



www.the-oasis.org 520-212-4737 oasis@the-oasis.org

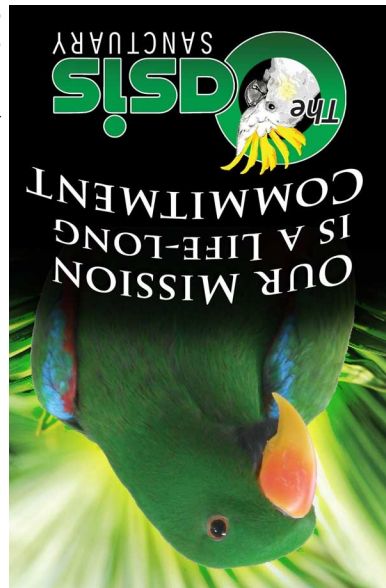


In this life we cannot always do great things. But we can do small things with love.

~ Mother Theresa

The Oasis Sanctuary is a unique life-care facility, dedicated to providing permanent care, shelter and rehabilitation for parrots and other captive exotic birds. The Oasis is often all that stands between life and death for these beautiful, sentient and endangered companion birds. Our first priority is and will remain, the long-term care, well-being and safety of the birds entrusted to The Oasis Sanctuary.

CONTINUITY
COMMITMENT
COMPASSION



The Oasis Sanctuary
PO Box 2166
Scottsdale, AZ 85252

Postage



Fall 2018 Newsletter

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2018 Board of Directors / Management

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- Amber Puckett, Director
- Janet Trumbule, Exec Director of Admin
- Joe Dyson, Exec Director of Operations

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- Morphew, Nicki Whitehead, Kathryn Yochis,
- Ruth Ann La Rue, Office Manager
- Lori Bell, Development

Intake / Foster

- Tom & Ruth Ann La Rue,
- Ginger Duplisse, Lori Bell

Capital Campaign Update

GROUND BREAKING NEWS! With the collective generosity of our committed supporters, we have made great progress toward our capital campaign goal. Full funding for Phase I has been attained and in October 2018 excavation and installation of site utilities began. The construction of the much needed Bird Building in Phase II is scheduled to begin by January 2019.

It's our dream to provide outdoor options for the birds that currently do not have that opportunity, which will offer them environmental enrichment and choices. Choices that promote natural behaviors like digging in the dirt, basking their feathers in the warmth of the sun and the ability for flight. Don't they deserve these simple pleasures?



Rafiki Grey says, "Let the dirt fly and get this built!"

The second building, the Service Center is equally as important and desperately needed. Having a prep area with basic amenities such as a

dishwasher will significantly improve our daily processes to serve the birds efficiently. We really need your help to make the project a reality. You can honor someone for their birthday or special occasion; it's a meaningful gift that really counts.

As always, we thank you for all you do for the birds of The Oasis, and for being part of this important project to support the future of these special birds. Please take a moment to look at the project progress and consider making a gift today.

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

If you don't have internet access or have any questions, please contact Lori Bell at 602.819.6140



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.



In Memoriam

We deeply honor every parrot that has touched our lives and continued their journey to the Rainbow Bridge. Some seep into our hearts more deeply but all are cherished and never forgotten.

It is with deep sadness we share the news of Gulliver Macaw's passing. Gulliver was a Blue & Gold Macaw who experienced some frightful adventures in his young life. Many of you know his rescue story and supported the efforts of Oasis founder, Sybil Erden, to ensure his safe return to the States to live his life at The Oasis.

Gulliver's death was unexpected, and heartbreaking. While under anesthesia for a wound treatment, his heart stopped. The extensive efforts to revive him were in vain. Necropsy indicated cardiac arrest but also an underlying bacterial infection that caused Gulliver's systems to be compromised. Gulliver was just 14 years old. We saw him thrive for ten wonderful years, enjoying freedom in our Macaw aviary. We love and miss you Gulliver...fly free forever.

You can read Gulliver's story at <https://the-oasis.org/gulliver-macaws-rescue/> or simply search "Gulliver" on our website.

Connecting You to the Mission of The Oasis

By Janet Trumbule, Executive Director of Administration

There has been discussion bouncing around social media about the misuse of the term "rescue". Indeed, there are many parrots who are truly rescued-saved from violence, danger and neglect, or liberated from confinement, overcrowding, or the fate of euthanasia. The accounts are endless, heartbreaking and a reality the rescue community manages on more occasions than we would like. There are organizations around the world who step up again and again to help parrots who suffer at the hands of humans.

Then there are parrots who are cherished companions, not unloved or always unwanted, that find themselves displaced simply because of their person's life circumstances or preference. These birds may be people oriented or maybe not, but have come to trust and thrive in the home they know. They don't need rescued, but often need a helping hand when the decision is made to rehome them.

The Oasis' mission has always been focused on helping parrots in need of rescue. But how can we ignore the parrots facing homelessness when there are too few people to take in the unhomed? We continue to receive inquiries for placement of more than 1000 birds a year, mostly companion pets. In our current capacity we can't offer help to all. We try to fairly assess each situation and provide a home to a small percentage who would thrive in sanctuary and that we can appropriately manage.

2018 brought us quite a few new parrot friends...61 in total. Among the new arrivals there are Lovebirds from New York, founding Cockatiels from around Arizona, trafficked parrots from Fish and Wildlife, and unadoptable birds cared for by smaller avian rescues. There are wild caught birds and domestically raised birds, special needs birds and those who came to us through an estate plan when their owner passed away, and more.

It is a dream that rescues and sanctuaries will one day cease to exist...the truth is, that will not happen in my lifetime. In the scheme of things, 61 birds may not be many but it's a huge commitment for Oasis to offer them all life care. This would not be possible without YOU and your continued support. You mean the world to us and to each parrot who finds solace at The Oasis.

Lucy, Kalani and Egor love what Autumn brings!



A New Beginning

Sadly, smuggling of exotics continues to be an issue along the border of Mexico which is considered a "super highway" for trafficked wildlife. It is absolutely horrifying and sickening how many parrots are subjected to this practice at the cost of the bird's lives, in many cases.

Snowey the Mollucan Cockatoo traveled thousands of miles through Mexico to Texas hidden in a shipment of plastic mailing tubes before ending up at The Oasis Sanctuary. He lost his left eye and suffered paralysis after being forced into the tube. He never regained full mobility and his fear of people remained until he passed away 18 years later in 2014. Snowey enjoyed a life at The Oasis where he could be a bird with no pressures.

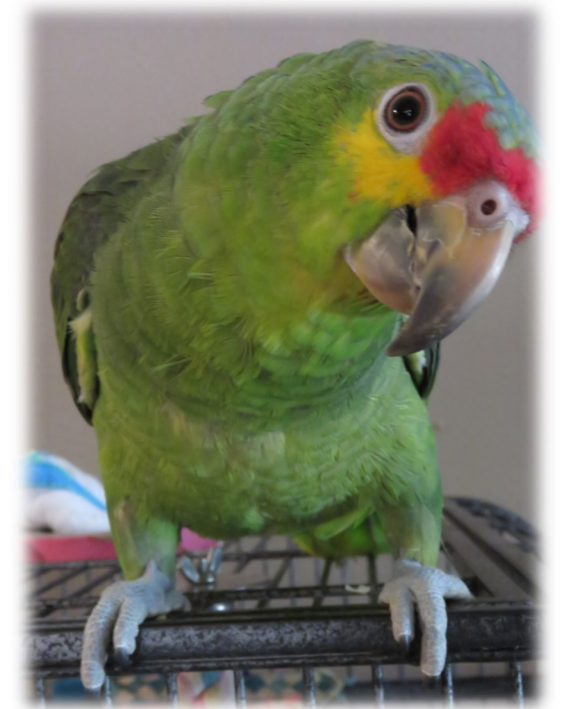


Several years ago, traffickers stuffed three conures into Coca-Cola bottles and tried to smuggle them through Nogales, a border town to Arizona. While two survived and came to live their lives at The Oasis Sanctuary, another suffocated before it could be rescued.

These parrots are among the thousands of wildlife and wildlife products smuggled illegally through the U.S.-Mexico border every year. Fortunately, The Oasis Sanctuary is key for those birds that do survive. For the past decade, The Oasis has given the often-traumatized or injured parrots confiscated all along the border a safe and life-long home.

Amazon parrots are one of the most commonly trafficked species. A few months ago, we received a Red Lored

Amazon who was confiscated by US Fish & Wildlife. This young and frightened bird and a clutch mate were



destined for sale or breeding, perhaps on Craig's List or another market place available to anyone who has the cash. Sadly, the clutch mate did not survive the rigors of quarantine. Like so many other confiscated birds, the survivor came without a name. Every bird deserves a name and we affectionately named him Oliver.

Oliver, still a baby, is estimated to be a year old and sadly came to us with one wing severely clipped...all primary and secondary feathers. Fortunately, he will molt those clipped feathers and it won't be too long before he has his full flight feathers back. He definitely wants to fly...and he tries. Oliver will be able to spread his wings when he is introduced to a flight aviary with other Amazons.

Baby Oliver is now safe at The Oasis Sanctuary, thanks to caring people who support The Oasis.

Please join us on Giving Tuesday, November 27. We'll be sharing eNews and photos of other special birds that came to us by confiscation. Please consider a gift to continue caring for these birds and give them a new beginning that they deserve.

Planned Giving

We are blessed to have so many caring supporters, those that truly love and care about the birds at The Oasis and their future. We often receive inquiries of how to help.

Monetary donations are always needed. These gifts fund the infrastructure and basic needs of The Oasis such as utilities, food, veterinary care and caregiver wages.

Planned giving is a way to include The Oasis now and in your future legacy giving. Naming The Oasis in your **will and estate planning** is one way to help. It is helpful that we are aware of your plan, and necessary if your wishes include for your bird to come to the sanctuary. Please contact the office if you have questions.

When we reach the age of retirement and a required minimal distribution (RMD) from an IRA is mandatory, you might consider directing it or a portion to The Oasis. The RMD is a taxable event but if you direct or donate to a charitable organization such as The Oasis, it is not taxable income to you. Another vehicle is **Donor Directed Charitable Accounts** or **Donor-Advised Funds** which allows donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax benefit and then recommend grants from the fund over time. An easy way to think about a donor-advised fund is like a charitable savings account: a donor contributes to the fund as frequently as they like and then recommends grants to their favorite charity when they are ready.

Donating appreciated stock is another way to give. By donating appreciated stock held for more than one year to a donor-advised fund or charitable organization you can avoid or reduce capital gains taxes.

If you haven't checked with your employer or have switched jobs, check with your company's human resource department regarding **company matching programs**. Many companies will match an annual or monthly donation to The Oasis.

The information provided here is general and is not intended to be, nor should it be construed as, legal or tax advice. Please consult with your tax advisor or attorney regarding these types of accounts and estate planning.



Please help make our wishes come true...

A few Items from Izzy's Wish List:

- **Unsalted Nuts** in shell from Nuts.com or Anuts.com
- **Pet Focus Gallon Concentrated**, for use in daily cleaning of bird cages
- **Industrial gas pressure washer**, minimum 3000 psi *
- **Manufactured or mobile home**, for employee housing*

* Call us for more information



"If you can't be with the one you love... Love the one you're with."

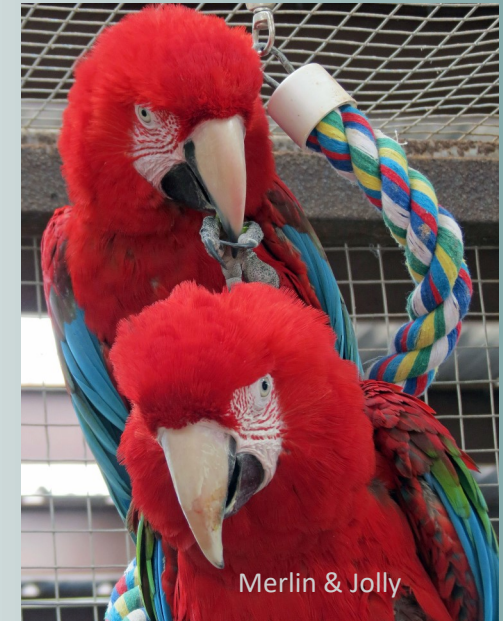
Editorial Comments by Ruth Ann La Rue

Consider these statistics about the large macaws who live at The Oasis Sanctuary.

- ◆ In January 2001, we had 16 macaws in residence; 3 pairs and 10 singles. All lived in individual large cages or outdoor wire aboveground aviaries.
- ◆ In January 2008, we had 32 macaws with 13 pairs and 6 singles. The macaws lived separately as pairs and solitary birds. None resided in free-flight aviaries.
- ◆ In early 2008, 24 macaws arrived in anticipation of opening our 4,000 square foot two-story free-flight aviary.
- ◆ In June 2008, The Oasis had 56 macaws. The hope was all but a few would reside in the Macaw Aviary.

The point I make is not the growth of The Oasis macaw population. This is about macaw behavior, in captivity and in nature. Early aviculture focused on breeding parrots in captivity. The convention was to put a male and female together with a nest box and expect chicks. Breeders did not think of natural selection of mates. Also important to 1990's breeders, was the desire for designer hybrid macaws. Different paired species produced Calicos, Camelots, Catalinas, Harlequins, Miligolds, Shamrocks, and so many more (sadly, this practice continues today). In this period, breeders gave no thought to genetic defects by pairing different species. The focus was color coordination and offering a macaw whose color would match your decor.

Returning to the release of roughly forty macaws to our new Macaw Aviary on May 8, 2008: To our dismay, Oasis Caregivers observed upheaval when the macaws were



introduced to the new space. Unintentionally, we offered macaws the ability to make a choice of mate! We found macaws with decades-long pair bonds divorcing. Single macaws met new friends. Many began courting. At first,

we saw pair shuffling where males chose to court males and females chose to court females as well as the formation of the traditional male-female bond. We saw flirting, food sharing, shunning, fighting, joy and loneliness amongst the flock. Some birds suddenly became aggressive towards others and injuries resulted. It was necessary to remove the aggressors to smaller aviaries so every bird would be safe.

Free choice was new for the birds and it opened the eyes of the Caregivers. We learned what the Macaws had to teach us which was important for their success. As months passed we observed establishment of territories and formation of friendships apart from pair bonding, and the flock began to settle.

At this writing, The Oasis has 65 large macaws. Of those living outdoors, we have pairs in smaller aviaries, small flocks in mini-flights, and a mixed bag of 29 in our successful Macaw Aviary. The most exciting thing I can offer is that, The Oasis Sanctuary offers the chance to "Be with the One You Love." We have tight pair bonds but we also have what might occur in nature – bands of single males and females that feel they have some say in their own companionship. How great is that? Imagine putting the happiness of the parrot before the convenience or profitability of the human.

The Dog Days of Retired Life

Will you sponsor me?



My name is **Baby** and I'm a beautiful Alexandrine Parrot. No one came to look for me after I escaped my previous home. I arrived as a rescue at The Oasis Sanctuary in 2004. I joined the Psittacula flock in the Ringneck Aviary where I lived until this year. I have several toes missing and my flying isn't as strong as it use to be due to arthritis. The caring staff felt it was better that I move inside where it is warmer and more comfortable for me. Now all I need is a sponsor to love me and maybe send me toys or treats occasionally. To see more birds available for sponsorship, visit <https://the-oasis.org/bird-sponsorship/> or call Ruth Ann La Rue at 480- 946-4955

By Julie Dyson

*My face may be white, But my heart is pure gold.
There is no shame in growing old.*

Author Unknown

Often when we talk about The Oasis, we refer to it as a retirement home for birds. For us this means it is the place where the birds will live out the rest of their natural lives. This doesn't really mean that they are elderly or inactive in anyway. It just means they have sanctuary for as long as they live. But we do have other residents that truly do go into retirement. These are our beloved guard dogs.

What happens to these dogs when they can no longer work protecting the bird field at night? This would mean a time when arthritis or other debilitating disease or ailments make it too difficult to patrol like they did previously. For some it can also mean a loss of interest in their job. We have been fortunate to have staff foster our retirees during their later life. The dogs enjoy the comforts of living in a home with much personal attention to their individual special needs.



Anyone that has owned an older dog knows they usually suffer health issues that require special attention. Even though a dog may not be actively working, we still consider them part of the sanctuary family and provide for their well-being when they are in the care of our staff. It is our responsibility to support the dogs care so the caregiver will not have a

financial hardship. The love and devotion they give these special dogs is so very appreciated.

Joe and I are on our third retired dog and our first guard dog flunky. We currently have Jewel, a Great Pyrenees/Anatolian mix that was known for her special bark just for alerting to rattlesnakes. But Jewel refuses to give up the sanctuary entirely. She still likes to come into work with us in the mornings to see the staff and hang out at her former stomping grounds. Then at lunch time, she returns to our house to spend the remainder of the day and night snoozing on a comfy dog bed or preferably the couch. In the last few years, we've had four dogs retire; Jewel, Parker, Dizzy and Elena. Unfortunately Parker's retirement was cut short as he succumbed to seizures which led to his death. This year, Elena lost her battle with cancer and after adjusting to life without sight and hearing Dizzy passed after an apparent stroke. They will all remain forever in our hearts!



Save this Date! Registration coming soon!

May 4 is confirmed for Discover The Oasis 2019. We are pleased to have Kathy LaFollett, Companion Parrot Advocate™ of FlockCall.com. The day will be packed with fun, laughter and lots of time to spend with the Oasis birds.



New Offerings

We bid farewell to Summer and welcome the cooler days of Autumn. It's been a busy year, with both challenges and blessings. As we approach the end of the year, you will be hearing from us even more with heartwarming stories of Oasis birds and projects that you have helped to complete.



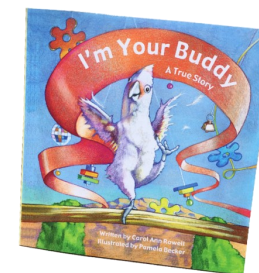
The Oasis will be participating in **Giving Tuesday, November 27**, a global day of giving. By participating, we increase awareness about the mission of The Oasis but raise funds essential for operating expenses such as food and medical. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Every donation counts, regardless of the amount. So mark your calendar now and spread the word for this important event! And remember the birds of The Oasis on this day and make a gift.

Awesome items are available on the online store, great for keeping and giving:

Pre-Order your 2019 Oasis Calendar

From macaws to budgies, The Oasis calendars are filled with gorgeous photography of Oasis birds and their stories to enjoy every month of the upcoming year. Pre-order yours today. \$15 plus shipping.

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



I'm your Buddy Book

A beautifully illustrated and inspiring true story by Carol Ann Rowell about a brave Cockatoo very eager to make new friends in his new home. Available in soft and hard cover. \$13.95 and \$17.95 plus shipping.

Visit our website <https://the-oasis.org/oasis-shop/>

Share a Bottle and Share our Story

Just in time for the holiday season, we have partnered with BenefitWines for a fundraiser to benefit the birds of The Oasis.

We hope you love the sweet Oasis faces pictured on the custom labels as much as we do. These are great gifts for others or to keep and enjoy yourself with family and friends. There are several packages to choose from or you can choose your own favorites if you are a red or white wine enthusiast. The Benefit Wines offered - Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenere, Merlot, Chardonnay, Malbec and Sauvignon Blanc are imported from LaFortuna Vineyards in Lontue Valley, Chile. Read more about the wine varieties, characteristics and order at BenefitWines.com/Oasis

For those who do not wish to order online, there's an order form that you can mail or call in. Please contact Lori at 602.819.6140 or loribell@the-oasis.org to get a form.



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