



the Blue Bell  
FOUNDATION FOR CATS

ENSURING YOUR CAT'S FUTURE

Blue Bell  
**MEWS**

SUMMER 2017

## BLUE BELL GARDENS PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION



**The Blue Bell Gardens Project is coming beautifully into fruition. On Saturday, April 29, Jeff Zakaryan, Advisory Board Chairman whose vision created the project, and a dozen volunteers dug holes for an astonishing 500 plus plants!**

Susan Hamil, our Board Chairwoman adds "Despite our unusual Santa Ana wind conditions, everyone came out in force to plant, including the Laguna Beach Garden Club. Chris Lutz, who grew and planted all of the bromeliads by the lower house, organized the planting party with coffee and snacks and a barbeque lunch. Ruben Flores of Laguna Nursery came by to make certain we were putting in the plants in exactly the right spot he had chosen for each one." Josh Brown, along with his wife, volunteer Bimali, supervised the planting and fine-tuned the sprinklers so we would minimize plant loss from the heat. Our PR Volunteer Pamela Knudsen planted and took pictures. As the plants and flowers mature they will bring a delightful infusion of color, scent and insect and bird activity to enchant the cats.

In our last newsletter we featured 3 of the already-completed gardens. The project now includes 14 unique gardens and 5 fountains. Our welcome fountain was purchased with a very nice discount from Laguna's **Pacific Coast Pottery**, and 4 others on the Palmer Patio, Orchard Garden, Blue & White Floral Garden and ultimately one for the Cat Nip Memorial, were donated by Laguna business owner **Jon Madison** of **Madison Square and Garden Cafe**.

Jeff notes "Still to come: flagstone, rocks, gravel, bird feeder and bath, garden furniture, accents and art. We're also working on a focal point sculpture from a Laguna artist. We're planning on a formal dedication in October." In time Blue Bell Gardens hopes to offer horticultural education programs for residents and local school children.



*Pictured clockwise: Volunteers hard at work planting the "Founders Garden"; Blue & White Garden; Birdhouse Village. More pictures bottom of next page.*

## NEW RESIDENTS



**Onyx**, 14, arrived in November, 2016. A pretty golden-eyed black female with

a dash of white on her neck, she had lived with her family her whole life. She became increasingly incompatible with the other pets and also began avoiding her litter box. At first, Onyx was a tad insecure with us and kept to herself. She gradually ventured out of her private suite. She is somewhat wary of the other cats, but her nature has always been a bit introverted. She is evolving to a higher comfort level and has begun accepting attention from humans and has begun "talking" to us. Her grateful placer remains part of her life.

**Bella & Cozy**. Both are 9 year old white-whiskered girls placed from the

same household on December 30 due to a family member's severe allergies. They were the first residents of 2017! Bella is adorable with a black and white coat speckled with black dots throughout her white fur. Sweet-faced Cozy is grey and white. They were comfortable and curious right from the start in their new home, exploring the lower house immediately.

These charmers love people and are always available to crawl into a lap!



**Peek-A-Boo**, 16, is a beautiful classic orange tiger. She arrived in February all the way from Arizona when her owner died of cancer. Peek-A-Boo was at home from the start. This affectionate lady loves lap sitting and being petted. Her gorgeous coloring brings a splash of color to the lower house.



**Minnie**, 16, arrived May 2. A pure white beauty with green eyes, she had lived with her owners since kittenhood in New York. After a recent move to So. Cal a family member developed an allergy to her. Her very devoted owners had to make a very difficult decision to find a permanent situation where Minnie could be cared for. Upon her entry physical, blood was discovered in her urine. Our veterinarian diagnosed a huge bladder stone, a painful, life-threatening condition. We performed surgery to remove the stone and Minnie is now happy and healthy in her new home. She responds nicely to people and the other cats.



**These new residents are living in the lower Anderson-Wentzel admissions house. Some may eventually transition to the main cottage.**

On Saturday, March 4, **Pamela Knudsen, Cynthia McGuinness, Jackie Trennery and Terri Karmen** represented us in **Laguna Beach's 52nd Annual Patriot's Day Parade**, a forty year Laguna tradition which features floats, community groups and marching bands. They spread the word while strutting through Laguna wearing cool cat T-shirts, donning cats' ears and glasses while carrying baskets of stuffed kitties!

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

**A spotlight on our marvelous volunteers.**

Saturday, May 20 was **Volunteer Cleaning Day!** The lower house was scrubbed clean, from top to bottom— floors, walls, furniture and cat trees/condos. For the past several years, **Bimali Walgampaya** has organized this "deep cleaning" event. Many thanks to **Bimali, Erandi Walgampaya, Jeeth Walgampaya, Michelle Fairbanks, Karen Clay, Cindy Hartman and Joanne Jacobs** for their hard work in elbow grease in keeping the house sparkling clean and sanitary.



**Blossoms bloom. The flourishing gardens provide a serene oasis in the Canyon for staff and visitors.**

*The plants, birdhouses, and fountains are already attracting beautiful birds and other wildlife to entice the cats into hours of fascinating viewing pleasure.*

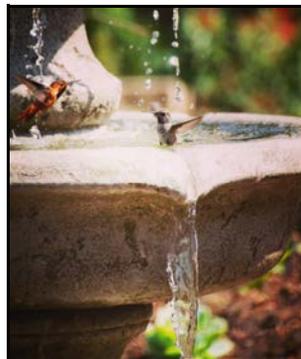


**The Fountains**  
Pictured below (L-R)

*A variety of gorgeous hummingbirds visit the fountains for bathing and drinking.*

*Welcome fountain in "Founders Garden"*

*Fountain in the "Orchard Garden"—a memorial for Irene Hobbs by husband Dr. Ned Momary, a major garden benefactor— attracts wildlife for our lower house kitties!*



## Cat's Meow Fundraiser

On Sunday, February 19, after some early morning drizzle and wind, the clouds parted, the rain stopped and the air became still. Partially sunny skies and the charming atmosphere inside the tent at Tivoli II brought warmth to the start of our 4th Annual Cat's Meow fundraiser. Guest supporters enjoyed a delicious champagne brunch.

Jeff Zakaryan updated the crowd on the grand progress of our Blue Bell Gardens Campaign and we received a special new donation for that fund.



Susan Hamil recognized and presented the "Blue Cat Awards" to the following 4 dedicated volunteers:

**Lee Bradford —Long-term Service**  
**Judy Clark— Outstanding Service**  
**Terri McCoy-Karmen —Extraordinary Support**  
**Cynthia McGuinness—Extraordinary Support**

Guests bid on wonderful prizes in our silent auction—hotel stays, restaurants, a cat tree, and gift baskets that included wines, beers, tea sets, cat care, and stationery.

The event raised close to \$10,000. Proceeds for the event go to our **Community Cat Fund**, which underwrites the expense for unadoptable senior cats from local animal shelters.



L-R Susan, Volunteer Awardees: Judy, Terri, Lee, Cynthia

See our website for beautiful event photos provided by photographer **Brad Thontlin of Brad Thontlin Photography in Laguna Beach**. Brad donated his professional services without charge throughout the whole event. His website: [www.bradphotos.com/](http://www.bradphotos.com/)

**Immense gratitude to June Neptune owner of the beautiful venue Tivoli Too, her excellent staff, the vendors who donated prizes, and to all who attended or donated in lieu of attending. Without you there would be no success.**

## PASSINGS

**Lil' Teddie**, 13, was born on Halloween 2003 a sweet Tortie/ Siamese mix, and placed with her 4 brothers—



Keller and Pumpkin who still remain; Half Pint passed 2010; and Snowball was adopted by volunteer Ali in 2010. The siblings were placed in 2008. Their story begins when their placer discovered kittens being placed in a dumpster for 5 nights in a row. She kept them for 5 yrs but circumstances necessitated her placing them with us in 2008. To start, Teddie was timid. She could not be petted until Bimali and Erandi showered her with attention and love. This enabled us to give her medication and treatment for kidney disease which made her life more comfortable. Her favorite spot was in her bed on top of the bookcase in the main house. She waged a long a valiant battle which came to an end on November 17, 2016 when she was humanely euthanized to end her suffering. On the day she died, Volunteer Terri spent most of her time cuddling her. "She was content and purring but her eyes were vacant". Caretaker Joyce came to say good bye. Teddie received many goodbye kisses her last day.

**Star**, 17, a very pretty calico female, was placed in 2010 when her owner, to whom she was very attached, went into a nursing home. Star was used to her quiet life as an only cat and was afraid at this new strange place. When staff and volunteers tried to reassure her, she would strike with her paw in fear. After months of volunteers just sitting with and talking to her, she started to thaw. Then, Caretaker Annie initiated play with wand toys and Star bonded to her, following her around and meowing when she came near. Later, she jumped in Caretaker Rima's lap—another milestone—and bonded to her and Caretaker Joyce as well. She became the "office cat" Everyone had finally earned her trust. Star thrived for 7 yrs. with no medical issues. She started losing weight and had bloody diarrhea. We tried for a week to stabilize her but she ultimately could not maintain her body temp. and intestinal cancer was suspected. Joyce was with her and sang her the song her former owner sang to her "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" as she passed peacefully on December 9, 2016.



**Pinky**, 20, A classic tabby, with a pink nose and paw pads, came in 2014. She was a neighborhood cat whose main caretaker could no longer continue feeding her so other kind neighbors Bob & Pat placed her and visited regularly. She was hyperthyroid and severely arthritic. We had steps for her so she could get up into an enclosed window patio and sleep in her bed in the sun. At night, she slept either in a bed on the ground or on a bench. She loved fish and beef flavored foods, and would always be one of the first begging for food at mealtime. She also loved being brushed and combed around her neck and head. She had been stable on meds but had started to lose weight, despite eating well. An examination found a large intestinal tumor. She maintained a few weeks but declined very rapidly, becoming wobbly. Caretaker Rima was with her when she passed peacefully at Canyon in May, 2017.

**Pinky's memorial bed with her toys and a pink flower, her picture inset.**



*Most new residents settle in fairly quickly. Cats are unique, and some take more time to adjust. Both Star and Teddie transformed with the love and attention from staff and volunteers.*

**DON'T MISS OUT ON EVENTS! Join our email database. We send out information and updates that don't make it to the MEWS! You also receive the newsletter in color which saves on printing & postage costs! Go to our website and email us.**



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[www.bluebellcats.org](http://www.bluebellcats.org)

**Our Mission:**

The Blue Bell Foundation for Cats offers loving and compassionate lifetime care for senior cats whose owners can no longer care for them.

Remember: Use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) as your search engine, and [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) for your online shopping. Simply name us as your charity



[www.facebook.com/bluebellfoundationforcats](http://www.facebook.com/bluebellfoundationforcats)

Enclosed is a "Gift of Love" in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

to be given in the name of

For: (Please Specify)

Anniversary  Birthday  Holiday  In Memory Of  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Send a card announcing the donation to:

Name:

Address:

Your Name and address:

Name:

Address:

Make checks payable to: **The Blue Bell Foundation for Cats**  
Donations are tax-deductible THANK YOU!

**YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK**

*Cats are sponsored to ensure their continuing lifetime care. However, costs rise and cash donations help augment our budget immensely. This includes food, medications, fluid treatments, vet visits, and facility utilities.*

*Your monetary support is vital to the ongoing direct care of the cats as well as ongoing operational expenses.*

*Donations received from the newsletter (including Gifts of Love) go specifically to the "Community Cat Fund". Please refer to our website for information on the "Campaign for Blue Bell" and a detailed description of all giving opportunities. You may arrange for your donation to be applied toward one of them.*

*A huge **thank you** to all our compassionate supporters who understand our mission and the need for our existence.*

Registered Non-Profit 501( C )(3)

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<http://www.bluebellcats.org/donate/index.php>