that the direct flight to Barcelona we'd booked months earlier had been canceled. *We apologize for any inconvenience.* I stared at the word "canceled." *We apologize for any inconvenience.* I suspect the cancellation had to do with fuel prices affected by the Iran conflict, and after several calls from Mexico, we were able to book another flight (not nonstop), but so much for planning ahead.

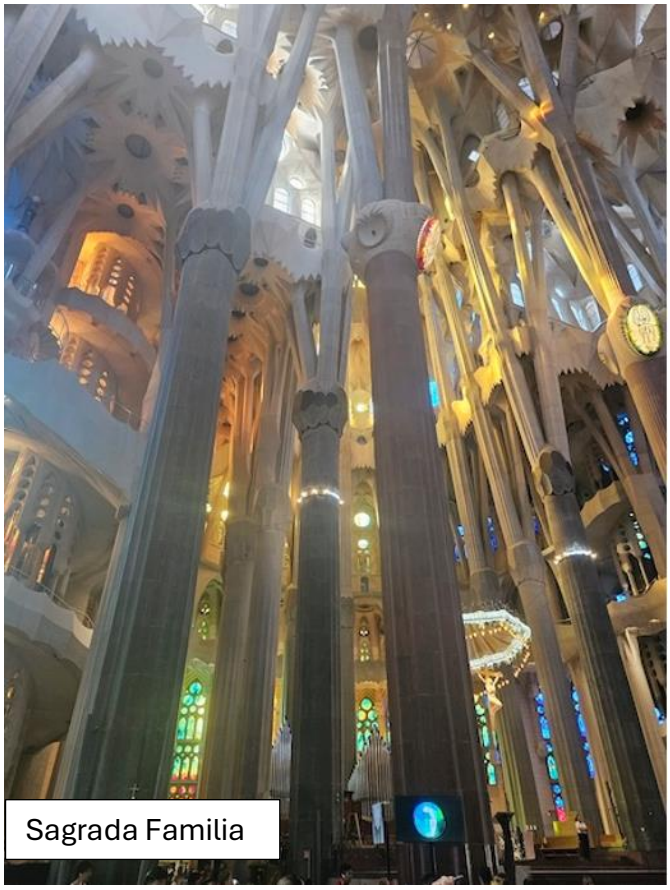
My other attempt at planning ahead was to read *Homage to Barcelona*, which gave a serviceable account of the Spanish Civil War, whose modern day repercussions clued me into the fact that the city I was traveling to for an intensive 4-week Spanish course had become headquarters for the resurgence of the Catalan language, which in the end really didn't matter, but it did point to the larger issue of travel, planning ahead and language learning.

My thinking was that my Spanish had stalled at just-above-beginner level, and that an intensive 4-week course might somehow give me some momentum. My wife's first language is Spanish, and she has raised our 9-year-old son exclusively in Spanish. In fact, around the age of 5 or 6, he learned the secret linguistic power of bypassing me whenever he was either annoyed with me or felt he had suffered some terribly unjust slight at my hands. He would then speak Spanish to his mom and insist she speak back to him the same.

Also given that my wife's sister now resides in Barcelona, a summer visit presented the perfect opportunity to practice Spanish, see family, immerse our son in another culture—and most of all explore an incredible city. And the city certainly lived up to the incredible part—although not in ways we would have predicted: As trite as it sounds, what we found is Barcelona is best lived.

But for me, the beauty of Barcelona was that it's both a *social* city and an *outdoor* city: from the packed beaches, to the cafes, to the people still strolling the streets at 10 at night, to the sudden chill and convenience of a metro system that can deliver you wherever you want almost as quickly as you want. And even though you're surrounded by buildings, there are always leafy trees, benches, chairs, and cafes with outdoor seating—always a place to stop, to be—so different from the concept of streets as conveyor belts. Rather, the streets themselves are part of the attraction—places to stroll, to sit, to enjoy.

If possible, enjoy the city more than the sights if that makes sense. While I would put any of Antoni Gaudi's work—Park Guell, Casa Batllo, but especially Sagrada Familia—firmly on any bucket list (the life-changing grandeur of Sagrada Familia is worth braving the crowds and packing your patience for), my biggest takeaway from this trip was a whole different perspective on guidebooks and bucket lists—that they can inadvertently subvert the concept of travel as change: as *seeing* something different — because that *something* is not necessarily an object.



Sagrada Familia

This insight didn't come easily. On one of our first days out after arrival, walking the streets, marveling at the novelty of a medieval city modernized—the stone, the balconies, the narrow streets—I realized none of this meant anything to a 9-yr-old, and I had a sudden "What was I thinking?" moment about bringing a child to a city. But when the sun has cooled, the parks are full of children playing. And while my son didn't particularly enjoy the streets in the daytime, the novelty of being out at night was a different story.

And, oh, the nights! One evening, we got tickets and took the metro to a children's magic show that started at 9 p.m. (only in Spain!). The show was in Catalan—of course—but disappearing rabbits fortunately don't need a translation, and there was enough wonder and gratuitous comedy to entertain any adult. However, when the show was finished and we walked back out into the soft night air, we entered into an evening of vibrant sidewalks and plazas. Instead of garish, dark, and furtive, the streets were full of warmth and life, soft lights and so many people, young and old, quietly passing by. This was a novelty to us but a special treat to our son.

So were bicycles. The little-boy-who-lagged-behind when we walked became fearless on a rented bike. One late afternoon, we bicycled from the rental shop through the narrow streets of the Gothic Quarter to the promenade on the beach. He loved it; I was terrified. The most popular rented bike is an e-bike nowadays, and they are ubiquitous. They were also for us what peregrine falcons are to pigeons: I'd be following the narrow bike path through the crowded promenade always with one eye on my son when—*whoosh!*—a battery-powered e-bike would zoom by out of nowhere passing or cutting in front of our little 3-speeds scaring the daylights out of me.

But most of all, I realized that consulting guidebooks to squeeze the ultimate experience out of a day, a weekend, or an afternoon was a quick ticket to disappointment. Most weekends and late afternoons we spent at the beach, and the obvious became clear: the farther we were from the city, the more pristine and less crowded the beaches were. I soon stopped trying to find the perfect beach and instead used the guidebooks to chart a destination—to find a beach that seemed good enough and simply enjoy what it offered. We found that the beaches to the north tended to be more bowl shaped; they got deep quickly and had reverberating waves that if we stayed in too long could leave us feeling seasick. To the south, the beaches had long shallows and more classic serial waves. Both great, just different—but all of them good enough.

And good enough is also how I would describe both the cleanliness of the city and my progress with Spanish. Barcelona isn't a pristine city, but for all its use—the streets, the plazas, the subway, not to mention the beaches, their showers, the promenade—it's remarkable that the city's not a complete mess, which for me would aptly describe the Gothic Quarter, where the terrific meets the tawdry. For it was in this hyper-touristy section that I first noticed trash cans overflowing, neglected alleyways, some rot and mold that seemed entirely absent in other parts of the city.



Nine-Year-Old Swimming

Of course, it's hard to recognize absence with nothing to compare it to. My father, whose absence I often feel, lived into his mid-90s, and perhaps the greatest gift he gave me was to witness the humbling process of aging. His ankles hurt when he walked; his skin became paper thin. And slowly, slowly, his memories like rainwater returned over and over to the same well-worn riverbeds. Any mention of technology and we'd wash up again on that shore where his granddaughter gave him a Smartphone for Christmas, which two frustrating months later he had to give back....

So for me, practicing a different language was in part a vein attempt to prevent the premature hardening of my own neural pathways. But it wasn't so simple: over time language cuts a glacial path through our brains; thoughts that are fluid for my son are fossilized in English for me. And my memory—already an unreliable partner in so many other aspects of my life—wasn't going to suddenly shine when it came time to recall the third person past tense of the verb poder (it's pudo). So I came back to our little flat (piso) super elated when what I knew matched what I remembered, and when I couldn't remember what I knew—or things just went too fast—I came home super frustrated.

However, another gift from my dad (and of aging) that I'll always be grateful for is a clearer sense of what to care about. I made good enough progress in Spanish, and after my bucket list brain relaxed and we fell into the rhythms of Barcelona, we enjoyed a wonderful vacation. Riding to the airport in the wee hours of the morning of our departure, the three of us were staring out the windows, soaking in our last fading views of the city—a truly bittersweet mix of happy to be going home but sad to leave.

DON'T MISS DVC DRAMA'S 2026-27 SEASON OF SHOWS

CLUE

It's a dark and stormy night, and our cast of oddball characters has been invited to a very unusual dinner party. Each of the guests has an alias, the butler offers a variety of weapons, and the host is, well, dead. So, whodunit? Join the iconic oddballs known as Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock and Mustard as they race to find the murderer in Boddy Manor before the body count stacks up. Based on the cult classic film and the popular board game,

LOST GIRL

Long after returning from Neverland, Wendy decides that she must find Peter in order to reclaim her kiss and move on with her life. Along the way, she meets other girls who went to Neverland and learns she is not alone. A coming-of-age exploration of first love and lasting loss, Lost Girl continues the story of J.M. Barrie's beloved character – the girl who had to grow up.



URINETOWN

In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom! Winner of three Tony Awards, Urinetown is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, environmental collapse, privatization of natural resources

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Immediately after arriving in a new town, a young man and his sidekick are mistaken for their own long-lost twins, and everyone's lives are turned upside down as mistaken identities, confused lovers, and all kinds of shenanigans ensue. One of the earliest works by William Shakespeare and his first comedy, The Comedy of Errors is a

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

925-969-2358 or

www.dvcdrama.net

Cashier's Office Hours: M-Th 10-3 p.m.

DVC DINNER THEATER EVENT

SUPPORT THE DRAMA AND CULINARY STUDENTS

MAKE RESERVATIONS TODAY!

Dinner and theater tickets can be purchased online or call the DVC Cashier's Office.

Academic Senate Theater Tickets

925-969-2358

Reservations must be made by Oct 16

For online purchasing: Click the link above or use the QR code on the poster. Once you're on the site click "Clue Academic Senate Dinner Package" then click "Select". On the next page you can choose your seats & ticket pricing. Once you do that you can choose your dinner entrée.

This is an Academic Senate-sponsored event and is open to all DVC employees, retirees, and their guests.

It's a dark and stormy night, and our cast of oddball characters has been invited to a very unusual dinner party. Each of the guests has an alias, the butler offers a variety of weapons, and the host is, well, dead.

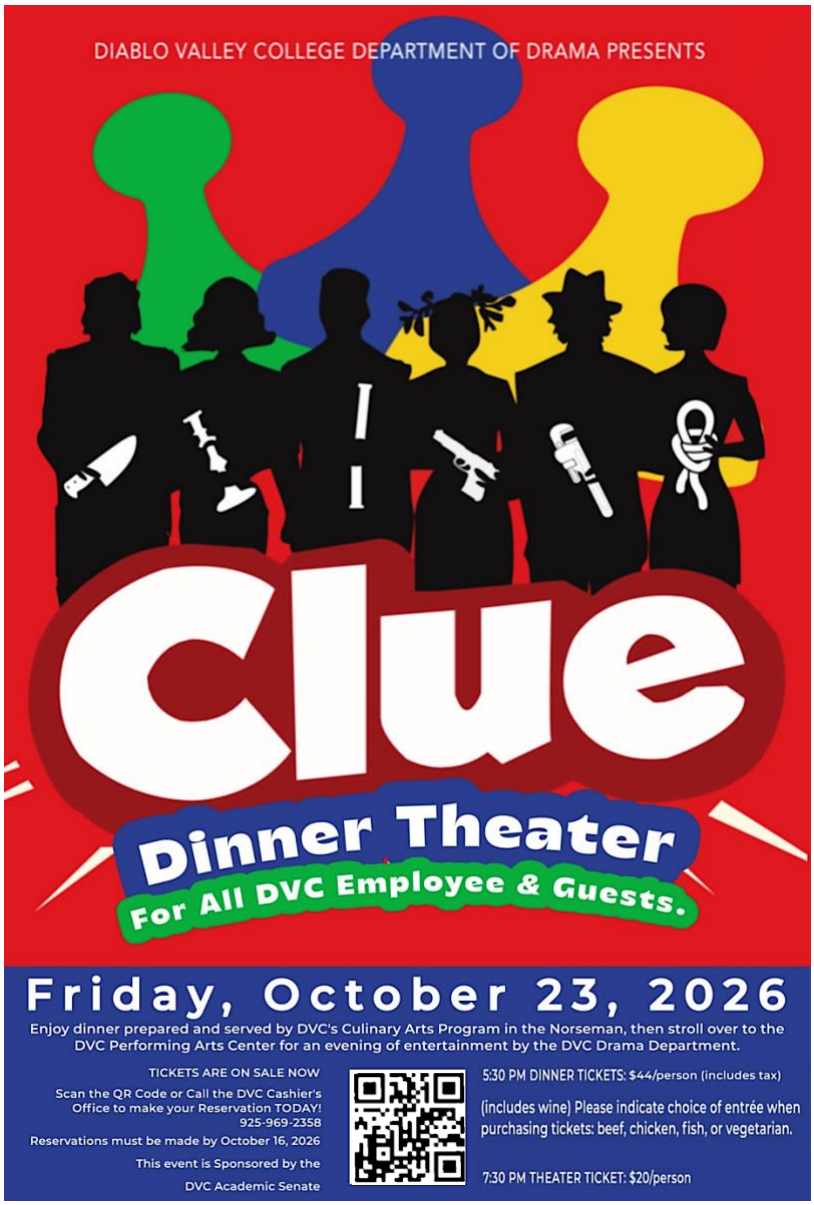
So, whodunit? Join the iconic oddballs known as Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock and Mustard as they race to find the murderer in Boddy Manor before the body count stacks up. Based on the cult classic film and the popular board game, Clue is a madcap comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist.

Reserve by Oct 16,2026

DVC Cashier 925-969-2358

Dinner 5:30 p.m. Norseman $44 Choose Beef, Chicken, Fish or Vegetarian

Theater 7:30 p.m. Performing Arts $20



Star Light, Star Bright

By

Patrick Leong, DVCRA Scholarship Chair

We concluded the 2025-2026 scholarship season on Friday, May 8th at the college's Annual Scholarship Awards and Donor Reception on campus at the Main Street Bistro. There, Karen Castle, Nancy Zink and I, were introduced to the DVCRA's 14 scholarship recipients and had the opportunity to speak with them. They are a diverse and eclectic group of outstanding scholars ready to continue their educational journeys as they learn how to make our world a better place with the fruition of their dreams and goals. I look forward to you meeting them and listening to their narratives as they present themselves at our luncheons.

The DVCRA Scholarship Committee begins the 2026-2027 academic year with the announcement of the Board's approval of offering fifteen scholarships for $1,000 apiece in the following allocation:

- 7 continuing student scholarships (prior year: 6)
- 4 transfer student scholarships (prior year: 4)
- 1 transfer scholarship and 1 continuing student scholarship for Puente Project students (prior year: 2)
- 1 transfer scholarship and 1 continuing student scholarship for Umoja students (prior year: 2).

The DVCRA Board and Scholarship Committee thanks all its members who have and continue to fund these opportunities through their monetary donations. We encourage everyone to think of making a kind donation of any amount to the Scholarship Fund, so we can continue to support our students. With the current rising costs of education and everything else these days, we wish to continue our mission of keeping education in the forefront while assisting others.

This year we will continue to work on looking closely at the distribution of our awards. The Board continues to review the data from Academic Works (the college's software platform) to investigate the interest areas and majors of our recipients to determine how we may be able to reach out further to areas to include stronger diversity and representation of our student population. We hope to have a final proposal for the January 2027 Board meeting for our 2027-2028 opportunities.



2026 DVC Retirees Association Scholarship Recipients

When life gives us lemons….

By Melissa Jacobson

My retirement plan was to lead Women's History bike tours throughout the U.S. but within hours of that golden day -- you guessed it, I crashed my bike and have had spine ailments ever since. In between boring Kaiser visits and solitary physical therapy what else was there to do, except read? But I didn't want to spend retirement holed up all alone with a book!

It's been a solid year since the bike crash. Since then, I have established a local history book club through the Contra Costa County Historical Society. We are having so much fun!

Before retirement, I primarily taught California and Women's History. Our course content always included responding to enjoyable texts, but one stand-out component was experiential learning. California History students had to take a road trip; somewhere, anywhere in the state. Women's History students immersed themselves in primary source documents and, through various activities, had to respond as if they were one of the women we were studying. U.S. History students were assigned historic recipes to bake; they presented their product to our class, along with the history of a specific spice from the recipe. Experiential learning is one of many well-worn learning styles, but the selfish enjoyment of seeing students' creativity flourish before me never ended, even after thirty years of teaching the same courses!

Members of our new book club may not recognize the pedagogy, but I use the same imaginative philosophy taken from my teaching career as a blueprint for our monthly gatherings; we combine a book talk, good food and a field trip! Last month we read Jack London's *Tales of the Fish Patrol* and took a pre-arranged docent tour of China Camp Village in San Rafael. (My career has helped me to amass lots of contacts in the field of history!) Members carpooled, we brought sack lunches, and we enjoyed a beautiful Saturday morning on the very shores where Jack London's exploits took place.

The Contra Costa County Historical Society with its 250 members, owns, operates and manages over 300,000 county archives located at the History Center downtown Martinez. Often, our club will meet here to evaluate primary source documents that relate to our book. Last summer, we read a fabulous book entitled, *Faith and Betrayal* by the well-known author, Sally Denton. After visiting the Pioneer Cemetery in Antioch, we perused the original copy of the protagonist's last will and testament, along with her family's 19th century photos -- all located in the History Center! We have also invited experts to the History Center to discuss topics -- like funeral practices. Murder, of course, was a consistent thread that ran through our historical mystery series by local author, Dan Hanel! A board member from the *Chinese Historical Society of America* came to explain Chinese funeral practices. On another occasion, the author of *Rose Hill Cemetery* engrossed us with her lifetime's devotion to deciphering the unknown identities of people buried in Antioch's 19th century Rose Hill Cemetery in preparation for our pre-arranged, East Bay Regional Park, field trip. Really does get an A!

Our current book is *Sweet Success* by Barbara Pagni Denton. This local author chronicles her Italian American experience growing up in Crockett, California and working -- with so many old-world Italian women -- in the C & H sugar factory. Ms. Denton will be meeting us on the 3rd of October at the Crockett Museum to give our book club members a tour of relevant items in the collection that are reflected in her intimate story. Afterwards, we will walk across the street to the Crockett Women's Club for a picnic lunch on the grounds of their historic garden.

Reminiscent of my days in the classroom, are the thirty historic recipes in the back of Ms. Pagni Denton's book; cakes that Crockett women shared among themselves and co-workers at the C & H factory. No need to assign reluctant students to bake! Members of our book club have eagerly volunteered to bring one of the historic cakes to our picnic luncheon!

It is certain that I will not be riding my bicycle hell-bent like I used to (or much at all) and that is probably a good thing. Without sounding too Polly Anna, body joints, ligaments, tendons, etc., don't last forever; the bike accident was a wake-up call to diversify my interests and share the wisdom culled from my years of teaching history. I am fortunate that the switch was practically seamless, yet undeniably not easy to see -- or accept -- until long after my fall.

Retired teachers (or those on summer break) call it, *The joy of teaching*: the thrill of sharing, not knowledge per se, but the "Ah, ha!" moments of a learned experience. It is this enthusiasm, not my bike after all, that will take me down the road, perhaps for another 30 years.

<u>For those interested in our super-fun book club:</u>

Email Melissa Jacobson at: glassdodger@gmail.com

Contra Costa County Historical Society Book Club at the Byron Hot Springs



In Memoriam

The Diablo Valley College Retirees Association wishes to recognize those members of our community who have passed since our last published Newsletter.

Appalsamy (Joy) Appiah

Dr. Henry Hall

A list of those we have lost and obituaries can be found at **https://dvcra.org/index.php/in-memoriam/**



DVC Retiree Association Board Members Fall 2026

Association Coordinator – Karen Castle

Treasurer -- Tim Murphy

Secretary -- Irene Menegas

Membership Meeting/Luncheon Coordinator -- Rachel Westlake

Scholarship Coordinator -- Patrick Leong

Newsletter Editor -- Nancy Zink, Acting

Newsletter Layout Editor -- Karen Castle, Acting

Member Directory Maintainer -- Nancy Zink

Membership Coordinator -- Milagros Ojermark

New Member Recruiter -- Marti Martin

Unions, District, Benefits Liaison -- Nancy Zink

DVCRA Webmaster -- Mario Tejada

DVCRA Webpage -- DVCRA.org