FVA’s Have-A-Heart Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction

FVA’s 24th Annual Have-A-Heart Dinner and Fundraiser on February 12th at Trang Viet Cuisine was a huge success and a fun and inspiring evening! We are so thankful to everyone who attended, donated silent auction items or volunteered with setup and cleanup. Special thanks to Brian Brown who shared his musical talent for our entertainment. It was great to surprise him later in the program with the FVA Activist of the Year award. Please read about Brian in another short article by Diane Koon, who nominated him and presented his award. You will also enjoy reading about Deb DelSole, our FVA Animal Hero for 2016, in the article by Joan Zacharias who nominated her and presented her award. The dedication of these two wonderful activists is heartwarming and so very much appreciated. It is people like Deb and Brian who make a true difference in our movement to help animals and make our world better for all.

Our evening was filled with the pleasure of spending time with our wonderful members and friends, delicious food, a delightful presentation by Victoria Moran, surprises with our award announcements and an exciting silent auction and 50:50 raffle which raised $205. We raised a total of $3360.54! Our fabulous donors made it possible for us to have a great auction. Special thanks to our 50:50 raffle winner, Rebecca Williams, who so generously donated her share back to FVA! And lastly, please thank and support our business donors listed in this newsletter for their kind support of FVA and the animals. We hope to see you again soon at one of FVA’s many events throughout the year!
Thanks to Have-A-Heart Volunteers and Donors!

Donors:
Selma Alguer
Big Cat Rescue
Catherine Heim
Café Hey
Trevor Chin
Brenda Csik
Food Not Bombs
Marie Galbraith
Joseph Gerardi
Suzanne House
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Diane Koon
Demetria Laousis
Lotus Vegetarian Restaurant
Love Food Central
Florence Marsan
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Victoria Moran
Nature’s Food Patch
Nutrition S’mart
Amber Parham
Bill & Myriam Parham
Pixie Soaps
Publix
Queen of Sheba
Silverback Peace Group
Skydive City
Stacy’s Gluten Free Bakery
Sweet Tomatoes
Justine Villarreal
WMNF
Winter Park Soaps
Dog Grooming Table - sorry missed donor name

Volunteers:
Brian Brown (set up, music & clean up)
Tara Woodard
Joan Zacharias
FVA Board Members

Whole Foods Market Rocks!

Thanks to Whole Foods Market for the 5% donation of sales on Feb 22nd, 2017 at all three locations: Clearwater, Carrollwood and South Tampa. Plus thanks to all FVA members who reserved that day for their major shopping to help FVA. We received a whopping donation of $8,864.52!

Heart Of Activism

The Heart of Activism seminar was offered to people who are engaged in social/ecological transformation, are seeking ways to make a difference, want to connect with & be inspired by others in a meaningful manner, or want to understand & cultivate the inner dimensions of activism. There were speakers from the Sierra Club, One Protest, the Social Justice Council, Friends of Human Rights & many more.

Offered By The Bridge and Co-Sponsors:
Alternatives to Violence Project Tampa Bay
Florida Voices for Animals
Friends of Human Rights
Grow Permaculture
Integral Church
North Tampa Contemplative Group
OneProtest
Pachamama Alliance Tampa Bay
Social Justice Council
Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater
Suncoast Institute of Noetic Sciences
Sustainable Urban Agriculture Coalition
Tampa Bay Sierra Club
Tampa Bay Time Bank
Tampa Religious Society of Friends
The Connection Partners
The Red Tent Women's Initiative
Unity of Tampa

Thanks to Save The Whales Demo Volunteers

Denise Anderson
Melinda Clark
Marie Galbraith
Suzanne House
Brittany Martinez
Nolan Martinez
Hussein Mourtada
Zulema Ramos
Laura Weiss

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January 2017, FVA held its last round of Ringling Circus demonstrations at the Amalie Arena, downtown Tampa. Ringling Circus had announced that it was closing down the animal circus acts in May 2017. FVA had been holding demonstrations against Ringling since the late 1980s. Ringling typically would spend the first week at the Bayfront in St Petersburg before coming to Tampa for the second week. FVA faithfully held demos at both locations.

The statue of a mother elephant and her calf was sent by PETA to FVA as a Thank-You gift in celebration of this historic event. FVA, in turn, wants to share it with you, our faithful, devoted members. You have helped FVA at our many demonstrations.

Rain or shine, hot or cold, we held demonstrations against Ringling and the cruelties inflicted on performing animals for over 25 years! The protests have been held at Bayfront Center, St. Petersburg, the State Fairgrounds in Tampa, and the past few years in Downtown Tampa at the Amalie Arena. We have been yelled at, cursed at, spit on, threatened and even pushed in past years. Any suffering we endured at these demos was nothing compared to the suffering of the wild animals who performed for the circus. Elephants witness their mothers being killed as they are kidnapped or they are born into captivity. They are then tortured into performing stupid tricks like using their trunks to grab onto the elephant’s tail in front of them, like raising up on their hind legs to balance, like bowing down, like sitting on a stool, like pirouetting on a stool with one front leg while wearing a pink tutu. Torture instruments are the bull hook and the electric prod. They are kept in chains, one front leg and the opposite rear leg are typically chained when not performing. On the trains in box cars, they are also chained. They travel for most of the year performing in many cities. Elephants are carriers of Tuberculosis—a fact that Ringling never lets the public know. When elephants reach their breaking point and retaliate against their trainers, they end up being shot to death by police.

Tigers and lions are kept in small cages, tortured with whips and electric prods. They are trained to rear up on their hind legs. They are trained to jump through hoops of fire—which they typically fear. Any wild animal which retaliates against the trainers usually gets shot to death. We will always remember the killing of Ringling's Arnie the Tiger. During a "training" session he attacked his trainer, probably in sheer desperation of a life of torture. After being put back in his small cage, the brother of his trainer shot and killed him point blank in his cage.

We recently learned that Shriner’s Circus wants to purchase the wild animals from Ringling. Therefore, the abuse of these animals will never end. Ringling will seek many other ways to profit from these sentient beings.

As long as this blatant abuse of animals continue, FVA will not rest in its determination to educate the public so that they can make an informed decision to hopefully not support animal abuse. By volunteering to help FVA in its mission or by donating to FVA, you are an integral part of the animal rights world. Similar to the Marines, we are the few, the proud and the first to fight.  

Trevor Chin
Deb DelSole
FVA’s 2016 Animal Hero

Animal Hero: Angel in a Red Kayak

It was just another Sunday in St. Pete – a perfect afternoon to take her trusty red kayak out to her favorite kayaking spot.

As she headed toward Coffee Pot Bayou, Deb DelSole realized that something was terribly wrong with the birds around her. The pelicans who nest there were either dead or dying. They were dazed and barely able to move, let alone fly.

Deb posted a call for help on Facebook and instinctively paddled toward the birds, knowing that they needed treatment to live. Rescuers came in cars to help, but only Deb and her little red kayak, and one other rescuer with a canoe, were able to reach the birds.

For the next five hours, the two of them scooped up and ferried dozens of sick birds from their nesting island, wading through bird poo and muck, to the shore in their little boats, into crates and then waiting cars, to be shuttled to nearby bird and wildlife sanctuaries.

The media covered the mysterious tragedy, but we still don’t know if the cause was Red Tide, or the 200 million gallons of sewage dumped in the bay last summer, or something else.

In the end, about 70 birds were rescued – about half did not make it. A week and a half later, Deb and other rescuers and rehabbers gathered on the shore with local media to celebrate the release of seven birds, now doing well, back into the wild.

Deb DelSole is an animal hero because she did not turn away from danger, discomfort or fear when she saw animals in need. She didn’t say, “Someone should do something!” (but I can’t today because I’m busy). She didn’t say, “This is hopeless” – even though many birds were already dead. What she DID say, in the end, was this (from Facebook): “I have a scratch on my lip from a pelican, and I had to use antibacterial soap all over me, but I don’t regret one minute. Don’t turn your back on animals in need. We are their protectors. ”

She also volunteers at the Humane Society and with FVA, and she is a proud vegan and animal rights activist.

Joan Zacharias

Your Bequest Can Help Animals

Planning for death and dying is something most people put off thinking about: “It’s not for me. I can’t possibly ever, ever die. It’s not my karma. I’m too young. I drive carefully. I give to my local church so I’m in good graces…..” The list is infinite. While many of us like to think we’re immortal, it is important that you have a plan in place in the event of your death. Who will agree to look after your companion animals? If he/she would be unable do it, who would be the back-up person? Will you leave enough money for their care?

A majority of Americans will die without a written will. Even if you have a will, it will be subject to probate, proving it is authentic and valid. Typical probate costs can be $3,000 or more, plus 3% of the estate. A revocable trust allows your assets to go to your beneficiaries upon your death according to your wishes, without going through probate. You can create a revocable trust using two easy-to-use software programs. Two of them are: Suze Orman www.suzeormanwillandtrust.com and Nolo Trustmaker www.nolo.com

Having a plan in place will bring you peace of mind, and provide guidance for friends and family members you leave behind. When making your end-of-life decisions, please keep Florida Voices for Animals (FVA) in mind as a beneficiary.
While there are many activists in our group that do outstanding work for the animals, FVA has chosen one that we believe stands out for his compassion for animals as well as how he inspires others with his actions and wise words in speaking up for the animals. This year that person is Brian Brown! The FVA board unanimously voted for Brian. We have consistently said over the last few years how lucky FVA is to have a member like Brian who is always ready to help out and participate in FVA events. He helps out at numerous FVA tabling events including our biggest event of the year, Tampa Bay Veg Fest.

Brian worked at our Pay-Per-View booth where people are invited to watch a 4-minute video exposing the cruelty of factory farms and, in turn, are paid one dollar for watching! The previous year, Bran helped me with early food vendor set up at 6 am. When I was asked who I wanted to help me with this task the first name that popped into my head was Brian! He has also done leafleting at college campuses and different city festivals where he talks with students and others about the benefits of a plant based diets and promotes FVA. He has participated in so many of our protests and demonstrations, whether it be puppy stores, bacon festivals, Fur-Free Friday, or circuses including this year’s very LAST Ringling Bros. Circus here in Tampa!

Lastly, many of you will remember October 24, 2015 when Florida opened up black bear hunting after several years of them being on the endangered species list. Brian volunteered along with other dedicated activists to bear witness and document dead bears being brought in by hunters to ensure the Florida Wildlife Commission followed the quota rules. His posted his experience witnessing this atrocity along with photos on his Facebook page for all to see. That post had 10,000 shares! He was all of our eyes that day.

We thank Brian for all that he has done for the animals and for FVA.

Diane Koon
Brittany Martinez
FVA’s Newest Board Member

Brittany Martinez has been a vegetarian since she was 15 years old and recently completed her conversion to full-veganism. As a life-long animal lover, she has always been drawn to a cruelty-free life as manageable as possible. She was a member of the Animal Rights Club at her high school and carried that passion over to her college days at the University of South Florida where she joined the student organization, Students Protecting the Environment & Animals through Knowledge (SPEAK). Participating in many events, demos, and leafleting opportunities, she took on the role as president for the organization her senior year in which she constructed the first ever campus-wide Haunted House Slaughter House to promote awareness to students of life on a factory farm. Since then she has been an active member of FVA participating in demos and protest, usually with her 8 year old son, Nolan, in tow who also shares a passion for animals. She lives in Lutz and has one rescue dog, Gilligan McGruff, hoping to grow her fur family in the near future. Last year she was the Kids Zone coordinator for the Tampa Bay VegFest. Now, she is the 9th member of the FVA Board.

You can now order your FVA T-Shirt from
www.floridavoicesforanimals.org
Click Donate button and indicate how many of what type and size T-shirts you’re paying for.
Suggested donations:
Female T-Shirt $15
Unisex T-Shirt $15
Shipping is a flat $5

Wear your Tahiti Blue FVA T-shirt around town, at FVA tabling vents, demos and be noticed!

Note: Female T-Shirt is V-Neck
You can receive this newsletter via e-mail or download it from the FVA website. To go paperless please email fvaonline@yahoo.com and let us know. You will not only help the environment, but will allow FVA more financial resources to help animals.

YES, I want to support Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.
Enclosed is my annual membership fee or donation:
☐ $300 Lifetime  ☐ $100 Patron  ☐ $50 Family  ☐ $30 Individual  ☐ $15 Student  ☐ Other
NAME: _____________________________________________ PHONE: ______________ FAX: ______________
ADDRESS: _________________________________________ CITY: __________ ST: ___ ZIP: __________
E-mail: ____________________________________________
I would like to volunteer for:
☐ Phone Tree  ☐ Attending Demonstrations  ☐ Staffing Outreach Tables  ☐ Website  ☐ Newsletter  ☐ Investigations  ☐ Other:
I prefer to receive my Newsletters:  ☐ Electronically via e-mail  ☐ Regular Mail

GOOD NEWS

☐ Feb, 2017: Pinellas Commissioners vote for Breeder Licensing Ordinance and Inspections! Pinellas County Commissioners voted for an updated breeder licensing ordinance that bans the sale of animals at flea markets, requires permit numbers for advertised pet sales, and inspections for breeders. At least 85 advocates attended in support of the ordinance! Even a couple breeders who spoke supported the ordinance, stating that they welcome inspections and would like to see a reduction in the number of dogs and cats euthanized in Pinellas County.

☐ Feb, 2017: Breyer’s creates new vegan ice cream, Oreo Cookies And Cream! The company has recently debuted a new cookies and cream flavor “made with real almond milk.” No word yet on whether it will be sold nationwide, but its has appeared in Meijer stores in the Midwest. We can request it at our local supermarkets.

☐ Feb, 2017: Davey, then young bull escapes the slaughter house. He then manages to break into the Animal Place sanctuary, Grass Valley, CA. What an accomplishment—and that’s no bull!

☐ Mar, 2017: Brussels bans Foie Gras. The Belgian capital city enacts a symbolic ban to prohibit the cruel practice of force-feeding ducks in hopes that surrounding cities follow suit.

☐ Mar, 2017: Non-Dairy coffee creamer hits the shelves at Target. Natural Bliss in Almond and Coconut with Vanilla, Hazelnut, Caramel and Sweet Crème flavors at reasonable prices!

☐ Mar, 2017: Our Ellen wins many road races! It’s prime running race season now in Florida with many events to choose from. FVA board member, 64 year-old Ellen Jaffie Jones, jokes that she often wins her age group simply by showing up.
Our mission is to educate the public about animal abuse and exploitation. Please renew your membership if it has expired. Check your label.

M Paid membership and renewal date  L Lifetime member
X Newsletter exchange  C Courtesy

FLORIDA VOICES FOR ANIMALS, INC.
P.O. BOX 17523
TAMPA, FL 33682

A NON-PROFIT, TAX-EXEMPT,
GRASSROOTS, ANIMAL ADVOCACY
ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Every Tue & Thu at 10:30am – WUSF Ch 16.3, Christina Cooks cooking show with Christina Pirello
Every Wed at 10am – WMNF 88.5FM, Talking Animals radio show with Duncan Strauss
Every Fri at 11am—WUSF Ch 16.1, Jazzy Vegetarian cooking show with Laura Theodore
Check out the Vegan Myth Busters radio show hosted by Ellen Jaffe Jones anytime by visiting https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667198786868267/

4/1, 4/16, 5/6, 5/21, 6/3, 6/18 (Sat, Sun) - Loving Hut Vegan Buffet Sat 11am-9pm (Meetup at 6:30pm), Sun 11am-5pm
1905 E Fletcher Ave, Tampa FL 33612, 813-977-7888 This is posted on our Meetup Calendar, so if you haven’t signed up for our meetup, go to www.meetup.com, search for Florida Voices for Animals, then sign up. Loving Hut’s website is http://www.lovinghut.us/tampa_01/

4/2, 5/7, 6/4 (Sun) - New Leaf Elementals Brunch, 11am-1pm 11813 N Armenia Ave, Tampa, FL Enjoy an all-vegan all-organic brunch which takes place 1st Sunday of the month.

4/8 (Sat) - FVA Demo Not Just 4 Easter 1pm-2:30pm, Animal House Pet Center, 950 34th St N, St Petersburg. Did you know that 95% of animals bought for Easter die before their first birthdays? Come speak up for these animals.

4/15, 5/20, 6/17 (Sat) - Lotus Vegan Meetup Buffet, 11am-9pm (Meetup at 6pm), 6575 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL Enjoy an all-vegan buffet at Lotus Vegan Restaurant (beverage not included.) This buffet takes place 3rd Saturday of the month.

4/30, 5/28, 6/25 (Sun) - Café Hey Brunch, 11am-2pm 1540 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL Enjoy an all-vegan brunch which takes place last Sunday of the month.

4/22 (Sat) - FVA Tabling at EcoFest 10am-3pm, Lowry Park, 7525 N. Boulevard, Tampa. Volunteers needed. All vegans are environmentalists. See you there!

4/23 (Sun) - FVA Demo World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week 1pm-2:30pm, USF Overpass, 131st Ave & Bruce B Downs Boulevard, Tampa. Please make your own sign and message for this protest. We will also bring extra signs. Bring water, hat and sun screen.

5/13 (Sat) - FVA Demo Empty The Tanks 11:30am-1pm, Clearwater Mall entrance, 2719 Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard, Clearwater. Signs will be provided, but you can be creative and bring your own easy to read at a distance sign.