

“Paws & Hearts”

Animal Assisted Therapy

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569



SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

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Richard Waxman

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“Lucky” & “Scruffy” Waxman

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We have finally received that much needed rain in the valley, along with a lot of cool days. Nice change from what's only months ahead! We have some wonderful news to report and some not-so-wonderful news. Most of you by now know that our beloved friend Valerie Zugates passed away at the beginning of the year. I know how much I miss her, and I can't even imagine what her husband Tim is going through. Her life with us is on the next page.

In December “Zoey,” the most lovely Standard Poodle of all, who had been a Canine Ambassador for years, went to the Rainbow Bridge. Her story is also in this issue.

Because everything can't be sad.....We started out the year with a couple of lovely donations, and once again we received a small grant from Bighorn Cares. If you are wondering why this Newsletter looks so much different, and dare I say 'pops,' it is because we found an amazing graphic artist, Tara, who suggested a freshening up! Along with Tara we found Linda, who has done all the updates on our website, and even though our site is 'old school,' she loves working on it!

We have nominated Jeff Gobble to our Board of Directors to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer. Please enjoy our updated Spring Newsletter!

- Richard Waxman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Add to your Calendar!

PET BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly Meetings

Second Wednesday of the Month
@ 1:00pm

**23rd Annual
Dog Walk / Fundraiser**
Saturday, November 25, 2023
Westin Mission Hills Resort

“TERRY'S” VIEWS

(“Lucky”, “Scruffy”, “Maddie” & “Bingo”
in thought)



I may not be going out on actual visits to facilities these days, but it seems that I'm as busy as ever being Dad's assistant and something he calls me, “Junior Executive.” Whatever the title is, I'm a working pup and not so sure I signed on for this on adoption day!

Back in January Dad schlepped me to Cathedral City High School. Two students did a class project on Animal Assisted Therapy and Dad was asked to attend. He was asked..... how come I had to go with him??

The students did an excellent job talking about Pet Therapy—they even had our website up on a big screen behind them with the picture of yours truly in Dad's arms. He kept whispering in my ear that I needed to quit shaking and just calm down. Calm down, there were 35 students in that room looking at us! Sheesh, talk about stage fright!

Dad was asked to say a few words.....really? Have you ever heard Richard Waxman say just a few words? Ever? If I have to hear about those first 22 years again and the names of those four guys who came before me, I am going to take a big bite out of Dad!!

“Terry” Waxman

“Paws & Hearts”

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Our Dearest Valerie

Many of our long-time volunteers will recognize the name Valerie Zugates as well as her picture. Valerie had been around "**Paws & Hearts**" for fifteen years if not longer. Valerie did our books, and she maintained our website and our mailing list. She was the one who saw your volunteer reports first before I ever got them. I can't tell you how many times she'd send me a little note along with the weekly reports saying, "The report from Buddy brought tears to my eyes. Be sure to read it!"

Valerie passed away in early January after a long, second battle with cancer. Out of respect for her husband Tim, I won't share more than that.

Valerie played such an important role in helping to establish "**Paws & Hearts**" all those years ago. When a big grant or a major donation was received, she'd always give me advice on how to best invest it. She attended all of our board meetings even before she was on the board. Many of you who have attended our Dog Walks over the years will know her from interacting with her at registration.

Valerie was incredibly good to me for so many years. She just dropped out of the sky one day and called when she heard through someone else that I needed a bookkeeper. I remember one day in our first office I was lamenting about not being able to make updates to our website and Valerie came right over and said, "I'm a graphic designer, let me take a look." And from that day she handled all of our website updates. She even designed that beautiful banner for our Bereavement Group. Most of her work for us was as a donation of her time. Talk about someone who believed in our mission statement and wanted to help!

The day I found our second office, the one up on Lantana, Valerie was in the office. I'd seen the office at 10am and wanted a second opinion. I ran back to Velie Way, we had Drew come over and pick us up, and off the three of us went. It must have been 120 degrees that day, and here we were looking at an office space with the AC not running! The three of us gave the office a thumbs up, and I remember Valerie coming into the old office to help me sort, throw out, and pack up for the move. What a gem this woman was!

"Valerie it isn't the same in the office at month-end without you coming in, doing the books and having our tuna salads and blueberry muffins and coffee. Rest in peace dear girl, you are out of pain and you will never be forgotten."

Richard



~ Volunteer Stories ~

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



SANDIE, "HUDSON" & "SHELBY"

Visit The Comprehensive Cancer Center at
Desert Regional on Tuesdays

This was a nice visit! Everyone I met loved dogs and we had some nice conversations about their dogs and mine. Shelby was 'on' today! I have pics of her in the lap of a man who just couldn't get enough of her!

The staff were their usual welcoming selves as well.

That sweet, little girl in the pic with the man was Shelby. She is an amazing little one. He scooped her up, turned her upside down and started stroking her belly. He was even rubbing her feet. She just melted into him. I think it's even more difficult for small dogs to be therapy dogs because they have to tolerate being picked up and handled more than bigger dogs. It was just a very pleasant, nice visit!



KAREN & "EMERSON"

Visit Rancho Mirage Healthcare on Sundays

Always a welcome greeting from staff and all the nurses at the front desk when we arrive! And the greetings continued as we walked down to the 3rd-wing by the nurses. My worst feelings were confirmed when I went to my long-time patients rooms to find different names. After 15-years of knowing these women whom I felt a connection with as a mother-daughter, it was sad to realize they had passed. Alas, that is our life cycle and it was their time. Thus said I recalled all the friends that both the nursing staff and I had made that enriched our lives. Amazingly Emerson at 17-years-of-age, and in his doggie walker can still light up smiles in all the patients we visited, along with the holiday lights on my head! It truly was the best homecoming after a few months of absence due to my illness, to be back to making people laugh and smile--brings out the best in everyone! After 2-hours Emerson was ready for his turkey dinner. A side note, my old-time patient Marlene wanted to thank "Paws & Hearts" for our continued service to this and all facilities. She enjoys Abril and "Oliver" visiting on Tuesdays!

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

"Zoey" Robinson



"Paws & Hearts" lost an amazing *Canine Ambassador*.

"Zoey" the almost 12-year old Standard Poodle went to the Rainbow Bridge after battling liver disease. Zoey's Mom Cathy had already been a volunteer of ours with a couple of other dogs and had taken a break. We ran into each other in the park just after Cathy had adopted 5-month old Zoey. She brought her into the office and immediately after Zoey gave me a kiss, she passed the test!

The duo started out at the Lucy Curci Cancer Center, visiting the patients in the radiation waiting room once a week. And from there they visited residents at the Fountains at the Carlotta. Cathy reminded me of a very sweet story from those visits at the Carlotta. I'd received a call from the son of a gentleman who was in his final days, and the son wanted his Dad to get a visit from a dog. Cathy and Zoey visited with this man who reached out and petted Zoey and told her he loved her.....and then he passed away 2 hours later. The son called to thank Zoey for making his Dad's final moments so special!

Rest in peace at the Rainbow Bridge Zoey.....you did nothing but make people feel so much better with your gentle touch! (I loved it when you were one of the dogs that was at the library for the children's reading program.

You were so gentle with all of them!)

