

"Paws & Hearts"

Animal Assisted Therapy

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569



FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

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"Lucky" & "Scruffy" Waxman

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In Memorium

Valerie Zugates

Drew Marefos

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Once again I had written the Fall Newsletter and was about to have it all jazzed up by Tara the graphic artist, and I decided I couldn't actually put the Dog Walk together this year. It was actually more of a crying spurt that just wouldn't stop.

I had done some of the initial planning of the walk: securing the Westin, redesigning the dog walk poster and flyer, and then it came to designing the commemorative dog walk t-shirt. This year I was planning to put Valerie and Drew's pictures on the back, and when I looked at the pictures, I started to cry, but really cry. I looked around the office and thought, 'I can't possibly do this event without their help.' I have always had checklists of to-do items and beside so many of the items, Drew's name was written down. I realized their passings were still way too fresh in my mind to pull this off.

With the blessings of my board of directors, we are going to run that Fall Online Fundraiser again. (More on that on the back page.)

This is the problem with getting older--your play-mates, the ones who make your life enjoyable start to disappear, and in my case, I'm left wondering, 'What do I do next?'

- Richard Waxman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Add to your calendar!

PET BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly Meetings

Second Wednesday of the Month

@ 1:00pm

VOLUNTEER BOOK CLUB

Monthly get togethers

Last Wednesday of the Month

@1:00pm at the office

"TERRY'S" VIEWS

("Lucky", "Scruffy", "Maddie" & "Bingo"
in thought)




The Junior Executive reporting in!

It has actually been a busy few months with Dad taking me into the office on the days when he didn't have temperament tests or that new Volunteer Book Club (more on that one on the next page.)

I've managed to keep myself busy at the office running along the windows barking at passers-by. So many of the 'regulars' know me by name and wave, but I have scared a few people, and for that Dad has really blasted me.


Speaking of Dad, I know he is grieving the loss of Valerie and Drew but you have to see the office. OMG! It has become a shrine to Drew. Do you have any idea how many pictures of Drew and Dad I've had to look at these last few months! And that blow-up picture he did of the two of them from 16 years ago. OY, Dad should still look that good! I would be in hiding if it were me!

I know Drew and Valerie meant a lot to Dad and to the organization, but he'll get through this.....hopefully sooner rather than later so that I don't have to sit and look at any more old pictures!

 "Terry" Waxman

"Paws & Hearts"

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Volunteer Book Club

A couple of months ago we started a Volunteer Book Club and to date we've had three monthly sessions. Our group meets the last Wednesday of the month at the office at 1pm.

Our Book Club is different from traditional book clubs in that instead of being assigned a book that everyone has to read (and half the group doesn't care for), everyone brings in a book they have recently read and they make a presentation about it. This has been a lovely way for everyone to learn about new books they may never have come across.

The other difference with our group..... every month a different volunteer brings in his or her *Canine Ambassador* to introduce to the group and tell about the facility they visit and what makes their pup so special!

We hope that more of you will join because so far we are having a very good time of it!

For our September Book Club, we have a special treat. A local author by the name of Michael Craft, whose newest *who-done-it* "Desert Deadline" just came out, will be presenting his book to us! I read the book, loved it, and emailed and asked Michael if he'd like to attend our little group and he readily agreed! This will be great fun!



If you want to attend please RSVP
pawsandhearts@aol.com

Barry Manilow's A Gift of Love VI

5 Christmas Concerts

Benefiting 20 Special Charities

December 12-13-15-16-17

McCallum Theatre

**"Paws & Hearts" is one of the very lucky
25 Special Charities!!!**

TICKETS ONLY AVAILABLE AT
www.AGOL6.com or by calling 424-298-4818
Scan QR Code



~ Volunteer Stories ~

**We are continually adding new Volunteer Teams/Canine Ambassadors.
Here are two recent Volunteer Reports!**



HEIDI & "FRANK"

visit The Comprehensive Cancer Center

Frank was raring to go. As we exited the elevator there was a large group of people that had gathered in front of the main door. Three people said "Frank is here!" That was enough for Frank to go into high gear. He was so excited going from person to person. One person got a full rollover 'rub my belly' greeting. Lots of laughter as Frank said hello to each person. We finally made it to the first waiting area and the greetings continued. Another rollover for Frank and did a bit of chit-chat with the six or so people. He pulled me to the next waiting area to say hello to another group. When he was finished, we turned around and one of the employees was on the floor sitting waiting her turn. She was actually there to take a patient back, but Frank was first on her agenda. Treat overload today. We managed to get outside for his usual pee break where he greeted a man sitting on a bench. Frank was going to say hi no matter what the gentleman wanted. He looked up at me and said "Thanks I needed that!" Made my day. Super great morning for Frank. He brought more than smiles from people. It was a stellar visit!

GAIL & "POPPY"

visit Manor Care in Palm Desert

Another great day at Manor Care. As usual, Poppy was in a hurry to visit her friends and was pulling us down the hallway. Our first stop was the lounge where, as usual, Jackie was waiting for us. Poppy ran up to her wheelchair and I put her on Jackie's lap so she could cuddle and get kisses. Jackie likes to wait there until we walk by again on our way out so she can give Poppy a goodbye hug.

Here are some of the things I heard from residents as we visited them:

"It's like having my own dog," "I want to take you (Poppy) home," "I wish I had a dog," and from Michael who was going to get a visit from his dogs that afternoon, "It's like a breath of fresh air when you visit."

Our last stop, as usual, was to visit Rick who had a water bowl ready for Poppy and who said, over and over as Poppy was giving him kisses, "I love you."



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"Paws & Hearts" is a leader in the field of "Animal Assisted Therapy" (AAT) and it is our mission to enrich the lives of the frail and special care cases that require the loving attention and affection that only a 'four-legged' healer can provide.



"Paws & Hearts"

42-600 Cook Street, Ste. 138
The Berger Foundation Building
Palm Desert, CA 92211

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FALL ONLINE FUNDRAISER

So you all know that the Dog Walk has been canceled, but that doesn't mean we don't rely on those donations to keep our organization running. Before we get into all that, let me share some positive things that have taken place this year at **"Paws & Hearts."**

Earlier this year the Desert Sun ran a 3-page feature cover story on us. The reporter Ema Sasic was the most charming young woman and she wrote all about how we started out and brought it all right up to date by going on a visit with Abril and "Oliver" and including their visitation pictures in the article. We received numerous calls because of that story!!

After that article, KMIR NBC came calling and interviewed "Terry" and me in the office, and that interview ran for a couple of days. We wound up with a few new volunteer teams out in the community working with us. Just all so positive. (Drew and Valerie would have been so very proud!)

You will receive a separate emailed "Ask letter" for our Fall Online Fundraiser. I hope you will all donate as generously as you have the last two years.

Thank you all for understanding why I've postponed this year's Dog Walk.

Let's see what happens for next year!

