



In this issue:

- Arizona Gives Day
- Connecting you to the Oasis Mission
- Office Updates
- Oasis Reflections—Cuddles
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Capital Project Announcement
- Discover The Oasis 2017
- Our Special Birds
- 2017 Board of Directors / Management
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- Lori Bell, Development
- Intake / Foster
- Ginger Duplisse, Tom & Ruth Ann La Rue

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Wow, it's Spring already and we have a busy few months planned full of fun events and ways for you to be engaged with the mission of The Oasis.

On **Tuesday, April 4th** Friends of The Oasis across the country will be able to make a huge difference for the Birds!

"Arizona Gives Day" is a day for Arizonans and friends of Arizona based charities, to come together to show support for the state's nonprofits over a 24 hour period. On April 4th, from 12:00 am to 11:59 pm, supporters can connect with causes they care about and make a tax-deductible donation.



Last year, your generous donations helped to exceed our goal and raised \$39,000 that went to support the care of the birds at the Oasis! This year, we're hoping to do even better by surpassing that donation mark. **If every person who receives this newsletter donates just \$10, we would surpass last year's amount and raise \$65,000! Wow, what we can do collectively is amazing! Can we count on you?**

By participating, we not only raise funds for essential operating expenses such as food and medical but we will also be eligible for significant monetary prizes. Every donation counts, regardless of the amount. So mark your calendar now and spread the word for this important event!

[Review our AZ Gives Day profile and NEW video!](https://www.azgives.org/the-oasis)
<https://www.azgives.org/the-oasis>

The Oasis Sanctuary Foundation Ltd. is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation, EIN #86-0885646. The Oasis is registered with the Arizona Secretary of State as a Charity. All monetary and in-kind contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Connecting You to the Mission of The Oasis

By Janet Trumbule, Executive Director of Administration



Office Updates

We are always looking at ways to streamline and improve processes. Sometimes a small change can have a big impact so we want you to know firsthand about a recent change.

We want everyone to have a receipt for giving a donation as soon as possible. Ruth Ann has been solely responsible for sending receipts for all monetary and in-kind donations. Our current systems make this a tedious process. In an effort to serve you faster and offer Ruth Ann a little relief our accountant, Kathy, will now send giving receipts for all monthly donors and sponsorship donors as soon as your gift is processed.

Ruth Ann enjoys sharing a personal message with you but since this process won't pass through her hands now she won't have the opportunity to do so. But that's okay, she'll know that your donation has been received and will always be available to speak with you personally if you need assistance, or if you just want to say hello.

We value our relationship with you and we'll have other opportunities to reach out to you with a personal touch. How to reach Ruth Ann at the Oasis office: 480-946-4955 or off.mgr@the-oasis.org

At last, we have our newsletter out to you! We regret that it's been more than a year since we sent a publication, but we are thrilled to present the first edition of our new refreshed format. We hope you enjoy the stories, photos and updates we have to share.

The Oasis will be celebrating our 20th anniversary this year. Our founder, Sybil Erden, established our roots and guided this organization through its infancy, and beyond. Many of you first offered your support in those early days, which provided the means to develop a very sound and solid footing. Today, we continue to grow and strengthen our ethical, forward-thinking organization and maintain our standards as a world-class refuge for the parrots we all love.

The avian welfare environment has greatly changed over the last twenty years. Not only are record numbers of companion parrots being displaced but rescues of large numbers of suffering birds occur far more often. Rescues and sanctuaries across the country are at maximum capacity and finding it more difficult to cope with the increasing numbers of birds in need.

The Oasis is not impervious to these problems, but we continue to strive to ensure the safety of as many birds as possible. With managed growth we are committed to providing care for our flock for *their* lifetimes. Our policies and principles guide us onward to ensure we are here to help the birds that will require care in the future. In this issue you will read more about our capital expansion-our next goal to ensure we can continue this work for the next 20, 40...100 years. Baby Macaw, now just 10 years old, is counting on our future success.

Keeping our current operation running smoothly is just as important as our long term goals. This year we'll be tackling another re-roofing project...this time the Small Bird Aviary. This was the first aviary built in 2003 and it is time to address the aging condition of the roof. On our administrative side, a complete donor management system is under consideration. We have long struggled with antiquated, time consuming manual processes and need to improve efficiencies for the office staff. This would allow us to serve you better and spend more time helping the birds.

The important piece to all of this is YOU! None of this could be possible without you, our caring supporters. The work continues because the need remains and we are exceedingly grateful to have you by our side.

Baby enjoys life in the Macaw Aviary



I Waited Eleven Years For You

Written January 20, 2016 by Ruth Ann La Rue

Dear Cuddles,

In May 2005, you were 12 going on 13. Mommy was celebrating birthday number 80 in June. Since Mommy had no bird friends in Arizona an online friend of hers asked me to visit Mommy and you. After visiting Mommy and I became friends. Then, we arranged, in writing, for you to come to The Oasis Sanctuary when Mommy could no longer care for you. Our arrangement was for you to remain with Mommy for as long as possible, but always have that "next" place ready for you.

You came to stay with me on three occasions over the next ten years. Each occasion meant leaving your home. You found yourself surrounded by strange birds, two strange people and food that was not what you wanted. None of the visits went well. You are a Grey Parrot after all. You want things to be YOUR way. That meant staying at home with Mommy! You showed your displeasure with visiting Chez La Rue by chewing off your wing and tail feathers and biting when my hands came near you. The message you communicated on those visits was clearly that Mommy was your darling and you did NOT need extra care.

Finally, I got a call on January 15, 2016. It was time for me to pick you up for the "forever" time. Mommy's heart was failing. She needed care in the hospital. She would not come home.

Mommy took wonderful care of you, Cuddles. She made the right decision early so she knew that you had a place to go when it was time to leave her. She enjoyed your company and your love sustained her. As I traveled to pick you up, I wondered how I could explain to you that your life was changing. Could you ever accept ME? You did not like me at all.

Well, YOU knew Cuddles. You knew it was time to change your life and accept the love of someone else. You knew that this

time you would not return to Mommy. You stepped right up for me and said, "I love."

I waited 11 years for you to come to me, Cuddles. You are learning to reach out, take chances and trust me. I do not care that you pulled out all your feathers and you are a little Fuzzy Cuddles.

Now you are a Fuzzy Cuddles who has a forever home at The Oasis Sanctuary. Your new home is in my foster care, but The Oasis is your forever home. I am teaching you to trust new



people and places. On January 15, 2016, you showed me you were ready for this adventure. I waited eleven years to show you the world that is The Oasis Sanctuary. You know that Mommy will always be with you, in your heart and in your mind. But, The Oasis is now your home.

UPDATE: Mid-February 2017 – Cuddles has perfect wing feathers and tail feathers. She is talkative, plays all day long and shows her newfound confidence by her beautiful feathers.

The Family That Volunteers Together Stays Together

Will you sponsor me?



My name is Harley. I am a Blue and Gold Macaw. I started life in Illinois where a young couple purchased me as a just-weaned baby. Life was good for about 18 months, but then my owners had a human baby. Suddenly Mom and Dad ignored me and every time I called to them, they yelled "Shut UP." I thought it was a game and said, "Shut up" back. Soon they covered my cage all the time and put me in a closet. Once a rescue organization rescued me, either I yelled "SHUT UP" or I would whisper the words I knew to say. My early experience scarred me emotionally. I do not want to be around people. I want to be a bird. I came to The Oasis Sanctuary in 2008. I never learned to fly and the Macaw Aviary at the Sanctuary was too scary. I live inside now and feel safe. I am sixteen years old. My best friend is Imus who also is a Blue and Gold. Imus is old and wise. The Caregivers say I learned every bad habit Imus knows. We are so happy when we get into trouble. Now all I need is a sponsor to love me and maybe send me toys. To see more birds available for sponsorship, visit <https://the-oasis.org/bird-sponsorship/>

By Julie Dyson

We recently had what was jokingly referred to as "Bring your Parents to Work" week. Staff members Joe and Lilly, each had their parents visiting at the same time last year. While each family spent time together enjoying the local area, the rest of the time was spent volunteering.

Joe Bill and Carol Dyson came out from Indiana to spend a week with their son, Joe Jr. or Little Joe. They spent their volunteer days weatherproofing the new deck at the volunteer house, cleaning mini-flights, mucking pens and tackling several overdue clean-up projects. It was rewarding for them to see the important work that Joe does. As Carol said after she returned home... "I'm so proud of you Joe Jr. You have really put your heart and soul into this job".



Bill and Jean Croft, parents of Lilly Croft Morphew, worked on separate projects. Jean took on the task of pulling weeds. She got to spend a lot of time with her favorite bird, Nikko (Umbrella Cockatoo). They would talk back and forth as Nikko watched Jean work near his aviary. Nikko would share his affectionate "I love you" and Jean couldn't help but say "I love you too".



Bill worked on repairing the double door safety enclosure to the Lory Aviary. He also repaired a deck and spent time inspecting the mini-flights and securing wire fasteners which had loosened over time.

We are grateful for all of our volunteers. The extra help always makes a world of difference for the staff and the birds.

So what do you have planned for your next family vacation? You might consider bringing the whole family out and lend a helping hand at The Oasis. If interested, please contact Julie Dyson at the sanctuary to schedule your volunteer time.



Thank You Volunteers!

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Julie Dyson at 520.212.4737 or oasis@the-oasis.org. Visit our website for more information <https://the-oasis.org/volunteer/>



Flying Into Our Future

Although The Oasis has been resourceful over the years, recent growing pains have challenged us and it is time for a new investment in our birds. The current aged building used for food prep and storage is literally falling apart around us. The space is small, cramped, poorly insulated and just worn out. The Pumpkin trailer is at capacity, extremely cramped with limited natural light.

We are excited to announce the official launch of The Oasis Sanctuary Expansion Project! It's been many years in the planning stage and we are ready to raise the necessary funds to bring this dream to reality. This is the next step in our 20 years of continued growth, one that is long overdue.

This \$1.25 million campaign will bring new facilities to enable further enrichment for the birds and efficiencies in operations. With the construction of two structures, a bird building and service center, we can offer the birds the best of both worlds. With indoor and outdoor options, the bird building will offer choices and greater independence for up to 150 birds. It will have a climate controlled interior, misting system and a well ventilated outdoor area. Designed with retractable doors, the birds will have the option to move freely from inside to outside areas when the weather permits.



Current food prep and storage building



Current indoor area for birds, Pumpkin Trailer

Architect drawings of the Bird Building & Service Center



BRIAN LOCKHART ARCHITECT Ltd.

Many efficiencies will be gained by the service center such as expediting washing and sterilization of food and water bowls which currently takes 4 or more hours to complete.

We're off to a slow start and thank those who have "purchased" a part of the building project but we have a long way to go. We are currently at \$27,380 of \$1.25 million to make this dream a reality. Won't you be a part of the Oasis Bird's future?

My heart belongs to the Oasis birds!

For any donations \$100 and over, you will receive this one of a kind, adorable lapel pin designed exclusively for The Oasis capital expansion project. There's a limited quantity, so get yours today and help build a better home for the birds.

<https://the-oasis.org/capital>



Please visit our dedicated webpage to learn more about the project, how it will benefit the Birds of The Oasis and opportunities for you to be part of this critical project.

<https://the-oasis.org/capital>

Or call Lori Bell at 602.819-6140

If you don't have internet access, please call Lori at the number above and we can mail you detailed information about this project.

Every gift counts because every bird counts.

Help us Fly Into Our Future!

Discover The Oasis 2017

May 6, 2017, 10am-4pm

Join us for a day full of educational presentations, silent auction, time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones and of course plenty of time to visit with the special birds and animals of The Oasis.

We are pleased to present keynote speaker Dr. Brian Speer who will offer great education opportunities you won't want to miss. Janet will share an update about The Sanctuary including the recently launched capital expansion project. During the afternoon, the birds will be eager to see you. Self-guided tours of the outdoor enclosures will offer you plenty of time to meet, or reacquaint yourself with your favorite Oasis residents, enjoy lunch and mingle with Oasis staff and parrot lovers from around the country. A silent auction will be held, offering many items you will love! Bid throughout the day for the end of day auction closing.

REGISTER TODAY! Your participation in this one day event will directly benefit the Birds of The Oasis!

Online at <https://the-oasis.org/discover-the-oasis-2017/>

By Phone with Ruth Ann La Rue at 480-946-4955

Oasis Members - \$60 per person

Non-Members - \$75 per person

(Lunch, snacks and liquid refreshments are provided)

For those of who attended last year, we hope to see you again. And for those who are thinking about attending, just do it! It will be a remarkable experience you won't forget.



I wish I may, I wish I might

A few Items from Sophie's Wish List:

- **Plastic pet carriers**, any size, new or used in good shape
- **Newspapers**, for use in indoor cages
- **Portable misting towers**, for use in aviaries and enclosures
- **Unsalted Nuts** from Nuts.com

Still Together After All These Years

By Janet Trumbule

Jacqueline (Moluccan Cockatoo) and Sparky (Double Yellow-headed Amazon) are one of our most unusual couples at The Oasis! They have spent more than 40 years together, sharing some good times and bad.

As wild-caught birds imported in the 1970's they were lucky to



have found each other. Their owners committed many years to them but provided inadequate care. For more than 20 years, Jacqueline and Sparky shared a large flight cage with three other birds – a pair of macaws and a small cockatoo. They were fortunate to have the outdoor space but the aviary was of poor quality. They had no toys or enrichment to keep their beaks busy. So all of the birds “mouthed” the aviary wire year after year, resulting in zinc toxicity.

When the gentleman of the house passed away life changed. His wife kept the birds, but relegated them to a dark basement and only sometimes allowed them time outside in their flight. Their care continued to worsen.



Eventually the birds were relinquished to an adoption organization and they were immediately seen by a veterinarian. The zinc toxicity was diagnosed and treated, but sadly the little cockatoo from the flock was so ill that he did not survive. Sparky was also suffering from constrictive toe syndrome that required surgery and he lost toes on his right foot.

Thankfully, the owner did understand the bond between the birds and gave a strict proviso that Jacqueline and Sparky (and the macaw pair) not be separated. The adoption group tried for three years to find appropriate homes, with no luck. It was unthinkable to tear them apart and in 1998 The Oasis offered both pairs a home where they would always remain together.

Jacqueline and Sparky settled right in and have always preferred their outdoor flight cage. One that is safer, and a larger space they can call their own. Today, Jacqueline requires medication for heart disease and Sparky receives supplements to support his bad liver. But their health issues over the years have not stifled their joy of life. Although they have a true affection for each other, Jacqueline can sometimes be bossy with Sparky. After all these years, he's learned to let her have her way. And then their bond brings them together again.



Footnote: The Macaw pair mentioned is Star (Scarlet Macaw) and Bridget (Blue and Gold Macaw). Sadly, Bridget passed away in 2013. Star has settled into a small flock and loves his friends Pogo and Sarge.