



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

Blue Bell
MEWS

WINTER 2021



2021 Cat's Meow

The twice-postponed 7th Annual Cat's Meow was held on Sunday, September 26 at Seven7Seven in Laguna Beach. Our popular fundraiser brunch netted \$8,200 in proceeds for our Community Cat Fund. We welcomed 142 attendees—some were “regulars” who come each year while others were newcomers. All enjoyed the camaraderie of their cat-loving friends having reconnected since 2019, which was especially poignant due to the event having been delayed. The champagne flowed while bidders vied to win in the silent auction. The items included the crowd-pleasing theme-based gift baskets—wine, cooking, books, food—as well as restaurant certificates and art.

The Blue Bell Cat Awards, were presented to Assistant Director **Jenna Mikula** and Volunteers **Lynette Brasfield**, who penned the booklet “The Story of Blue Bell”, and **Matt Powers**, a mainstay who comes weekly as a “Cat Cuddler” and often more when needed. Also recognized was the **Laguna Board of Realtors**, for their charity work and Horticulturist **Sue Brown**, who maintains our magnificent gardens.

We thank our planning committee **Jenna Mikula, Pamela Knudsen**, Community Outreach and Public Relations (she also emceed), **Dulce Flores** of Seven7Seven, **Susan Hamil**, Director/Board Chair, **Jeff Zakyran**, Chairman Advisory Board, **Lindsey Arnette**, Statistician and Volunteer Coordinator, Volunteers **Lynette Brasfield, Christine O'Hare-Pomponi, Ken Paulson, Matt Powers, Bimali Walgampaya, Erandi Walgampaya**. Kudos to “basket babes” **Terri Karmen, Cynthia McGuinness, and Jan Barbieri** who assembled the gorgeous baskets. Immense appreciation to all who donated the auction items.

Finally, we thank our supporters who attended or donated in lieu of attending.
It would not have been successful without you!



Pictured : Jenna Mikula joined us in 2019 as a volunteer. Shortly after she became staff as a Cat Caregiver. In 2021 she was promoted to Assistant Director. Jenna's work is outstanding—it encompasses every facet of daily operations—overseeing maintenance, supervising Caregivers, working with vendors, and more. She has worked tirelessly going above and beyond while providing loving care to all our cats.

Matt Powers is a talented artist. He is seated with his sketches of the Blue Bell cats. They boosted the bottom line of our proceeds as many were given to those who donated \$25 or more.

Consider receiving the “Mews” by email. This saves us the cost of printing supplies and postage which can be put toward our cat care budget. To sign up, go to our website under “News/Events” and click “email delivery”. When confirmed, please email us via our website to be removed from the print mailing list.

Beloved Volunteer Remembered

Volunteer **Judy Clark** lost her battle with cancer on July 23 at home surrounded by her 3 cherished cats, Monica, Trixie, & Johnny along with her nephew Brian. Judy had been volunteering since 2009. She was a dear friend to many of us and the cats adored her. Not only did she provide TLC as one of our "Cat Cuddlers", Judy planted and maintained the magnificent roses on our patio. She also spent many hours preparing our newsletters for mailing. She was humble, never asking for anything in return or boasting of her accomplishments.

As volunteer **Terri Karmen** notes "She was an amazing, caring, generous, awesome, & beautiful person with the best smile & laugh! I'm glad to have called her a

good friend. She is going to be so missed. She will live on at Blue Bell with her beautiful Rose garden."

Judy had many cats of her own over the years. Some were "foster failures" who she just couldn't part with. She is pictured here with our Mittens, who passed at the age of 22 in 2020. Judy's cats were rehomed with Brian. Terri will be planting Judy's favorite rose and placing a memorial plaque in "Judy's Rose Garden".



HELPING HANDS—Spotlight: Blue Bell Receives New Towers and Beds

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention"--Oscar Wilde

Ethan Jeong, 15 was looking for service projects to earn his Eagle Scout rank, and he wanted to integrate it with his love of cats (inspired by his own cat "Boppy"). Says Ethan "I looked around on the internet for nonprofit organizations that benefit cats and happened to find Blue Bell Foundation". So he toured and listened to our needs and decided on the towers. Ethan was assisted by **Noah Fong, Austin Beckett, Eric Pitterle, and Diego Ibarra** – all scouts from Troop 1210. The five towers were split between both houses. They are made of washable lightweight PVC pipe and special tarps so are easy to maintain and move.

As if by serendipity, a few days after the towers were delivered, long-time supporter **Deb Shea-Ohlfs** inquired if we had a need for home-sewn cat beds. We sent her a picture of the towers and she custom-made and delivered 26 exquisite, comfortable beds in different pleasing patterns. They fit nicely into the towers, as well as on the various shelves throughout both houses. A few weeks later, Deb brought us pretty cozy blankets sewn by her niece, **Diane Carter**. They provide a nice coverlet for the beds.

Philanthropy comes in many forms—time, talents, and treasures, and we certainly appreciate the kindness of these three people who personify all three. Thank you for choosing us as a recipient of your marvelous gifts.



Pictured: Above Right—Ethan with models Baby and Joey in one of his towers.

Below L-R—Deb Shea-Ohlfs with her home-sewn beds, Cassia relaxing in her sweet bed, comfy blanket and Cozi getting cozy on her blankie.



NEW RESIDENTS



Kalista, 11, arrived on May 4. She is a classic black kitty (currently our only one) with dazzling yellow eyes. A bit shy at first, she enjoyed her own suite in the lower house. Gradually after visits from staff and volunteers, she became more receptive and soon was out of her enclosure. She is very docile and loves pets and scratches. She's mostly content lolling in her cubby hole in her favorite cat tree.

Sabrina, 10, is a beautiful, soft diluted calico with striking jade eyes. When her owner developed health issues, she was concerned for Sabrina's future. She researched us and decided this would be her home. They came from Savannah, GA in May— her owner flying while Sabrina was driven to us. Sabrina was an abused kitten which resulted in almost

losing her leg. Despite this, she adores people, perhaps regaining her trust after the kindness shown to her by her dedicated owner. Full of personality, this active curious kitty loves to play and ingratiates herself immediately with everyone. She will go from lap to lap in her quest for attention and has captured everyone's heart. Her owner has since flown out several times to visit her—THAT is DEVOTION.



We welcomed **Chica, 12**, on August 21. She immediately jumped in her new cat tree to observe the sights outside. Sweet-faced Chica acclimated in a week and was soon out of her suite. She is very gentle and loving, rolling around to invite petting and head scratches. She also loves being on the main patio in the lower house. She loves lapsits and is a joy to be around.

MEMORIALS

Tiger, 18 1/2 Came to us in 2010. He was very scared as this was his first time in a carrier. He hid and wouldn't eat. He slept with his favorite toy monkey. It took him a month to settle, but he did and blossomed. We would have never predicted he would become our "office cat". In 2015 he developed hyperthyroidism and eventually chronic kidney failure and high blood pressure. He was recently diagnosed with anemia. Tiger was a mellow fellow. The last couple months he was losing weight and his time was nearing. The week before he died he was eating less and sleeping more and on **Thursday, October 28**, let us know it was time.

Jenna and some volunteers comforted him with head scratches, and Caregiver Joyce came and took him to Canyon for his final journey.



We lost **Jack, 18**, a classic tuxedo, on **July 5**, one month shy of his 19th birthday. Jack was an extremely loving, albeit needy kitty. He would howl loudly for attention until someone came and held and rocked him. This just endeared everyone to his sweet nature. He had pancreatitis and a mass on his liver, but had been fighting a good fight on and off for the past couple of years, up until about 2 weeks prior to his death. We started him on a couple new meds to keep him comfortable. He rallied, but his body just couldn't keep up. He was making his typical "wowwwwws" for meals 2 days before, but stopped eating the next day and let us know it was time. Three staff—Jenna, Tom, and Joyce were with him as he crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. Jack was certainly popular and many were very attached to him as he was to us. The parking lot was full as volunteers came to say goodbye. Says Michelle: *"Today was a very sad day. I visited with Jack for a few hours before he was sent to heaven. He perked up in the garden and went for a nice stroll, even talking a little bit, like he was thanking us for letting him outside. When I left at 1:00 he was resting on the path in the shade. He looked very much at peace in the garden."*



Katie, 16, a beautiful tortie came to us in 2012 with Adam who still resides in the lower house. Affable Katie welcomed humans from the start and was a frequent lap warmer. She also got on well with the other cats. She loved being on the patio, relaxing and viewing the outside gardens, even reaching through the screen to eat some catnip. She loved going into the "cat scratcher" houses. She was diagnosed with lymphoma earlier this year and was stable for months. She began losing weight, and recently her activity and appetite declined. A few days before she passed, she stopped eating entirely and we

began palliative care. On **Monday, November 1** she let us know it was her time. Joyce held her as she passed. We will all miss this little gal who couldn't help but be adorable in everything she did.

Baby, 16, left us on **May 18**. He was placed with us in 2016 with 6 other kitties when our great friend and benefactor **Dorothy Palmer** passed. He had pancreatitis and suspected lymphoma for a number of years. We thought we were close to losing him a couple of years ago, but as many Blue Bell cats do, he rallied, and was doing well until one month prior to passing. He visited the gardens and enjoyed exploring and eating plants (all safe for cats). His mind was still alert, but his body was failing so

we decided it was time to let him go. Jenna and Tom took him out in the gardens one last time and then took him to Canyon, and were with him as he peacefully crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. As Joyce relates, *"He was such a sweet boy...Baby Boy is what I called him. He liked to be held like a baby, and I always wondered if that is where he got his name. He was clever...learning to open his enclosure door in the first week by standing on a chair and pulling on the handle! And he knew I always kept treats in my pocket...grabbing at my pocket over and over until I finally gave in."*



Long-Time Employees Santiago and Maria Retire!

Dedicated husband/wife team Santiago and Maria have retired after 25 years of service. Arriving at 5:30 each weekday, they fed and medicated the cats, then went on with their other chores—laundry, maintenance, and cleaning. Maria always had a kind word and pets for the kitties. We and the kitties will miss them immensely and wish them all the best in their well-deserved retirement!





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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.

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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 life-time care. However, costs are rising dramatically and cash donations help augment our budget toward expenses immensely. This includes staffing, food, vet visits, diagnostics, medications, fluid treatments, and facilities—grounds and gardens maintenance, utilities, and improvements.

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.*

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