



## THE NEWSLETTER OF HIDDEN VILLA

WINTER 2009

### EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR HIDDEN VILLA

**T**he Morgan Family Foundation has generously offered Hidden Villa a matching fund raising opportunity! The Foundation will match every dollar that you donate between now and January 31st 2010, up to a total of \$50,000, essentially doubling the value of your gift. Won't you please consider donating to help us meet this challenge today?

# Supporting Our Teachers

By Jessica Zuckerman Du Val, Outreach Teacher

**T**he outdoor classroom naturally motivates learning through interest while provoking a desire to learn more. By linking past experiences to direct instruction in the material, students are able to access and retain new information while having fun, engaging in activity, connecting to their environment, and eating healthy food! Research has shown that garden based education improves student grades, raises standardized test scores, boosts attitudes about learning, and establishes healthy eating habits.

With this data in mind, Hidden Villa has uncovered and created additional resources to help support teachers in providing hands-on learning experiences for students in an outdoor setting in their own communities. We are doing this through a variety of vehicles; providing teachers with curriculum linked to the California State Content Standards, developing easy to use Garden Kits that can be utilized by teachers and/or parent volunteers, creating an English Language Learner garden curriculum and providing workshops for teachers who are interested in creating outdoor classrooms and developing lesson plan ideas.

Our garden curriculum helps teachers easily plan thoughtful science lessons that link to the science content standards while providing helpful tips in outdoor student management. However, for many schools, the pressure teachers face to excel in Math and English

*Continued on page 3.*



Inspiring a just and sustainable future  
through our programs, land and legacy



## STEWARDS OF THE LEGACY

### Dear Friends,

As 2009 draws to a close we reflect on the year that has been with deep gratitude and appreciation for all of our friends and supporters. Thanks to your generosity, we are in a sufficiently stable position to be able to extend some of our energy on planning for a more sustainable future through our new Strategic Plan. The Board and staff remain extremely optimistic as we enter another year where we will be implementing some new initiatives while also working to enhance the depth and quality of our existing programs.

Building on the work of our last, highly successful Strategic Plan, this one will be focused on four major areas. These areas are:

- **An Integrated Continuum of Learning**  
To heighten the impact of our mission and programs, we will offer a sequential and integrated series of age-appropriate educational programs.
- **A More Integrated Program Structure**  
To achieve greater operational efficiency and effectiveness, we will employ a more integrated program structure.
- **Greater Fiscal Sustainability**  
To provide a more stable financial foundation for the future, we will maintain the current healthy balance between contributed income and earned revenue and explore a creative range of additional fundraising strategies.
- **Enhanced Organizational Health**  
To remain a dynamic organization, we will identify ways to better leverage our human, facility and technological resources to enhance our programmatic work.

These are the four major themes that will guide the course of Hidden Villa over the next three years. Please refer to our website ([www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org)) for a full version of the Plan or feel free to contact us if you would prefer a hard copy and we will mail one to you.

Many, many thanks to all of you for believing in Hidden Villa and the work that we do and for supporting us as we continue to strive to inspire a just and sustainable future through our programs, land and legacy.

I wish you a peaceful and happy new year!

*Chris Overington*

CHRIS OVERINGTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR HIDDEN VILLA COMMUNITY,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Development Committee, I'd like to thank the staff and volunteers who put extraordinary care and effort into preparing Hidden Villa to welcome its friends to the Frank and Josephine Duveneck Humanitarian Awards Dinner on September 26th. I am especially grateful for the contributions of Hidden Villa's agriculture and animal husbandry departments, which produced much of the food featured on the menu: tomatoes, peppers, tomatillos, carrots, blackberries, eggplant, potatoes, beets, corn, watermelons, lettuce, and pasture-raised chicken, pork and lamb.



Our dinner program reminded us how Hidden Villa instills respect for each other and for the world around us. Agricultural Manager Jason McKenney and Animal Husbandry Manager Steve Burger described the production of the delicious, fresh, local food that we enjoyed eating. Past board chair Tom Livermore hosted the evening, presenting Humanitarian Awards to Richard Louv, Abel Habtegeorgis on behalf of Van Jones and Jim and Becky Morgan, all of whom spoke about their own inspirations, which closely parallel Hidden Villa's mission.

We at Hidden Villa are especially grateful to sponsors of the dinner and to guests who generously supported the Fund-a-Need by exceeding the generous challenge match offered by Homestead Foundation. Your generous support ensures that Hidden Villa begins its new fiscal year on sound financial footing.

I hope you'll plan to join us next year.

Sally Falkenhagen

Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees,  
Development and Community Outreach



Hidden Villa provides nearly \$250,000 annually in financial assistance for people to participate in our programs. This money is raised through generous contributions from foundations, corporations and friends like you.



# Thank You For Your Support

We wish to thank the following donors for their generous contributions from July 29, 2009 through October 29, 2009

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## Supporting Our Teachers *From page 1.*

cause Science Education to take a back seat. Hidden Villa is working to support these teachers by providing fast and ready to use "garden kits" that contain curriculum matching CA state standards and the resources needed to implement these activities quickly. It is our hope that more students will have an opportunity to engage in Science and develop their sense of curiosity if we work to support those talented and dedicated educators that are daily impacting our next generation.

For teachers interested in a school garden/outdoor area for their students, we provided (& will provide more!) a workshop on October 17th. Twenty motivated educators gathered to gain garden design ideas, build lesson plans, network, and find inspiration in Hidden Villa's beautiful education garden. In the morning participants learned to compost, create trellises, looked at worms, made eco-pots, and even built an inexpensive greenhouse in less than 5 minutes! After harvesting some greens from the field, a delicious salad was made as we segued into the afternoon.

Teachers chose to either experience some of the lessons from the curriculum or to create the blueprints for their school garden. One participant left with "an emotional boost that will energize everything I do."

As Benjamin Franklin once said, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." Add some tasty garden fresh veggies grown by students and you have a learning experience that can help make a real, positive and lasting difference.



# Environmental Education:

## A Reflection

By Garth Harwood, Director of Hidden Villa's Environmental Education Program (HVEEP)

I arrive at Hidden Villa with a spring in my step because my work has real meaning every single day, because any one of the nearly 200 children who take part in our programs each day may have their life changed for the better today.

Our smallest preschool and kindergarten visitors absorb so much as they explore the gardens and barnyard with lit up faces. The very fact that such places exist opens whole new vistas for kids of any age. Add to that every child's fascination with animals, and the discovery that favorite foods grow in the dirt and actually taste better when they've come right out of it, and another lifelong gardener (or farmer!) may just have been "born."

When kids get a bit older they are better able to express their Hidden Villa experience in words. Second through sixth graders spend a single, packed school day with us, exploring the farm in greater depth and also walking through the surrounding wilderness that the Duveneck family lovingly preserved and passed on to future generations. Imagine the richness of such a day for a child whose feet have never left the pavement before! Or better yet, read what the kids have to say in their thank-you letters (please note that in the kids' eagerness

to communicate, these beginning writers readily stretch their language skills to the breaking point...you may need to translate a bit!):

Antonio: "Wow!!! That was a great hike. I habe fun looking at the anemolld [animals]. I wander haw hiy I went? When we at lunch it was so beutefull!!"

Justin: "I exploded because I so excided. I learned that bugs and anamals help us."

Olivia: "That was probably the best field trip ever. Did you find out how much the lambs are I'll give you \$100 in check only."

Teachers routinely note positive social and developmental changes after a trip to an HVEEP program. One teacher wrote a note for a dyslexic child who could only sketch her appreciation: a view of herself and her guide (me in this case) looking away across the hills from a mountaintop she'd hiked to on her own two feet, after arriving that morning as a true skeptic: "She was the most engaged and excited that I've ever seen her while she was at Hidden Villa. Thank you so much for giving her such a gift and sharing your love of nature with her."

So, I think you can see why I love my job. Last year, a record 23,000 participants enjoyed an HVEEP program. That's a lot of kids who are going to be better caretakers of the Earth. I thank each and every one of you whose support makes it all happen. Here's to another 10 years!



# CELEBRATING OUR FIFTH YEAR AT Taft Community School

By Jenny Zaebst, Science Enrichment Teacher at Taft Community School

This relationship has propelled science education in innovative, creative, and experiential ways. The students have been exposed to a variety of science, garden, and environmental learning opportunities through this partnership.

Resources available through the Partnership:

## 5th grade Science lab

Students come to the Science Classroom weekly to participate in hands-on labs that match CA State Science standards and enhance the science reading and vocabulary taught in their classrooms.

## After School Programming

Two clubs are offered weekly; one focuses on pre-teaching science concepts in fun, hands-on ways to better prepare students for the following week's

lesson and the other allows students the opportunity to taste the fruits of their labor with a special focus on nutrition and stewardship.



## The School Garden

All Taft teachers (K-5) can participate in the garden in the following three ways. 1.) Adopt a grade-level garden bed. 2.) Sign up for a standards-based garden lesson. 3.) Schedule a reserved time to enjoy the garden. Teachers often use this time to read, write, observe, inspire, and relax.

## A series of field trips to Hidden Villa

5th graders participate in a week of outdoor Ed at San Mateo Outdoor Education. 5th graders participate in Marine Science Institute's Discovery Voyage

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Our volunteer spotlight this issue is on one of our amazing HVEEP guides, Jack Tooley. Jack is in his fifth year of working as a guide in the Farm and Wilderness Program. He learned about our Environmental Education



Program through another volunteer opportunity he had as a tutor at Castro Elementary School in Mountain View.

The class he was working with had a field trip to Hidden Villa and the teacher asked him if he would like to join them. He enthusiastically accompanied them and the rest is history — Jack was hooked.

One of the main reasons Jack enjoys guiding is the chance to connect with the young people and to see their eyes open wide with excitement when they learn new things. Witnessing those “ah-ha” moments when the kids begin to grasp life cycles and understand the circle of life, makes his volunteer work extremely worthwhile!

In addition to donating his time, Jack also supports Hidden Villa through financial gifts. He feels passionate about the work done at Hidden Villa and loves his role here, so he wants to support the organization in any way he can. You can find Jack here every Friday — and he says it's the best day of his week!

We thank Jack for his hard work and dedication to furthering our mission. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Nayna Patel. 650-949-8655 or [volunteers@hiddenvilla.org](mailto:volunteers@hiddenvilla.org)

## A Brief Interview with Carlin Politzer, Community School Coordinator at Taft Community School in Redwood City

### Have you seen any changes in the students, school, or community due to the garden/science enrichment?

The school has become much richer in terms of access, opportunities, and resources as well as more appealing to those looking in from the outside. The partnership has attracted more champions, funds, materials, and general interest to the school. School staff is proud of the program as well as our students and what they have accomplished. Students are truly engaged and excited to participate in the program. They're experiencing a greater sense of themselves and who they could be when they grow up!

### What do you see as the biggest successes of the program?

- The explicit connection that has been made between learning that occurs during the regular school day and learning that occurs after school
- The garden, from its creation to its expansion and the way it is used to enhance the students' knowledge and learning
- The exposure and opportunities provided to our students around science-based curriculum
- The longevity of the program and the fact that it continues to grow stronger each year.

### Any other comments about the Taft/Hidden Villa Partnership?

At this point, I cannot imagine Taft Community School without this partnership. I am so grateful and appreciative that it exists and truly want to thank each and every person who has been a part of it from the time it began until now.



# HIDDEN VILLA

Register  
for all programs  
online at  
[www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org)

## December

### 3 Preschoolers on the Farm Series

Thursday, 3:00 to 4:00 pm  
3-Part Series Class. This class meets on 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17.  
Ages 3-5 plus parents/caregivers  
Bury your hands in sheep wool, throw corn to the chickens, and more! Be prepared to get dirty.  
Location: Meet at kiosk near main parking lot  
\$30 per each child and adult

### 4 Toddlers on the Farm Series

Friday, 3:00 to 4:00 pm  
3-Part Series Class. This class meets on 12/4, 12/11, and 12/18.  
Ages 1.5 to 3.5 and parents/caregivers  
Bury your hands in sheep's wool, throw corn to the chickens, and more. Be prepared to get dirty!  
Location: Meet at kiosk near main parking lot  
\$30 per each child and adult

### 5 Create a Living Wreath with Succulents

Saturday, 2:00 to 4:00 pm  
Adult program  
For those accustomed to wreaths made from dried flowers or evergreen branches, this wreath may come as a pleasant surprise. Learn how cuttings from succulent plants may be used to create an eight-inch living wreath or centerpiece

that will grow and last for many years.  
Location: Dana Center  
\$28 per person; advance registration required

### 6 Winter Solstice Celebration: Faith McCoy Scriven on Piano

Sunday, 2:00 to 4:00 pm  
For families  
As the days grow shorter, brighten the season by creating your own winter solstice log for your table top or fireplace. Enjoy an old fashioned afternoon at Hidden Villa working with greens, pinecones, candles and glitter. Sip holiday tea and nibble on teacakes and cookies as you listen to Hidden Villa gem, classically trained concert pianist, Faith McCoy Scriven. What a wonderful way to celebrate the coming of winter!

Note: We will supply many materials but we encourage you to bring evergreen boughs, pinecones, berries, and other natural materials from your yard.  
Location: Dana Center  
\$15 per person in advance; \$20 at the door

### 12 Cheese Please Pizza Lunch

Saturday, 10:00 am to Noon  
Ages 5 and up  
Learn how to make mozzarella cheese. Search our organic garden for edible flowers and greens, then create your own pita pizza and freshly picked salad for a healthy lunch to eat!  
Location: Meet at kiosk near main parking lot  
\$25 per person

### 13 Mushroom Hike

Sunday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Ages 10 and up only.  
Learn how to identify common families of mushrooms. Wade Leschyn of the Mycological Society of San Francisco discusses both edible and poisonous varieties. Hikes are leisurely. No collecting please, cameras are encouraged. Hike contingent on weather. Space limited -- register early!  
Location: Meet at kiosk near main parking lot  
\$16 per adult; \$12 for seniors/students

### 19 Afternoon Go Goats!

Saturday, 3:00 to 4:30 pm  
For families with children ages 6 and up.  
Ever wanted to milk a goat, feed goats their afternoon meal, hear true stories about Josephine and Coco, and learn groovy goat facts? Well, here is your chance. Join us for one of our most popular animal programs.  
Location: Meet at kiosk near main parking lot  
\$15 per person

### 22 A Year of Trees - Monthly Hikes at Hidden Villa

Tuesday, 9:00 to 10:30 am  
Adult program  
Come hike Hidden Villa with Mary Powell, Manager of Community Programs, and explore the trees in our evergreen coastal woodland. Understand their beauty and marvel at their magnificence as we walk this moderately strenuous 90-minute educational hike. All levels of tree lovers welcome.  
Location: Meet at kiosk near main parking lot  
\$5 per car

### 9 Family Play Day at Hidden Villa

Saturday, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
For children age 4 - 8 and their families.  
Come join the movement of children in nature and unstructured play. Explore, discover, create, and play! at Hidden Villa. Make a sun catcher, a frog print, or your own unique creation inspired by nature. Climb up to our promontory above the knoll. Explore our wild areas along our creek. Family Play Day at Hidden Villa is a time for the family to play together in nature!  
Location: Green Roofed Pavilion  
\$5 per car

### 10 Mushroom Hike

Sunday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
See December 13 for full description.

### 15 How Does Your Garden Grow?

Friday, 3:00 to 4:00 pm  
6-Part Series Class. This class meets on 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, and 2/26. Note: no class on 2/19.  
Ages 3 to 5 and parent or caregiver.  
Come dig in the dirt with your child and learn about planting and caring for carrots, lettuces, and other edible plants. We'll explore the mystery of seeds and how they grow through songs, stories and hands-on projects.  
\$60 per each child and adult

## January

### 7 Preschoolers on the Farm Series

Thursday, January 7, 3:00 to 4:00 pm  
3-Part Series Class. This class meets on 1/7, 1/14, and 1/21.  
Ages 3-5 plus parents/caregivers.  
See December 3 for full description.

### 8 Toddlers on the Farm Series

Friday, January 8, 3:00 to 4:00 pm  
3-Part Series Class. This class meets on 1/8, 1/15, and 1/22.  
Ages 1.5 to 3.5 and parents/caregivers.  
See December 4 for full description.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 17 Gospel Music Celebration

Sunday, 7:30 to 9:30 pm  
All ages.

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., come join in a celebration of social justice with music by an acclaimed local gospel choir.

Location: Dana Center  
\$15 per person



## 23 Mushroom Hike

Saturday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
See December 12 for full description

## 26 A Year of Trees -- Monthly Hikes at Hidden Villa

Tuesday, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM  
See December 22 for full description.

## 30 Roasting Winter Vegetables

Saturday, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Adult program.  
Winter root vegetables can produce concentrated flavors with the power to transport you with the simplest of preparations like roasting with herbs. Learn roasting and braising techniques and end by tasting our vegetable feast.  
Location: Wolken Education Center  
\$25 per person

## 31 Cow Wow!

Sunday, 8:30 to 10:30 am  
Ages 5 and up.  
Rise early and milk the cow! Learn fun cow facts, proper milking techniques and how to make butter. Dress warmly. Space is limited, so register early!

Location: Meet at kiosk near main parking lot  
\$20 per each child and adult

## February

### 4 Preschoolers on the Farm Series

Thursday, 3:00 to 4:00 pm  
3-Part Series Class. This class meets on 2/4, 2/11, and 2/25. Note: no class on 2/18.  
See December 3 for full description.

### 5 Toddlers on the Farm Series

Friday, 3:00 to 4:00 pm  
3-Part Series Class. This class meets on 2/5, 2/12, and 2/26. Please note: no class on 2/19.  
See December 4 for full description.

### 6 Cow Wow!

Saturday, 8:30 to 10:30 am  
See January 31 for full description.



### 7 Mushroom Hike

Sunday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
You'll be done before the Super Bowl!  
See December 13 for full description.

### 13 Afternoon Wine and Cheese

Saturday, 4:00 to 6:00 pm  
Adult Program, 21 and over.  
Join us for an afternoon at the historic Duveneck house making fresh mozza-

rella and chevre. Flavor your cheeses with herbs and fruits you gather from our garden. Then enjoy pairing your creations with wine you bring to share.

Location: Meet at kiosk near main parking lot  
\$25 per adult; \$20 per senior/student

### 14 Breaking Bread

Sunday, 2:00 to 5:00 pm  
Ages 8 and up.  
Come learn about the history and making of breads from around the world. Discover the traditions and cultures behind different breads while using a wood-fired cob oven to bake your creations. Finish with some tasty samples and your own bread to take home!  
\$30 per each child and adult

### 20 Mushroom Hike

Saturday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
See December 13 for full description.

### 21 Cow Wow!

Sunday, 8:30 to 10:30 am  
See January 31 for full description.

### 23 A Year of Trees - Monthly Hikes at Hidden Villa

Tuesday, 9:00 to 10:30 am  
See December 22 for full description.

### 27 Cow Wow!

Saturday, 8:30 to 10:30 am  
See January 31 for full description.

### 28 Discussion: Environmental Ethics of Wallace Stegner

Sunday, 7:30 - 9:30 pm  
Adult program  
Wallace Stegner had a special friendship with Frank and Josephine Duveneck and was involved in the forming of Hidden Villa as a nonprofit. Join our speaker to discuss Stegner's literary and environmental legacy. Readings for discussion to be announced at a later date. Sweets and savories served.  
Location: Duveneck House  
\$45 per person



### Purchase Your Hidden Villa Annual Pass

Hidden Villa annual passes, good for one year from the date of purchase, are now available online. Enjoy a morning, afternoon or the whole day at Hidden Villa without having to remember to bring your \$5 entry fee. Purchase an annual pass and receive a sticker to put on your car. You will be able to enter the farm any time we are open at no charge. Hike our wilderness trails, visit our farm animals, enjoy the bounty and beauty of our organic educational garden. Special rates for seniors, students, and hikers. Passes are available on line at [www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org). Please note we are closed on Mondays, except for holiday Mondays. We hope to see you on the farm soon.

Register for all programs online at [www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org)

For more information about Hidden Villa community programs for adults and families, call 650-949-9704. Maggie, Mary, and Rachel will be glad to help.



26870 Moody Road  
 Los Altos Hills, CA 94022  
[www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org)

Nonprofit Org.  
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 Los Altos, CA

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Hidden Villa Environmental  
 Education Program (HVEEP)  
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Volunteers: (650) 949-8655  
[volunteer@hiddenvilla.org](mailto:volunteer@hiddenvilla.org)

## MOOS & VIEWS

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The Morgan Family Foundation has generously offered a matching fund opportunity to leverage your continued support. For every dollar that you donate to Hidden Villa between now and January 31, 2010, the Morgan Family Foundation will match up to \$50,000!

This is such an exciting opportunity our Board Chair was inspired to convey her appreciation in a song. We hope that you will be just as moved and join us in our efforts to inspire a just and sustainable future through our programs, land and legacy.

Raindrops on swiss chard and baby pigs growing  
 Kids in the garden and volunteers hoeing  
 Guests in the hostel and campers who sing  
 These are a few of my favorite things.

School buses flowing with kids on a field trip  
 Classes that teach about cooking and ag tips  
 Eight miles of trails that wind up to springs  
 These are a few of my favorite things.

When the crop fails, when the roof leaks, when I'm feeling sad  
 I simply remember my favorite things and then I don't feel so bad.

Donors who value the causes we stand for  
 Community members we steward this land for  
 Integral partnerships growing in size  
 Leveraging resources now isn't that wise.

Diligent staff members shaping our vision  
 Board members engaging new friends in our mission  
 Sharing our produce — the joy that it brings  
 These are a few of my favorite things.

Hidden Villa  
 It's a real gem  
 Let us show you how  
 If you want to help us sustain this great place,  
 please send a donation now!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Hidden Villa is a nonprofit, charitable organization, exempt under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). About half of our budget comes from gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations; the other half comes from fees and other sources of income. Visit our website to find how you can support Hidden Villa.

- Cash Gifts
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Vehicle Donations
- Real Estate, Stocks and Bonds
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Charitable Remainder Trusts