



the Blue Bell  
FOUNDATION FOR CATS  
ENSURING YOUR CAT'S FUTURE

Blue Bell  
MEWS

SUMMER 2018

## Gardens Project Completed

In late 2015, we established our "Garden Beautification Project" as part of the "Campaign for Blue Bell". The brainchild of Board Chairman Emeritus **Jeff Zakaryan**, was quickly set in motion and his vision has now been realized. The side yard, formerly devoid of any plants and invaded by gophers, has been replaced by enchanting gardens comprised of magnificent water-wise flora which attracts abundant wildlife.

Says Jeff, "**At the outset, the goals for the gardens were to restore the native plant life in the canyon setting, make it a natural canyon habitat. By the time the first planting of all 14 pocket gardens was completed, the cats reported that the birds and lizards had all returned.**" Enhancing the natural beauty of Laguna Canyon, unique accents are featured—the whimsy of Birdhouse Village, colorful art pole and birdbath in the Mourning Dove Garden, original "Cats in the Canyon" themed mosaic bench by Laguna artist Marlo Bartels, and two secluded, peaceful memorial areas.

As the gardens reach full maturity, guided tours and horticultural education programs will be offered. A dedicated sustainability team has been created to ensure the Gardens thrive long into the future.

We'd like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the following people and organizations whose generosity made Blue Bell Gardens possible:

**Dr. Ned Momary** (The Orchard), **USC Dental School Alumni** (Canyon Road), Ann & Charlie Quilter (Birdhouse), **Barb & Jeff Zakaryan** (Blue & White Floral), **Visionscape/Laguna Nursery** (Blue Native), **Chris Lutz** (Bromeliad), **Massen Greene Foundation** (Canyon View), **Erika Faust** (Mourning Dove), **Laguna Beach Garden Club** (Monarch Butterfly), **Jon Madison** (Blue Flower), **Josh Brown** (Meow Meadow), **Susan & John Hamil** (Founders), **City of Laguna Beach** (Garden View), **Jan Hobbs** (Cat Nip Memorial) and **Nyki and Ryan Franz** (Dawn's Garden).

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to **Susan and Don Lane** for sponsoring our Welcome Fountain, **Ruben Flores** for creating the landscape design, the **City of Laguna Beach**, whose grant helped underwrite new water-wise irrigation components, and **the Laguna Beach Garden Club's Jorja Puma**, whose counsel was instrumental in the successful launch of this project.

Finally, immense appreciation to Jeff Zakaryan, sponsor and Volunteer Project Leader, and **Lynette Brasfield**, Volunteer Public Relations Coordinator for the gardens and author for "Stu News Laguna".



Jeff Zakaryan has retired after five years as Advisory Board Chair. Jeff spearheaded a ten-year strategic plan whose sole purpose is to guarantee Blue Bell's long-term future.

Says Jeff "*When I first arrived at Blue Bell in 2012 it was a unique and special place. I soon discovered it had the potential to be even more for our cats, staff, volunteers, benefactors and visitors.*"

*With the support of Susan Hamil and the Board of Directors, we embarked on a journey to take Blue Bell "from good to great" to ensure it's long term future. We developed a strategic plan, modernized and expanded facilities, developed a new website, strengthened our ties with the Laguna Beach philanthropic community, re-invigorated our volunteer program, converted our IRS designation to a public charity to enhance our ability to attract major donations and transformed our storm-ravaged landscape into Blue Bell Gardens--a natural oasis teeming with life.*

*As I retire as Chairman of the Advisory Board, my heart is warmed knowing the cats are thriving, staff and volunteers re-energized and Blue Bell is poised to remain a unique and special place long into the future."*

As you leave with the crowning glory of the gardens, we at Blue Bell thank you, Jeff, for your many years of service—your knowledge, advice, and dedication. We could not have accomplished this without your leadership.



## NEW RESIDENTS

In November, 2017, we welcomed **Pagoda**, 16. She is a beneficiary of our Community Cat Fund as she came from a shelter. Christine Hood of "Ziggy and Friends Cat Rescue" relates her story. "We rescued Pagoda within an hour of being euthanized at a high-kill LA shelter back in April 2017. She was 16 years old, and her owners had dumped her. Pagoda is a gorgeous white and gray tabby with big golden eyes and a playful spirit. She also only has one functioning kidney, which is starting to fail. But Pagoda is resilient, and she has showed us that although she has problems with trust, she really craves love and affection. We are so grateful to Bluebell Foundation for taking Pagoda under their wing



and giving her a safe, warm, peaceful place to live out her life!" Her foster Mom, Lucille Angelucci cared for her while they found her another forever home. Pagoda settled in right away in our Anderson-Wentzel house. She has her own suite and loves being on her little patio. She still loves to play with wand toys and craves attention!

**Tiger W**, also arrived in November, 2017 after his owner fell ill. An "almost senior" at 7, this handsome brown tabby was at home and out in the community almost immediately after his arrival. He can be found scampering around our Anderson-Wentzel house. He is very affectionate. A head-butt will do to get our attention before he jumps in our laps! He loves being petted and brushed. Tiger brightens everyone's day!



### Laguna's First Cat Café!



Cat Cafés are becoming more popular worldwide. The concept is to enjoy your favorite beverage and snack in the company of cats.

The first opened in 1998 in Taiwan, and the idea gained widespread popularity in Japan. The first in the US opened in Oakland, CA. Other cities, including Los Angeles, soon followed. The first in Orange County, "Catmosphere", will be in Laguna Beach. Not surprising, given the city's history as progressive and artistic with a commitment to environmental and animal causes. Visitors will need a reservation, but walk-ins may be allowed if space permits. Medical care will be provided by Laguna veterinarians. There will be cat-themed gifts and items with the Catmosphere logo available for purchase.

Says Owner **Gail Landau**, "We are excited to open this summer at 381 Forest Avenue, right in downtown Laguna Beach. We are planning a late June/early July opening. We can hear the purring now as rescued and fostered cats and kittens get ready to come to our comfy, cozy transitional home awaiting adoption into their "furrever" homes. Our mission is to provide loving homes and loving fur parents while offering a comfortable Café to enjoy refreshments and light snacks and salads and a relaxing Lounge in which to get to know our felines in a living room-like setting."

In keeping with the strong community spirit of Laguna, we are happy to promote this exciting new venture with a very worthwhile cause. Cat lovers will enjoy this novel experience. If you don't have a cat, stop by and get your kitty fix! Likewise, as Laguna is a top tourist destination, travelers missing their own pets can satisfy their fur hunger here!

For more information on visiting and opportunities, visit their website:  
<https://catmospherelaguna.com/>

See their progress on:

 <https://www.facebook.com/catmospherelaguna/>

 <https://mobile.twitter.com/CatmosphereLB>

 [https://www.instagram.com/catmosphere\\_laguna/](https://www.instagram.com/catmosphere_laguna/)

### A Happy Ending for a Fortunate Kitty

In early January, we received a frantic email from Angela who encountered a stray cat in a parking lot. Here is her plea "I found him trying to eat out of a McDonald's bag— some mean kids were throwing rocks at him...I yelled at them got out of the car & the cat came running to me...Poor little cat. He is so gentle, was covered in soot & asphalt—you can tell he has been on the streets alone for a while. He was someone's cat at one time though very docile, he is way too friendly not your typical street cat...He tucked his head in my legs when we drove back to my neighborhood..."

Angela fed the hungry Kitty she now named Mickey. He even let her bathe him! As her situation prevented her from keeping the cat she called all the no-kill shelters and nobody could take him. Hence, her email to us. Sensing a desperate situation and wanting to help this compassionate person, Angela, as well as Mickey, Christine sent out an email to staff and volunteers who quickly mobilized to find a solution. Susan and Joyce connected her with a low-cost spay clinic. Volunteer Bimali was in constant communication with Angela for moral support. Then, more heartbreak, he had FIV, a potential barrier to finding a home. Cats can live long with this virus, but can't be with other cats. As we were all now invested in Mickey's future, we networked to see if anyone could find an adopter. He scored big! Volunteer Lindsey found him a home with a relative of her sister Regan's boyfriend, a quadriplegic man named Kevin who wanted a cat. Says Lindsey "Regan picked him up and fostered him for a night with a cozy bed, food, water, and litter box. Renamed "Sylvester", he immediately curled up and fell fast asleep, purring. He would get up periodically to scarf down food and use the litter box, then back to cozy up in his warm blankets. The next day he went to his permanent home with Kevin and the bond was immediate, as if they were waiting for each other."

Thanks to our amazing staff and volunteers who made a difference in a woman and cat's life.

Says a grateful Angela "Hopefully the story can help inspire others to not give up when it seems like there is no hope, cause that is exactly how I felt when I contacted so many places that could not help and I thought it was just a lost cause since there are so many homeless cats. I felt like giving up but I couldn't in my heart when I knew Mickey found me for a reason to show me strength and love, to not give up, and to find a safe place of his own that he can call home"

Mickey, shortly after his rescue and his bath.



Sylvester, In just a day, his eyes were more clear, his coat smoother, and the signs of the streets fading.



## Cats Meow Fundraiser



Sunday February 18 was a cool and beautiful sunny day for our 5th annual fundraiser. We had a fantastic turnout. It was great seeing old friends and welcoming new ones. This year was the most-attended event thus far, surpassing our expectations. Terri Karmen created beautiful placard centerpieces picturing our wonderful kitties. Guests received a "Blue Bell" engraved memorial champagne glass as a take-away favor. Pamela Knudsen, Event Coordinator, emceed the event. Jeff Zakaryan reported the success of the Blue Bell Gardens project. Guests bid on wonderful prizes from hotel stays, restaurants, and gift baskets that included wines, beers, tea sets, and cat care. *Pictured above: Baby inspects gift baskets before the event!*



*Lindsey, Volunteer of the Year, accepts her award. She is our Volunteer Coordinator but helps in many other areas as well.*

Executive Director Susan Hamil presented the Blue Bell Cat Awards to five dedicated volunteers:

*Lindsey Arnette—Volunteer of the Year  
 Jeff Zakaryan—Lifetime Achievement  
 Judy Clark—Lifetime Achievement  
 Josh Brown—Exceptional Service  
 Chris Lutz—New Volunteer Impact.*

Much appreciation to our wonderful volunteers: **Pamela Knudsen** for PR and event coordination, **Lindsey Arnette**, our statistician, **Bimali Walgampaya** for compiling and maintaining our guest list, and to **Terri Karmen, Cynthia McGuinness, Jan Barbieri, and Jan Trennery** for assembling the spectacular gift baskets.

Proceeds for the event go to our **Community Cat Fund**, which underwrites the expense for unadoptable cats from local animal shelters.

See our website for beautiful event photos by photographer **Brad Thontlin** of Brad Thontlin Photography in Laguna Beach. Brad donated his professional services without charge. His website: <https://bradthontlinphotography.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.

On Saturday, March 3, **Pamela Knudsen, Cynthia McGuinness, Jackie Trennery and Terri Karmen** represented us in **Laguna Beach's 53rd Annual Patriot's Day Parade**, a forty-year Laguna tradition which features floats, nearly 100 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!

Thanks Cat Ladies!



*Our gorgeous Pumpkin celebrates St. Patrick's Day!*

On Sunday, December 3, 2017, **Boy Scout Troop No. 636** volunteered their time at Blue Bell by building an outdoor cat friendly staircase and wall for the lower house. The staircase allows the cats to come outdoors onto the patio through the window. They also took down the white picket fence that was built onto the wall indoors and painted the wall with a fresh coat of blue paint. Although the white picket fence was beautiful to look at, it was not practical and was hard to maintain and clean. The project was **Shevanka DeSilva's** Eagle Project so that he could become an Eagle Scout, which is the highest rank within the Boy Scouts. This is Shevanka's final project, before he goes off to college. Thanks Shevanka and Troop #636!



## Memorials

We lost our sweet, big boy **Harry**, 17 1/2 on Monday afternoon, January 29th. He came to us with his slender sister Sally, in December, 2014. He had been in relatively good health until about a week prior. Lab work showed possible pancreatitis and he was hospitalized. He began having trouble breathing and x-rays showed he had fluid in his chest. We took him to urgent care where stayed so he could be monitored 24/7. An ultrasound showed that he had severe hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a condition where the right side of the heart thickens and can't pump well, so fluid starts to build up in the chest. The medications were not making an improvement and he was not able to breathe well unless he was on oxygen. So the difficult decision was made to put him to sleep. We took his snuggle buddy, Angelo to say good bye and they head butted and snuggled and Harry was purring up a storm.



*Harry, Left with his buddy Angelo*

**Little Girl**, 19, came in July, 2014 with her sister Tri-Tip when their owner was placed in assisted living. The 2 tortie girls were affectionate, but Little Girl was extremely shy. With the help of staff and volunteers, Little Girl finally came out of her shell and thrived. She was admitted with high blood pressure and kidney disease but thrived. Around November she became anorexic and losing weight, but then bounced back. On December 23 she was diagnosed with probable lymphoma. We didn't expect her to make it a few more days, let alone 2 more months. Again, she bounced back. Not knowing how long, everyone showered extra attention on her. Right until her last day she was snacking and enjoying the sunshine. But early the next morning of February 17, her body could not keep up with her spirit and she passed away on her own.



*Thanks to Caregiver Joyce who provided the details for these memorials.*



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

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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)

**OR DONATE ONLINE!**  
<http://www.bluebellcats.org/donate/index.php>