



Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.

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Apr/May/June 2025

Have-A-Heart Fundraiser & Silent Auction 2025

By Myriam Parham & Kim Gronemeyer

On February 22, **Florida Voices for Animals** held its 30th Annual Have A Heart Awards Dinner Fundraiser, which was held at Solid Rock Community School (SRCS) in Tarpon Springs. The event was a huge success raising almost \$6000. The speakers, Kari Bagnall, Jungle Friends and Michele Fasnacht, SRCS provided great information about their sanctuaries and attendees enjoyed a delicious Italian theme vegan meal and had fun bidding on donated silent auction items. Award recipients this year were heroes Trooper Orlando Morales and Elizabeth Olson, Activist of the year Jacinda Shapiro, Vegan International, FVA Business Supporter of the year for all and a Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Stella Pavlides for many years of promoting cruelty free products and promoting animal free scientific research that helps both animals and humans.



Elizabeth Olson received FVA's *Animal Hero of the Year* award for dedicating her time to helping dogs and cats in Pinellas County via her non-profit: Rescue Pink. Rescue Pink helps people and animals through their \$20 spay/neuter program, assistance with rehoming, and vet bills. Rescue Pink has fixed hundreds of dogs and cats, saving thousands of unwanted animals from being born. This is an amazing program as people desperately need very low cost or free spay and neuter. The shelters are overflowing and too many animals are being euthanized. Elizabeth also follows local animal cruelty cases and pushes for stringent consequences during sentencing. She is putting together an Animal Abuse Coalition and task force to address the lack of enforcement in the state of Florida.

In 2014, she initiated the anti-tethering law ordinance change in Pinellas County; in 2017 she worked on updating the ordinance to include stricter breeder requirements, mandatory registration of breeders, yearly inspections, and registering pet sales with the county. The law also banned sales of dogs and cats at flea markets and public places, which was a huge victory for the animals; and in 2018 she helped initiate the ban of retail dog/cat sales (animals from puppy mills) in the city of Dunedin.

One example of her current activism is pushing for the accountability of Dexter's killer. Dexter was viciously murdered just days after being adopted from Pinellas County Animal Services by Domingo Rodriguez. Rodriguez was convicted for "animal cruelty" and "disposal of bodies of dead animals." Elizabeth went to all his hearing to stand up for Dexter. She and others dedicated activists are pushing for the passing of **House Bill 225**, also known as **Dexter's Law**. The bill would classify animals that have been abused as victims which could put offenders in jail quicker by providing criminal punishment scoring for offenses.



Florida Highway Patrol Trooper **Orlando Morales** received our 2nd *Animal Hero Award* for his rescue of a dog that was abandoned on I-75 during hurricane Milton. The poor dog was found tethered to a post in grassy area with water practically up to his chest and neck, in severe distress and trembling just hours before Milton made landfall as a cat. 3 hurricane. Trooper Morales was able to safely rescue him and transport him to an animal shelter. Had he not rescued him, the abandoned dog surely would have drowned. The dog was adopted and given the name "Trooper!"

Trooper quickly adjusted to his new forever family but so many abandoned dogs aren't so lucky. This ultimately heartwarming story brought attention to the millions of dogs entering shelters in the US every year and to the importance of not abandoning pets in storms.

A bill nicknamed "Trooper's Law" would increase the penalties for abandoning animals using a restraint during a natural disaster and make doing so a third-degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000. The bill is still pending approval!



Activist of the Year – Jacinda Shapiro

FVA has been fortunate to have an amazing group of volunteers since its inception in 1989. Each year, we recognize one activist who stood out for his/her contributions during the year before. This year it was an easy choice to vote for Jacinda, as FVA's Activist of the Year.

Jacinda is a dedicated volunteer, regularly attending FVA events and taking part in numerous demonstrations against animal cruelty. Most recently she attended one of the "Save our state parks" protests, held to stop golf courses, pickleball courts, and hotels from being built in our state parks. She took part in a protest at the site where a retired racehorse, Funny Bizness, was illegally and brutally

slaughtered for meat. She then assisted in rescuing some of the surviving animals and courageously documented the heartbreaking loss of others.

This inspirational activist has spoken at local county and statewide hearings on multiple issues. They range from opposing the retail sales of rabbits, to speaking up for proposed state bills in Tallahassee that affect animals, the environment, and people. She has driven alone to many of these opportunities, including a public hearing to protest shark fishing tournaments, where she faced an unfriendly audience and officials that were not kind. Despite the hostile environment, she remained steadfast in advocating for the animals.

(Continued on Page 3)

FVA in Action - Quarter 1, 2025

Dear FVA members, friends, and readers,

Again, we share with you our FVA meetup events! We have over 4739 signed up as 'interested' in our group and activities. As you can see, we continue to have a variety of opportunities for you to become involved. WHERE ARE YOU? Please join our Meetup group, sign up for events that interest you, then attend the events and help the animals! (If for some reason you are unable to attend, *please* be kind enough to change your RSVP. This will help us know what attendance to expect at our events and plan appropriately.)

FVA in the Community /Tablings:

1/2, 2/6, 3/5- **Vegan Support Groups** held the past two quarters. Our monthly meetings are Open Forums, held virtually via Zoom. You can join in great discussions with some regular attendees and new ones each time. No pressure to chat, but we always like everyone to introduce themselves. Join our hosts: **Kimberly Gronemeyer, Psy.D., Myriam Parham, RD, CDCES** and **Cathy Unruh**, Journalist, Author and Animal Advocate.

1/3, 2/7, 3/7 - **Karaoke and Potluck Nights at Universalist Unitarian Church**, a new monthly event organized by **Trevor and Collette Chin**. Those who attend enjoy sharing yummy vegan foods, meeting new people, and having fun singing or listening to those brave ones who do!

1/12 - **Social at Vine Vegan Restaurant** in Brandon – Great food, good times! 20 attended

2/1 - **Social at Lotus Vegan Restaurant** in Pinellas Park – Great food, good times! 14 attended

2/8 - **FVA Tabling at HSTB Bark in The Park, Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, Tampa**, Thanks to Trevor for tabling at this popular event.

2/12 – **PETA Speed Dating event** - FVA promoted, and a couple of members participated in this event intended to help like-minded activists connect.

2/22 – **FVA's Have A Heart for the Animals Annual Awards Dinner Fundraiser**, held at Solid Rock Community School. Tarpon Springs. It was an amazing event, with a delicious vegan meal, our fun silent auction and our wonderful speakers. **Kari Bagnall, Founder & CEO of Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary** delighted the audience with her amazing stories and information about primates. **Michele Fasnacht, Founder of Solid Rock Community School and Solid Rock Sanctuary**, shared the latest news on their animal sanctuary and the role that humane education and the SAVE program (Sanctuary for Animals & Veterinary Education) play in fostering the next generation of compassionate leaders. Several awards were presented. (Read about them in this newsletter).

3/1 - **FVA Presented Will Tuttle, PhD & wife Madeleine - "Healthy Living"** at *Vine Vegan*, Brandon – Will introduced his new book and shared great info to all on how to live healthier. We had approximately 12 attendees

3/2 - **FVA Tabling at Vegan Street Fest 2025** – Thanks to **Laura Weiss & Paul Murphy** who tabled

3/6 - **FVA & Sarasota Vegan Society Presented World Peace Author Will Tuttle, PhD | Food For Freedom Tour 2025** - lecture and book signing with wife **Madeleine Tuttle**, at Fam Kitchen, Sarasota. We had approximately 40 attendees. Thanks to **Paul Murphy** for hosting.

3/8 - **Christspiracy Screening**, Town N Country Library, Tampa **Will Tuttle, PhD**, who was in the movie, emceed & had a Q&A after the movie with the 22 attendees. If you haven't seen this movie, we strongly encourage you to check it out in their website: <https://christspiracy.com>, you won't regret it.

3/15 – **Solid Rock Community School Saturday Market** – Thanks to **Trevor & Laura Pennington** who tabled at this event and interacted with many of the attendees.

3/16 - **Laughing Pig Sanctuary Volunteer Workday** – At the request of LPS Founder, **Annette Wrubleski**, FVA volunteers spent the morning helping in many areas to help make the residents more comfortable and the Sanctuary look nicer. The 11 volunteers were able to finish the project "to do" list and were able to enjoy a brunch at Vine Vegan in Brandon afterwards. Thanks to **Kim, Trevor, John, Mikael, Annika, Deb, Jeremy** and others.

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FVA Board at Have-A-Heart Fundraising Dinner & Silent Action held at Solid Rock Community School

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HAH (Continued from Page 1)

Jacinda has been our TBVF Speaker Coordinator for the past 3 years and is an amazing speaker herself. She has spoken at Solid Rock Community School Markets, Diabetes Educators local meetings and at national symposiums. As a registered nurse and diabetes educator, she works very hard to help her patients learn about the benefits of a plant-based diet, and how to make needed lifestyle changes to improve their health while saving animals. Jacinda is a kind and compassionate human being, and a good friend to many. We are especially fortunate to have such an amazing voice for the animals.



Lifetime Achievement Award - Stella Pavlides

Stella prefers not to be in the limelight. She does not seek credit or recognition, but merely does what she does to help animals and humans. We first met her in 1999, when we were doing dog & car washing fundraisers. Stella generously donated the cruelty free shampoo that she had created herself, called "Naturally Yours, by Alex."

This dedicated activist has been promoting animal and cruelty free products for years. In 1995, Stella founded the American Vitiligo Research Foundation (AVRF).

No animals were used in the research. The foundation supports finding a cure through alternatives to animal testing, and focuses on helping children with Vitiligo, a life-altering skin disorder

Her most recent foundation, '2 Dogs on a Mission', was created in 2018. It is named for 2 rescues that helped to educate the public about fatal mitral valve heart disease, and how it affects millions of dogs and cats in the US. Stella raises funds to help support mitral valve surgery and helps our companion animals through more effective legislation. The goal of the foundation is to help as many dogs and cats as possible, regardless of age, to have a second chance at living their lives to the fullest.

Stella has donated many silent auction items to our Have a Heart (HAH) Awards Dinner, our main annual fundraiser. At this year's HAH, she donated a beautiful mug to each attendee. She has even shared the proceeds of her own fundraising raffles with FVA. Stella has already given so much to animals, and there are no signs of her slowing down.

FVA Supporting Business of the Year – Vegan International, Nick Alami, owner



Vegan International, this year's award recipient, has been very supportive of FVA for many years. In the past, they provided a vegan place for the FVA board to meet, and to enjoy the many tasty options offered at the restaurant. Nick, the owner, has continued his support throughout the years, which has included donating V.I. gift cards for many of our past HAH silent auctions.

Vegan International has been a huge presence as a vendor at many of our Tampa Bay Veg Fests. They have also been a tremendous help in promoting the event.

Last year, with only a couple of weeks' notice, Nick organized a mini vegan festival on the day our TBVF was supposed to have been held. FVA had been forced to cancel TBVF, due to the impact of the hurricanes on the venue, and on too many of our board members and volunteers. By stepping up, Vegan International helped to provide a venue for some of the vendors, who had been counting on attending TBVF.

Nick has expressed a commitment to continue to support FVA & TBVF in the coming years. I'm personally happy to hear that, since I think he makes the best vegan Gyro! Please note that the Vegan Halal Cart is the V.I.'s food truck at TBVF, and various other events throughout the year.

Buddhism & Vegan Living

Dr Will Tuttle

With the recent celebration of Parinirvana Day, commemorating the historical Buddha's complete enlightenment upon leaving his physical body 2,500 years ago, we may wonder about the Buddhist teachings and their relationship to vegan living. A non-theistic religion with well-known foundational teachings, such as the [Four Noble Truths](#) and the [Eightfold Path](#), Buddhism's central teachings aim to liberate the mind from ignorance so that it awakens to the truth of being. Buddha means "awakened one" and the Buddhist Dharma, or teaching, emphasizes cultivating mindful awareness through meditation practice that is supported by ethical living.

In Buddhist ethics, both human and non-human animals are equally considered worthy of ethical treatment. The underlying principle of ahimsa, which is non-harmfulness to others by any action of body, speech, or mind, applies to all sentient beings. The Buddhist teachings are unequivocal on this point; Buddhist practitioners are called to practice mindful compassion in all their relations with other living beings who are capable of suffering.

For this reason, the practice of vegetarianism and veganism is widespread among Buddhists in many Asian countries. Buddhist monasteries have been centers of vegan living for many centuries in China, Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Japan, for example, due to the Buddhist ethical prohibition of eating animal flesh and eggs, and the absence of any pre-existing dairy tradition. The Buddhist teachings also emphasize minimalism as well and discourage waste and overuse of resources out of respect for animals, nature, and others.

Buddhism teaches that our true nature is eternal consciousness, which makes our physical body possible. We erroneously identify with this body and its conditioned thoughts and feelings, and it is this delusion that keeps us filled with craving and aversion, causing us to be reborn in endless lifetimes. This endless round of suffering is known as Samsara. Depending on the depth of our ignorance, we may be reborn in a variety of realms, such as the human realm or the animal realm, or in lower hell realms of acute suffering, or higher heaven realms of relative comfort. All are temporary, and the only ultimate liberation is through Prajna, the wisdom that arises through Sila, ethical living, and Samadhi, meditative equanimity and insight.

Thus, Buddhism is a religion that emphasizes, above all else, the importance of ethical living—practicing respect for all expressions of life—coupled with meditative discipline that tames and trains the mind to free itself from conditioned thinking. These two practices, Sila and Samadhi, reinforce each other. The more our actions of body, speech, and mind are ethical and filled with lovingkindness for others, the more we remove inner hindrances and clear a path to be able to

abide in the open, sky-like awareness of pure, joy-filled consciousness that is no longer bound by clinging to the false sense of a fundamentally separate self. As this meditative insight increasingly establishes itself in our awareness, we naturally act in ways that are ethical, because we directly understand and experience the deeper truth that we are not essentially separate from others. It becomes obvious that in harming others, we harm ourselves, and in helping them, we help ourselves and all living beings.

The basic Buddhist teachings call us to question cultural narratives that promote violence to living beings and to ecosystems, and to dedicate ourselves to lives of kindness and respect for others. All expressions of life are seen as infinitely interconnected, and the more we awaken from culturally-imposed delusion, such as purchasing animal-sourced foods and products, the more we are awakening our innate Buddha-nature, and authentically contributing to the health, happiness, and freedom of the world community that includes all living beings.

For myself, because I was born and raised in Concord, Massachusetts, the locus of the American Transcendentalist movement, it seemed natural to begin studying the writings of Emerson, Thoreau, and Alcott in my college years in the early 1970s. Transcendentalism, one of the first philosophical currents to emerge in the U.S., emphasized intuition over empiricism, and was strongly influenced by the just-emerging translations of non-Western spiritual teachings such as the Bhagavad-Gita and other yogic, Buddhist, and Taoist texts. This led me to the Eastern spiritual teachings of India and China that had inspired the Transcendentalists and activated an intense interest in me regarding the possibility and path of spiritual awakening. I discussed these new ideas with my younger brother, Ed, and a few months after my college graduation in 1975, we decided to go for it and dedicate our lives to attaining enlightenment. We thought the best approach would be to head west across the country to California, emulating the sages of ancient India, walking without money and with minimal possessions, as a meditative pilgrimage.

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(Buddhism & Vegan Living, Continued from Page 4)

Walking west to Buffalo, and then south over many weeks through Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, and into Tennessee, we discovered a variety of spiritual communities and some meditation groups. In Summertown, south of Nashville, we stopped for several weeks at The Farm, the largest hippie commune in the world at the time, with about 900 young people living there, and most of them were from, poetically, California. They informed us that they were vegetarian, although today we would call them vegan, because they ate no meat, dairy, eggs, or even honey, and many eschewed leather and other animal-sourced products, but the word vegan back in 1975 was almost completely unknown. I haven't eaten meat since the day the people at The Farm explained to me the connections to world hunger, and to animal abuse, and provided their example as a thriving community, without about 200 children, most of them vegan from birth. The primary motivating influence on their vegan living was the Zen Buddhist teaching that they were following, and the ancient Japanese Zen practice of *shojin*, which is ethical eating that consumes no animal products.

We eventually walked on south to Huntsville, Alabama, and further deepened our understanding of Buddhism and vegan living in meditation centers there and in Georgia, and in San Francisco. I became vegan in 1980, and a few years later shaved my head and went to South Korea to live as a monk in a Zen monastery there called **Songgwangsa**. This Buddhist spiritual community had been practicing vegan living for 750 years, since the 13th century, refraining from animal-sourced foods, leather, wool, silk, and even from killing insects. My experience at the Zen monastery dramatically deepened my understanding of the intimate interconnections between vegan living and the essential Buddhist teachings, and now I find it fascinating to see the many ways that the awakening experience of the historical Buddha many centuries ago in India is still rippling out into our culture today, usually in hidden ways, inspiring and nurturing what we refer to as vegan living, as well as meditation, spirituality, peace, and self-reliance.

There are many more questions and nuances to be explored in understanding the relationship between Buddhist teachings and vegan living, and these fields beckon future exploration. In the meantime, we can give thanks for the inspiration and wisdom of the out of the narratives that legitimize exploiting other living beings, and instead treat them with respect and kindness.



Dr. Will Tuttle, visionary author of the international best-seller, *The World Peace Diet*, published in 18 languages, is a recipient of the *Courage of Conscience Award* and the *Empty Cages Prize*. He is also the author of several other books on spirituality, intuition, and social justice, including *Buddhism and Veganism*, *Food for Freedom*, and *The World Peace Way*. A vegan since 1980 and a former Zen monk, he is featured in a number of documentaries and is a frequent radio, television, and online presenter.



Will's Healthy Living presentation at Vine Vegan Mar 2025. Trevor Chin, Madeleine & Will Tuttle, Myriam Parham, Suzanne House & Diane Koon



Will's Q&A at Christspiracy film screening at Town N Country Library, Mar 2025.

FVA in Action (Continued from page 2)

3/19 - New College of Florida, Sarasota – Laura Weiss took 3 students, from the college, shopping for vegan products for their student pantry. **Laura & Myriam** had virtual meetings with New College staff to coordinate Spring & Fall FVA donations. Laura reported that this was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn more about eating healthier and plant-based on a budget.

3/23 – Al Lopez Park Quarterly Cleanup – We had 10 attendees, many of our regulars **Laura P, Ron Gray, Suzanne House, Lawrence, Myriam, Tom Bird, Anne Marie, Trevor, Teegs,** and newcomer **Chelsea**. Thanks to all!!

Al Lopez Park Year-Round Feral Cats feeding, trapping for medical care and/or sterilizations- Coordinated by **Tom Bird**, volunteers take turns once a week making sure the cats are fed. Thanks to **Tom, Suzanne House, Ron Gray, Laura Pennington, Amy Anderson, Maggie Litchman, and Kenny Echezabal** for doing this 365 days a year. Total dedication!

Media and Other Activities:

2/12 – WMNF Talking Animals, Duncan Strauss interviewed Myriam Parham regarding our 30th Annual Have a Heart for the Animals Awards Dinner Fundraiser, held on 2/22.

3/25 – Lobby Day Tallahassee, hosted by Kate MacFall, HSUS Florida and Alicia, Prygoski, Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) – attended by FVA members **Ted Ellquist, Myriam Parham, Laura Pennington, Jacinda Shapiro, Holly Barbour & Gary Hansell**. We all met with our respective state legislators to discuss current animal related bills being considered by them. In general, we were very well received this year. Several bills are doing well and seem pretty well received. Trooper's law (SB 150 & HB 205), would make it a crime to leave your dogs behind tied during a disaster/storm; Dexter's law (SB 502 & HB 255, (named after the dog adopted in Pinellas county who was beheaded the next day) would make animal abuse crimes more serious and asks for stronger punishment, hopefully jail time and one that would protect Florida State Parks from having golf courses, pickle ball courts & hotels built (SB 80 & HB 209)

FVA sends donations to local shelters - Sanctuary Monthly Donations:

- Jan - \$200 donated to– Gray the cat for vet bills – Suzanne nominated**
- Feb - \$200 donated to Jungle Friends, Gainesville – Myriam nominated**
- Mar - \$200 donated to Sarasota in Defense of Animals – Trevor nominated**

PLEASE consider helping us with our feral cat colony medical bills fund. This also helps sterilize any cat that joins any of the colonies.

FVA Demos for the Animals:

1/18, 2/1 - “Go Vegan Demos” at St. Pete Saturday Morning Market, organized by Hussein Mourtada.

1/25 - PETLAND protest in Bradenton, to reinstate the Ban of Retail Pets in Manatee County – hosted by Laura Weiss

3/13 - Black Bear Hunting-Virtual Public Meeting - the Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC} hosted a virtual public meeting to hear comments about potential options for regulated black bear hunting in Florida. Unfortunately, their focus was not on whether to have a bear hunt, but how to implement one. Comments were limited and controlled, with them only posting comments they approved. A good number of FVA member's comments and many others managed to get posted opposing the hunt.

Actually, many of the categories, such as when, how long, and what type of weapons to use were filled with “anti” bear hunting comments. If you were unable to attend but wish to provide input, you can email your comments to: [BearComments@MyFWC.com](mailto: BearComments@MyFWC.com). There will also be more meetings in April and May where you can have an opportunity to oppose the hunt. We need to keep voicing our opposition to this totally senseless hunt. The majority of Floridians have repeatedly opposed any bear hunting.

3/30 – Renaissance Festival Dade City, to protest elephant rides, and having other animals, such as camels or other wildlife performing at their events. FVA joined PETA member **Lauren Abercrombie,** and Animal Defenders International. **Trevor, Diane Moreton, Myriam, Laura Pennington and Connie McMahan.**

Please check our FVA meet-up calendar to join us at events like these and more so we can get to know each other. Finally, PLEASE support vegan restaurants in your area. Most need your support to survive these difficult times. If you can't dine in, order take out! We hope to see you soon!



3/25 Lobby Day, Tallahassee: Kate MacFall, Laura Pennington, Myriam Parham, Jacinda Shapiro, Holly Barbour, Ted Ellquist



3/25 Lobby Day, Tallahassee: Laura Pennington, Senator Burgess, Myriam Parham



3/23 Al Lopez Park Cleanup: Anne Marie Cancio, Trevor Chin, Chelsea, Laura Pennington, Tom Bird, Suzanne House, Myriam Parham,

You can receive this newsletter via email or download it from the FVA website. To go paperless, please email fvaonline@yahoo.com and let us know. You will both help the environment and to enable FVA have more resources for helping animals.

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GOOD NEWS



☺ **Mar 2025: Mexico City Congress passed measure to make bullfights less harmful to bulls and matadors** The measure, among other things, will not allow bullfighters to use spades and swords to attack the animal, which in turn will have its horns covered to prevent injuries to humans. In recent years, several other Latin American countries have banned bullfighting. Last year, Colombia passed a measure to phase out bullfights by 2027.

☺ **Mar 2025: India doubles its tiger population** The number of tigers grew from an estimated 1,706 tigers in 2010 to around 3,682 in 2022, according to estimates by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, making India home to roughly 75% of the global tiger population. The study found that some local communities near tiger habitats have also benefited from the increase in tigers because of the foot traffic and revenues brought in by ecotourism.

☺ **Mar 2025: PETA Victory! Animal-Free Science Gets Funding Boost** After a push from PETA, animal-free science is rightfully taking over the spotlight at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Food Research Institute. The institute has created an entirely new fund dedicated to non-animal science, which will ensure fewer sponsorship dollars go toward mutilating, poisoning, and killing sensitive animals in pointless experiments. The move comes after PETA successfully rallied many of the institute's sponsors—including PepsiCo, Campbell Soup Company, and others—to restrict their donations to the institute from funding cruel and ineffective experiments on animals.

☺ **Mar 2025: PETA Victory! Another Circus Goes Animal-Free!** More than 50,000 PETA supporters asked the Mysterious Circus to end its cruel animal acts, and now, the venue has confirmed that it is animal-free. This victory follows the venue's use of a geriatric elephant named Okha, who was supplied to the circus by Brian Franzen, a man who has been documented striking an elephant in the face repeatedly.

☺ **Mar 2025: PETA Victory! Peet's Drops Vegan Milk Upcharge Just Days After Campaign Launch!** Just days after PETA launched a nationwide campaign pressing Peet's Coffee to stop charging extra for vegan milk, starting with a plea from longtime PETA pal Sir Paul McCartney, the chain announced it would do just that!



Our mission is to educate the public about animal abuse and exploitation. Please renew your membership if it has expired. Check your label.

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All events are 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, and then sign up.

Visit <https://newdaynewchef.com/episodes/> to watch **New Day, New Chef** vegan cooking show hosted by **Jane Velez-Mitchell** Every Tue & Thu at 10:30am WUSF Ch 16.3 **Christina Cooks** cooking show with **Christina Pirello** Every Wed at 11am 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/> or live every Tuesday at 6PM EST on The Dr. Don Show on KAAA and KZZZ at <http://www.talkatoz.com>

4/2 12p-3p **FL Black Bear Zoom** <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/96561628155>

4/3 5p-8p **FL Black Bear Zoom** <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/94803064202>

4/5 9a-12p **FL Black Bear Zoom** <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/91550331906>

4/3, 5/1, 6/5 6:30pm **Vegan Support Group** Zoom Mtg. FVA is hosting a series of vegan support groups on the first Thursday of each month to help you cope with the challenges of living in a non-vegan world. Please check FVA Meetup Calendar.

4/4, 5/2, 6/6 6:30pm **Vegan Potluck & Karaoke**, Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa, 11400 Morris Bridge Rd, Tampa 33637 FVA hosting this fun event every month. Bring a vegan dish and your best singing voice. Please RSVP on FVA Meetup.

4/19 10a-6p **FVA Tabling at Central Florida Earth Day**, Lake Eola Park (East), 512 E Washington St, Orlando, FL 32801 Central Florida Earth Day is an exciting day of colorful and educational exhibits and activities! Admission is FREE! Earth Day is a family-friendly, dog-friendly, alcohol-free, and smoke-free event. Earth Day is a vegan event; for information on why, please go to the "Why Vegan?" page. Earth Day, now in its 20th year, is the biggest and best Earth Day festival in Central Florida! 2025 is the 56th anniversary of Earth Day! Anyone can volunteer to help put on this great event. Please visit <http://http://www.cfearthday.org/>

4/26 9a-3p **FVA Tabling at EcoFest**, Learning Gate Community School, Hanna Campus, 16215 Hanna Road Lutz FL 33549 32801 Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering to help with this event. Shifts are 9a-11a, 11a-1p, 1p-3p. Please RSVP at FVA Meetup.

4/29 6:30p-9:30p **FVA/SVS Film Screening "The Animal People"**, Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Ct, Sarasota, FL 34236. Joaquin Phoenix created this in 2019 to highlight 6 animal rights activists persecuted under the Terrorist Act. Please RSVP on Meetup.

5/21 **FWC Commission Mtg FL Black Bear Mtg, Ocala** Details at <https://myfwc.com/hunting/bear/>

TBA 10am-11am **FVA's Al Lopez Park Cleanup**, 4810 N Himes Ave, Tampa, FL 34614 Volunteers are needed to help clean up Al Lopez Park. The animals could use your help to keep their environment clean. Bring drink (eg water, coffee, energy drink, Gatorade), sunscreen, bug repellent, hat, sunglasses, long pants & long sleeves. Gloves, trash bags & grabber poles will be provided.