

# "Paws & Hearts"

## Animal Assisted Therapy

Fed. Tax ID #91-2096569



SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

### Board of Directors

#### President

Richard Waxman  
Executive Director  
"Paws & Hearts"

#### Vice President

Karen Gebala

#### Founders

"Lucky" & "Scruffy" Waxman

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Jeff Gobble

Kerry Hopps

#### In Memorium

Valerie Zugates  
Drew Marefos

#### President Emeritus

Virginia Tillmannshofer

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We are now half-way through the year, and we've had one of our favorite *Canine Ambassadors* move back east and one of our dearest *Ambassadors* passed away in late March. His tribute is in this newsletter. It is never easy having to say good-bye to one of our 4-legged Volunteers.

'Terry' and I continue to make presentations around the valley, promoting our non-profit, and this year the groups that we have spoken to have been so very generous with donations. The group at Mission Hills, Desert Newcomers, has asked us back for this November, and Maryan who arranged this was kind enough to make up a hundred new bandannas for us!

We have finally decided to put our yearly Dog Walk/Fundraiser to bed once and for all. Too much work to pull it off anymore. It is always nice to go out on top and not make an event stale. The Santa photos were always one of my favorite elements of that event, and we are putting together a Santa Paws for December 7th. Much more on that in this Newsletter!

Please enjoy this extended Newsletter. We just had so much to talk about we added those two extra pages! Have a great summer!

- Richard Waxman

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Add to your calendar!

### PET BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly Meetings  
Second Wednesday of the Month  
@ 1:00pm

### Santa Paws!!

Saturday,  
December 7th  
10am - 1pm



### "TERRY'S" VIEWS

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




Once again I am posed at Dad's feet listening to him talk out loud as he composes the next Newsletter. Think of me as the RCA dog in those old ads!! That everobedient pup!

Dad apparently has a lot to say in this Newsletter, and here I am the trusty stenog, trying to get this all down. Not really, but that's how it feels!

I've really been enjoying myself these last few months. We made a presentation a couple of months ago at Sunrise Country Club to a philanthropic group of women known as the Giving Circle. Dad spoke to fifty women who asked all kinds of great questions, and they made an amazing donation to us! Thank-you Phyllis for asking us!

At our Volunteer Book Club I got to sit up in Dad's lap and meet two of his favorite authors during Zoom presentations. What great fun that was!

You know I was sure this whole Pet Therapy thing was going to be too much work for me, but honestly, I am having quite the exciting life!

 "Terry" Waxman

"Paws & Hearts"

42-600 Cook Street, Ste. 138 • Palm Desert, CA 92211

☎ (760) 836-1406

✉ Pawsandhearts@aol.com

🌐 www.pawsandhearts.org

📘 www.facebook.com/pawsandheartsorg



# Volunteer Book Club Updates

The first few months of the year our little book club has had not one, but two Zoom presentations by very notable authors. In February we were honored with a visit from Lucy Burdette from Key West, Florida. Lucy (whose real name is Roberta) writes those adorable Key West Murder Mysteries. I have read each and-every one of them and in her monthly email to her fans she mentioned that she would be happy to make a Zoom presentation to book clubs. I asked, she agreed, and we all had the most interesting 45 minutes with her! What a thrill it was to actually meet the author of these books that I have enjoyed reading so much.

And as a bonus, she got to meet "Terry" and we all got to meet her dog. Just great fun!



As if meeting Lucy Burdette wasn't exciting enough, in May we got to meet David Rosenfelt who writes the *Andy Carpenter* thrillers. He came to us from one of our long-time volunteers Suze (of Suze and Dunkin). Suze knows David and asked him if he would do a Zoom presentation for us and he readily agreed!

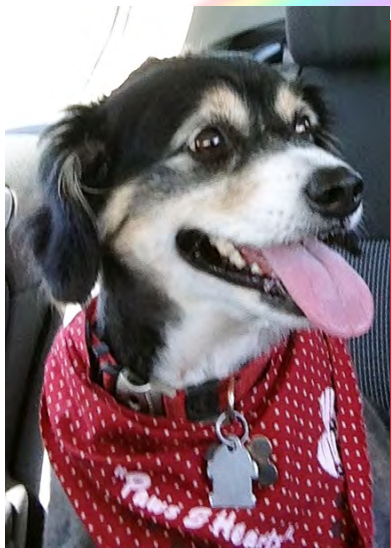
The day of our Zoom presentation arrived and our group was all assembled and damned we couldn't get Zoom to hook us up with David. Try as we might we had no success in chatting face to face so we did the next best thing, we called David, put him on speaker phone and carried on!

David was as charming, funny and outgoing as Andy Carpenter is! David took us back to his years in Hollywood as a writer/producer and described how he kept trying to sell his first Andy Carpenter as a movie-of-the-week and then as a series with no results. David is an old soul in that he envisioned Columbo's Peter Falk as his lead character.

The movies never got made but what has transpired are close to 30 Andy Carpenter novels, as well as many other books. David let us ask all kinds of questions and then he asked us questions about "*Paws & Hearts*" and how we operate.



# Time to say Good-Bye to a Much-Loved Canine Ambassador

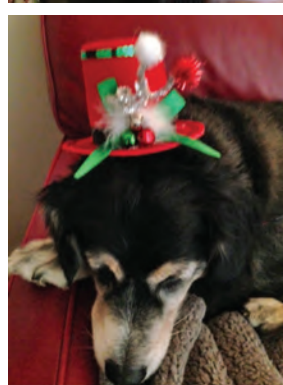


At the end of March one of our most beloved *Canine Ambassadors*, "Dunkin" left his Mom Suze and went to the Rainbow Bridge. Needless to say this was a lousy time for Suze.

Suze and Dunkin had been volunteers for many years visiting Premier Care in Palm Springs every Saturday morning. The pictures speak volumes about the level of love and affection Dunkin spread on every single visit he made. He would jump up on the bed, curl into the patients and just let them love on him. He was one of those dogs that could actually smile! Suze would tell Dunkin, "Go and visit Wayne," and he knew exactly which room to head into. Dunkin was one of those special dogs who needed absolutely no training for this work. From his very first visit he instinctively knew to jump up on a patient's bed, turn around and lie down so the patient could pet him on the head. Talk about an amazing angel!!

Dunkin was also part of our *Paws to Read* program at the Palm Springs Library. Dunkin was the most patient of all the dogs and he'd have the kids pet him and read aloud to him. He was just the best boy taking it all in knowing what a good job he was doing.

Dunkin had to retire a couple of years ago because he had arthritis and getting up and down wasn't that easy for him. He had earned retirement and was quite content at home with his Mom.



*"Dunkin" there was an amazing place waiting for you at the Rainbow Bridge. You made hundreds and hundreds of patients feel so much better with your visits. The words Canine Ambassador described you to a T! Rest in peace kiddo, you done good while here on earth, and you will never be forgotten!!!*

# One Canine Ambassador is moving and another has gone to the Rainbow Bridge, but we have another pup in training!

"Maggie" and her Mom Ann, had been volunteers since July of 2018. They visited The Comprehensive Cancer Center at Desert Regional weekly, and Maggie was always a loving Canine Ambassador while visiting the patients. Covid shut the visits down, but as soon as we were able to resume, both of them went right back to their weekly visits.

Last summer Maggie had to have eye surgery to remove an eye. She healed up and with an adorable Veronica Lake (okay I'm really dating myself here) hairdo, Maggie went right back to work! However, life has taken Ann and Maggie back east to live with family and we hope that the two of them will continue with Pet Therapy Visits because they truly are an amazing duo!

Best of luck you two. We are really going to miss you at "**Paws & Hearts!**"



SHASTA

In April of last year Erin and her dog "Shasta" came into the office to see us. Erin had just retired to the desert, and she wanted to get involved in volunteer work with Shasta. In reading my notes from that day, I wrote down, "Shasta is 11 years old, and a very sweet, very gentle girl. I think she'll be perfect for this type of work!"

Sadly, after a few months Shasta went to the Rainbow Bridge. They had become weekly visitors to the Cancer Center and according to Erin's volunteer reports, Shasta was a natural at this type of work.

But all is not lost here... Erin has adopted little Benny! As you can see from the picture, Benny has taken a great like to Erin's Dad, Niels, and from what Erin tells me, Benny is going to be amazing as a **Canine Ambassador**. As soon as Benny is a year old, we'll have a temperament test, some training, and he will follow in Shasta's paw prints at the Cancer Center!!



# ~ Volunteer Stories ~

We are continually adding new Canine Ambassadors and their handlers--  
Our volunteers have been sending in some of the most amazing reports from their weekly visits.  
Each and every one of you are making such a difference in the lives of the patients that you and your Canine Ambassador visit!

## KERRY & "BILLY"

Atria - Palm Desert

The staff is so kind to us on our visits. There are visits that really make us realize what wonderful people they are. Some will get down on the floor to pet and give Billy love, some stop what they are doing to come by and say hello. Some even carry treats to give him. He was feeling the love on this visit!

We stopped by the living room where some of the residents were gathered and visited with them, and then we made our usual rounds through the halls to say "hello" to the folks who were out and about. We "picked up" a few who like to walk along with us occasionally.

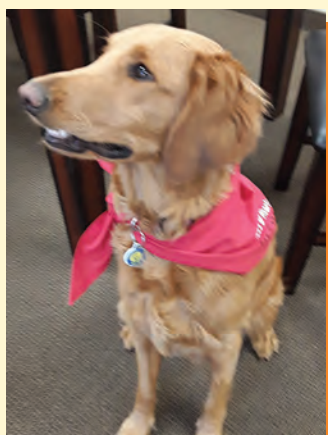


## MONA & "BAILEY"

Monterey Palms

Bailey & I met some new people today. A woman & her visitor were happy to see Bailey, and she accommodated them by getting up on the bed for some good petting! She also got up on a few more beds with her favorites this week! People are a bit surprised that she will jump up on a bed, because she's not tiny! We saw our favorites Janet & Cheryl. Every week, Janet says that she's getting a dog like Bailey when she goes home.

When we went into the activity room, we greeted everyone as usual. A resident was helping another resident who is blind with some activity at a table. The blind man wanted to pet Bailey, so she jumped up on a chair. I slid the chair next to him, so he could easily reach out and pet her. Everyone in the activity room was very happy with this interaction!



## WINSTON & "ERNIE BANKS"

The Comprehensive Cancer Center at Desert Regional

It was a busy day at the cancer center, with some regulars and plenty of new people. One gentleman looked and sounded just like Morgan Freeman, but it wasn't him. (Freeman has pierced ears; this guy did not.) Met three gay couples, all of whom had corgis at home. (What are the odds?) Had two no's, but they were nice. One woman had a cane next to her chair, and Ernie Banks wanted nothing to do with her. The woman kept calling her over, but Ernie didn't want to go. I said "I wonder if she's scared of your cane." So she put the cane behind her on the seat, and Ernie came right over. (I learned something new.) Margie (who is temporarily living across the street at Hanson House) came in to see Ernie. She's completed her treatment, and she told me the people at Hanson House told her she's paid up through Wednesday, and then she will go home. "No," she told them. "I need one more day so I can see Ernie on Thursday." Ernie Banks got plenty of treats, which made her happy. It was a good visit!



## 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

# Santa Paws!!

This year we are going to host a little event in our new office, **Santa Paws!!** Think Santa in his chair, a holiday themed back-drop, hot chocolate, treats for the dogs and the humans... and dogs for adoption from Loving All Animals!

**Saturday, December 7th**  
**10 am – 1 pm**

We are inviting our volunteers and the community to come out and have their dogs' holiday photo taken with Santa! Our resident Santa from our past Dog Walks will be on hand this year to pose with your dog for your holiday photo! Mark the date down on your Calendar!

**Cost: Gee, looks like this one is on the house!**

*But donations are always appreciated!*

