**Cats from New Haven, Two at a Time**

“**Once upon a time,**

a stray orange cat named Eddie, from Waterbury, wormed his way into my life. Seven years later I met the man who would become my husband, who had two parrots. After we moved in together, we added two wonderful cats from The Robin I. Kroogman New Haven Animal Shelter — Toby and Sparky — who were supposed to be foster cats, but stayed on for more than a decade. During those years, our home’s non-human population grew by two more rescued parrots. And so we lived together — three cats, four birds, and two people.

Throughout those years, the cats provided me with inspiration for my growing pet photography business, Pawtraits by Joy. In fact, they were my muses, always ready to be charming, lazy, gorgeous, coy...whatever it took. Then Eddie, at age 20, died a painless death. And we lost both Toby and Sparky in the two years after that. We were sad and our house seemed empty, even though the parrots often fill our home with chatter. A year ago December we decided it was time to think about another cat.

The first place I thought to look was the New Haven shelter, a place that had connected us in the past with our wonderful Toby and Sparky. When I walked into the area that housed the cats, I was drawn to Peanut (who was named MJ in the shelter), a shorthaired black and white cat...she looked like an abstract painting and had white “parentheses” around her mouth. On my way to her cage, longhaired black and white cat, Baby (named Bella in the shelter) reached her paw through her cage and tapped my arm. And then she cried. How could I not take home both of them?

As I held each cat I was struck by how well socialized they were. I was told that volunteers make sure that each animal has human contact. In fact, I saw one of the male volunteers sitting in the cat room, holding a cat, rubbing the cat’s neck, and talking softly. I was very moved by the amount of effort that the volunteers and staff put into socializing the animals in their care. Not only is it humane, it is crucial to helping them find good homes.

I knew that I would have to tell my husband, Tom, that we were going to have two cats, not one, and so I left my phone number with the staff and asked to be notified if anyone else came in asking about the two cats I wanted. With my husband’s eager okay, I called the shelter and learned that both cats would be on the van at the adoption event the next day. Arriving early at the adoption site, I asked if we could put the two cats together to see if they got along. I sat in the front of the bus with a volunteer. I held the longhaired one, the volunteer held the shorthaired one. They seemed fine together, sniffing each other, calm, and quiet. After filling out the paperwork and paying my fee, I went home with two perfect black and white cats. (Maybe I chose them because I specialize in black and white pet photography. But, no: they chose me, didn’t they.)

Both were vocal on the way home, but were absolutely delighted once they jumped out of the carrying cases into our living room. They spent the better part of the afternoon exploring upstair, downstairs, couches, laps, and chairs, and learning where the litter box was. (They had great bathroom habits. A good thing!) My husband and I had a party to go to that night, but we thought they would be fine for a few hours by themselves. When we got home, they were lying on our bed, ready to snuggle up for an eight-hour catnap. We were awakened in the morning by Peanut. She had dug out an empty cat food can, carried it up the steps, and placed it on Tom’s pillow. She wanted breakfast!

Joy Bush gives Peanut a squash while Tom Gilmore snuggles Baby. (photo: Thomas A Brown)

Joy Bush, Hamden
Greetings from the Executive Board

This year we are once again setting the bar for new and innovative programs. Our dog training program now offers monthly workshops for current volunteers and a mentoring program so that new volunteers learn consistent handling skills.

The fundraising committee is developing community programs to support our shelter animals, many of whom arrive straight from the street and need much medical care before they are ready for adoption.

All adoptable dogs and cats are featured on Petfinder with not only descriptions and photos, but also online videos of the dogs. This is a detailed and time-consuming project but one that the volunteers are determined to provide so that our dogs have a better opportunity of being adopted.

Another committee is expanding and enhancing our website. Please visit us at findafriendforlife.org where you can meet our many wonderful adoptable animals and take a look at our Wish List. Long lost objects tucked away in the dark corners of your closet might be just what we are looking for!

Meet the Executive Board

Jill King, president, has been a volunteer for about 10 years. She has two pit bulls from the shelter and competes with both dogs in agility. She also has four cats, one from the shelter and three strays. Jill is on the fundraising committee and training team committee.

Debbie Wan leads our online video program and bathing program. She also is a mentor in our dog training program and a member of the fundraising committee and the training committee. In addition, she attends adoption events, walks dogs, and maintains our Google lists. She is invaluable to us. She has a beautiful dog she adopted from a shelter.

Elaine Spinato always steps up to the plate, organizing special events like Yappy Hour and also tending to the nitty-gritty matters of our finances. Elaine also serves on the fundraising committee and attends every adoption event. No matter what needs to be done, Elaine is there and volunteers. She has even volunteered her husband, who is now on the website committee. Please read more about Elaine and Jim and their dogs on page 3.

Carol Feiden, recording secretary, can always be counted on to keep us focused and moving forward. She maintains the minutes of meetings, serves on the fundraising committee, and helps organize meetings, adoption events, and volunteer records. Carol attends every adoption event and works specifically with the cats. Carol lives with three cats and also cares for feral cats.

Jeanie Ranalli hand writes thank-you notes to all of our donors. A ceaseless source of ideas and enthusiasm, she also created and maintains the FHNAS website and leads the website committee. Jeanie has a pit bull she adopted from the shelter and two rabbits abandoned at the shelter. She also fosters our shelter rabbits while we look for their permanent homes.

Editor’s Note: A special acknowledgment to past-president Deletta Corvel, who resigned her position to dedicate her time and considerable energy to what she loves best — and does brilliantly — hands-on placement of some of our more challenging dogs. During the past several weeks, Deletta has succeeded amazingly at finding homes or rescue groups for dogs who have special needs or temperament issues, giving them a real chance at a new life. In some cases, the dogs have simply been at the shelter so long that, despite the attention of volunteers, their conditions had begun to deteriorate from the stress of confinement. We thank Deletta for her dedicated service as president and for her ongoing commitment to saving lives, one dog at a time. We also acknowledge the support she has received from Officer in Charge of the Shelter Stephani Johnson and the shelter staff.

FRIENDS in the community

MUTT-I-GREES Thanks to an almost magical series of events…and some amazing people…the Friends was able to reach into the future to help people and animals through the power of education. It began when a generous donor presented us with a $1,000 check for our Buddy Fund for Humane Education. Sometime after that, we heard about an innovative curriculum program for elementary school students developed by the Pet Savers Foundation at North Shore Animal League America and Yale University’s School of the 21st Century. Funded by the Cesar Millan Foundation, the curriculum is called Mutt-i-grees and combines social and emotional learning with language arts and humane education. The goal is to foster empathy while enhancing the youngsters’ social awareness, relationship skills, and problem-solving abilities. At the time, however, the program was being offered at select schools from Arkansas to California…but only for pre-k through grade 3. When we learned that a Mutt-i-grees conference was scheduled for the Omni Hotel in New Haven last summer, we got in touch with our friends at the St. Martin dePorres Academy in New Haven, an innovative middle school that has shown a longtime interest in humane education. Two faculty members, Allison Rivera and Kelly O’Leary, were eager to attend the conference. So: 1.) We used the Buddy Fund to cover their expenses. 2.) Allison and Kelly made a great impression on the people from Yale. And 3.) BINGO, St. Martin dePorres was made the pilot school for developing the middle school Mutt-i-grees curriculum for students across the country. In March, 10 fifth graders from St. Martin’s spent a week commuting to North Shore Animal League in Port Washington, NY, where they were animal shelter interns, learning everything about rescuing animals from the importance of spay/neuter to evaluating temperament and finding good homes. The internship was the culmination of weeks of classroom work that helped the students develop their sensitivities to animals while expanding their academic experience. Teacher Allison Rivera, a lifelong animal rights advocate, called the entire week “thrilling,” combining her passion for teaching with her commitment to animals. “One thing I love about this experience is that it will have a lasting influence on the kids,” she says. “It’s important for these students to see how they can integrate what they’ve learned into their lives and community.”
Jim Spinato told his wife that he was in love with an older woman and was bringing her home to live with them. When they’d met at Bishop’s Orchard amid the corn maze, pumpkins, and cider donuts, he knew she was the one. Her stylish cable-knit sweater made her an immediate standout and her brown eyes twinkled adoringly at him. The “older woman” was a 12-year-old, 12-pound Chihuahua mix named Kiki.

Jim, one of the Friends’ volunteers, has always thought of himself as an English bulldog fanatic, owning four of them during the past two decades. He was used to the big shoulders, loud snoring, and lumbering walk that slowly carried his bulldogs from the food dish to the couch. But animal lovers believe that it’s the chemistry that speaks, not the age or physicality of the dog. And so it was when he adopted Kiki.

Kiki’s story is truly one of survival and longevity. She was found walking along the railroad tracks in New Haven and was rescued by an Amtrak worker who brought her to the shelter. Her tiny body shows signs of age and wear. Her legs have a few fatty tissue deposits, her underbelly has some benign tumors, and she has just one tooth. Her tail has some hair loss that may have been due to an unknown injury. But when she’s happy, that tail wags back and forth like a metronome. There is just no keeping her down. Jim had second thoughts about adopting an older dog but those doubts have disappeared. He can’t imagine his home without her.

“I just want to give her the best of everything — it’s what she deserves,” he says. “I can’t imagine anyone tossing her out and expecting her to fend for herself. It’s hard to believe that she survived traffic, bad weather, nothing to eat. Who knows what kind of life she led out there on the streets? She’s suffered enough, and the least I can do is make her life comfortable and safe.”

Kiki has made fast friends with Bunny, Jim’s 64-pound English bulldog. He calls them the “twins.” There was a bit of a spat when Kiki first arrived but Bunny has learned that sharing is easy. Each dog has her special food dish, water bowl, and dog bed. Kiki prefers a jaunty walk with Jim while Bunny is content to observe from the porch, keeping watch over her domain. Upon Kiki’s return, Bunny sniffs her to confirm that she’s done her business and stayed out of trouble. Then, all three hunker down for a good movie — a western, maybe a film noir — or a lively round of Jeopardy!

— Elaine Spinato, Volunteer

FRIENDS... in the community (continued)

**A Banner Day!** SPECIAL THANKS to volunteer Rich Devalle for coordinating the production of a beautiful new banner donated by Ron and Sean, the great guys at Sign Place in West Hartford. Pictured left to right are volunteers Sara Klopfenstein, Johanna Piper, Ronel Namde holding Sheba, Deb Wan, Pat Grandjean, and Leo Taylor.

**Made in the Shade** THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER can be rough on our pups, especially when they are aching for some exercise and fresh air. That’s why tails are wagging in thanks to Scott Massey of Awning Cleaning Industries in Hamden for donating a cheerful red awning to keep them covered in sun, rain, and snow. Above: Officer in Charge of the Shelter Stephani Johnson, her son, Julien, Sheba, and Scott. (That’s Sheba in the photo to the right, too. We are happy to report that she was adopted in mid-May. Good luck to you, Sheba. You are a great dog.)

FNHAS HAS BECOME A PARTNER WITH HELPING HANDS Community Thrift Store & Furniture Bank, 1592 State Street, Hamden. The Friends receive 18 percent of the sale price of all items sold through the thrift store that are donated to Helping Hands and designated to FNHAS. Donations are tax deductible for income tax purposes. So clean out your closet and basement and put that stuff to work for the animals. Call (203) 782-4800 for details.
Please, if you're looking for a pet: adopt! But if you can't give a pet a permanent home, volunteer or donate! They need you!

Don’t be fooled: Lori Hillson is fierce. For the past 15 years, as one of The Friends most reliable volunteers, Lori has been on the frontlines for New Haven’s cats, fighting city hall when necessary, taking on whatever powers-that-be, and speaking out, loud and clear, for what she sees as justice and fair play for felines. She has also been an indefatigable fundraiser. Her secret weapons for winning the hearts and minds of the public — and collecting large amounts of spare change? Charm, determination, and a good supply of cookies!

Whether it is the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Oyster Festival, or any other number of community events, Lori is there, oatmeal raisin cookies at the ready. Sometimes she is up to the wee hours of the morning before an event, baking brownies, sugar cookies, and other delights. Her goodies never fail to lure passers-by to The Friends table, inevitably prompting donations of anywhere from $1 to $25 — just for a couple of cookies and a healthy serving of Lori’s tart but delicious humor. “People see me,” she says, “and holler, ‘Hey, there’s the cookie lady. I gotta have one of her famous cookies.’”

For the last six years, Lori has spent her weekends at PETCO in Hamden, setting up a table on Saturday for cat adoptions, and on Sunday working with other volunteers who bring a select few of the shelter’s dogs. Her presence there has helped to forge our ongoing relationship with Petco, as well as raise our profile in the community and find homes for many cats and kittens. Lori’s ability to connect to people and animals alike has earned her the respect and affection of countless adopters. Lori’s daughter Lisa and granddaughter Erin occasionally offer their support and time, as well, demonstrating that dedication to animals is a Hillson family trait.

During her years as a volunteer, Lori has fostered countless felines who have graduated from her New Haven home to the shelter and then to permanent homes of their own. “I don’t know why,” she says, “but I just love the cats. Some of them have been so tiny. I was like their mother. I could help them.”

And it seems the cats love her in return, even neighborhood ferals, who have been known to drop their newborn kittens into her cupped hand because they seem to realize that Lori will help. Her commitment to cat rescue has led to numerous adventures. Once she found herself in her own front yard at 3 a.m., in her pajamas, scouring the shrubbery with a flashlight looking for a pair of strays, when she noticed a police cruiser making its way down her street, the beam from the officer’s flashlight combing through the shadows. Apparently a neighbor saw her flashlight outside at that late hour, called the police, who in turn came looking for someone in the shrubbery with a flashlight. Namely, Lori. Not wanting to be discovered in her jammies, she laid low and the police car departed the scene, leaving Lori to sneak back home and call it a night. At other times, she has waded through hip-deep snow banks and held back angry dogs, all to protect a feline-in-need.

Lori spent the last eight years as a member of the City of New Haven’s Humane Commission, which oversees shelter operations. She also helped found Thunder’s Pet Food Pantry, a service of New Haven’s Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen. Throughout her career, she has met countless wonderful people — so many great friends, she says — and even more remarkable cats. Among her favorites are MommaCat and PoppaCat, two strays she cared for several years ago. MommaCat now lives with a neighbor, while PoppaCat, who died much too young, became Lori’s own dear companion. “I saw MommaCat and PoppaCat show such love for each other. It was wonderful. All the cats I’ve taken care of have left pawprints on my heart. Oh,” she sighs, “I could write a book.”

Lori, we thank you, and look forward to your wonderful book!

ATTICUS AND KELLY: Made for Each Other

“It has been said, for as long as I can remember, that dog is man’s best friend. I could not agree more with that sentiment. As a child, I grew up with purebred German shepherds, and those dogs instilled in me the absolute love of dogs that I possess today. For certain, I am the quintessential dog person. I have always been an advocate of adopting animals — the number of furry friends who need homes is unfathomable to me. How could such amazing beings be so neglected?

I don’t know what it was exactly, but one day it dawned on me: I needed to adopt a dog. I wanted to rescue someone who I knew needed a loving home, no matter what their past was — everyone deserves a second chance. (Yes, I talk about animals as if they are people.) There aren’t a lot of options where I live when it comes to trying to adopt a pet, so I decided to hit the internet and check out Petfinder.com.

The website was overwhelming at first, there are just so many dogs — but I narrowed it down. I wanted a male dog and I wanted to get him from a city shelter that sometimes faces the horrible problem of dogs with difficult temperaments or too little space. I knew there was an animal shelter in New Haven that met my criteria, so I scrolled through the pages, and that’s when I found “Nutmeg #424.”

There was something about his face — he was just a puppy — but he had an expression that made him look wise. I just knew I’d met my match. I immediately picked up the phone and called the shelter — I told them I was coming to get that dog. Quite frankly, I don’t think they believed me, but I said I would be there within an hour, and I was. I pulled into the parking lot and looked around for the entrance, and there he was — outside with a volunteer, but without any other dogs. I asked if that was Nutmeg. She said he was. I asked if I could come in. She said yes. It was love at first sight — I had never felt so welcomed so quickly in my life, nor had I ever received so many kisses! That was it, he was coming home. I didn’t even have to ask Nutmeg to get in the car; he just jumped right in. He knew I was his mom. It was the best decision I had made in years, just one of those things that I knew was right. He slept on the floor of the back seat all the way home and walked beside me immediately — that’s never changed.

His name now is Atticus. He is a big, strong boy with an equally strong personality. We are best friends, and this is true love. I don’t know what I’d do without him. We’ve had many adventures and there are many more to come. Some may say they’ve rescued a dog, but in reality, I think Atticus rescued me.

Lori and her beloved PoppaCat, 2005.
**AN EXTREMELY NEEDED MAKEOVER**

The lobby of The Robin I. Kroogman New Haven Animal Shelter was in serious need of a makeover for several decades. From the moment I began volunteering in early 2010, I thought of how beautiful our shelter could look with a little TLC from our dedicated volunteer group. I began asking around, seeing if other volunteers would be interested in such a project. Thankfully, volunteers Delette Corwel and Leo Taylor were the first two people to become proponents of the cause…and the project was then brought to the volunteer board. Once my project proposal was written, it was taken to the shelter’s Officer in Charge, Stephani Johnson, who gave her thumbs-up. Officer Johnson even asked if we could add a few things to the project, making it more extravagant than we had planned. When she said, “How about we paint the front doors?” I knew this was going to be fun.

Now, it was time to get donations. Our city’s animal shelter has zero funding for projects that involve cosmetic alterations. We were very lucky to receive donations from several volunteers, along with much of the paint and materials donated by Sherwin Williams. After three long Sundays of painting, and more than 20 volunteers helping out, we got the job done!

My mother, artist Jeanette Kuvin Oren, designed the delightful Pop Art murals we now see on the shelter walls and front doors. Our lobby went from drab to fab in a matter of days, and we brought high morale to a place that truly needs it. Our shelter volunteers work hard to promote the shelter dogs and get them adopted, so it seemed only right to show the public that they are still fit and capable of providing love and joy to human companions. The volunteers and shelter staff added a dash of beauty care along with a big dose of attention, helping our older friends feel like puppies and kittens again!

There is also news about a few others who have benefited from your generosity: **Billy**, a four-month old border collie received surgery for his cherry eye, which relieved a nagging discomfort and made him even more adorable than ever. **Dotty**, a gorgeous pit bull (with an amazing face) was one of three dogs treated for the serious disorder of heartworm while staying with her new adopted family. **Freya**, a beautiful calico cat, presented with a challenging case of anemia requiring multiple doses of B12, B-complex, medication, transfusions, and hospitalization. Her eyes and the volume of her purr clearly express her happiness at being well and living in her new home. Your contributions have also supported costs for spay/neuters when there are complications or very large, older animals.

**THEN THERE WAS HOLLY, A BADLY INJURED DOG WHO CAME TO US AT THE WINTER HOLIDAYS.**

Officer in Charge of the Shelter Stephani Johnson and our veterinarian Dr. Gerald Fischbach appealed for help on WTNH-News 8. In the spirit of the season, your generous donations covered not only Holly’s medical needs (so that she could heal and find her permanent home in North Haven), but also the medical emergencies of several other desperate animals in our care.

**Sweeney** (below), a handsome cat with a severe leg injury, had to have an amputation and is now quite happy in his new home with volunteer Megan. A tiny **chihuahua mix puppy** was found in the snow with substantial injuries from another dog. Because of your gifts to Holly, this little chihuahua received extensive care, including surgery and prolonged treatment for a major infection. She exuded love and persistence in her effort to recover, and her foster mom, Jewel, supported her. **Tula**, a pit mix puppy, was discovered in very poor condition that required a high level of diagnostic skill because the source of her problems was difficult to identify. Following a hospital stay, tests, transfusions, medication, and fostering, this little girl recovered and is currently in her new home in Branford.

A thank-you in every language, dog and human, would not begin to be enough for your generosity.

Please know in your heart that you have done a very good deed, and spread love in a very special manner.

— Karen Marchione, Volunteer
In memoriam

We are grateful to everyone who made generous donations to The Friends during the past six months. We list here donations made in memory of and in honor of beloved animals and people. All of your donations help us provide a second chance for the good and loving animals who come to our shelter for help. We… and they… thank you.

August Akselsen in loving memory of Cosimo and Viola.
Kathleen and Alexander Alison in loving memory of Lawrence D’Angelo.
Nancy Alexander and Phil Bernstein in loving memory of Homer.
Ellen Alpert in loving memory of Robert Wolfson.
Lydia Aurelli-Crepon in loving memory of Armada Johnnie, “my beloved retired racer.”
Fred Baciocchi and Beth Oliver in loving memory of Lawrence D’Angelo.
Brian Blackley in loving memory of Neil-Bob.
Rosemary Booth in loving memory of Taco.
Stacey Brown in loving memory of Lawrence D’Angelo.
Diane Caffrey in loving memory of Molly.
John and Cassandra Ciuollo in loving memory of Lawrence D’Angelo.
John and Barbara Clark in loving memory of Lawrence D’Angelo.
K.D. Codish in memory of Norman Marchione.
Lauren D’Alessandro in loving memory of Yoda, “12 years of joy.”
Ruth Friedland in loving memory of Bubba.
Dorothea Gaehler in loving memory of Spike, “my companion for 10 years.”
Jan and Louis Giordano, in loving memory of Sammy, “our beloved best friend.”
Sharon Howell and family in loving memory of Jodie, a sweet black puppy from the NHAS who enriched her family’s life for 14 wonderful years.
“To celebrate Inca and the magical way he was able to express his feelings.”
E.B. Jacobs, LLC, in memory of Norman Marchione.
Beverly Johnson and Richard Stolz in loving memory of “our beloved Diamond, Melica, and Buff Pitt.”
James Johnson and Laura Margolin in loving memory of “Boston Blackie” and his sidekick, Mr. Lucky. “A fearless duo.”
Kelly Katara in loving memory of my dog Toby. He was a rescue dog. They are the best.
Eileen Keogh in loving memory of Biff.
Maryann and Philip Langdon in loving memory of Norman Marchione, father of volunteer Karen Marchione. “Thank you for your service to animals.”
Jessica Leake in loving memory of Lawrence D’Angelo.
Edward and Alice Mattison “in memory of Eli Matitia, a lifelong friend to animals and those who save them.”
Rosemary and Thomas Legge in loving memory of Lawrence D’Angelo.
Rita Levassor in loving memory of Lucy, “our gentle feline friend. Missing you.”
Mary Malick, “Rest in Peace: Junior, Ollie, Spike, and Molly.”
Albert and Eileen Moquet in loving memory of Lawrence D’Angelo.
Elisabeth Moore in loving memory of Katherine, Carlton and Dylan’s Delilah, and Cara and Jimmie’s Curtis.
Martha Sinclair Nabstedt in loving memory of Dalton, “whose life was short but filled with love. Forever in our hearts. Love you. Mommy and Harmony.”
Audrey and Patrick Neylan in loving memory of Max and Eli, beloved companions of David Zollin.
“In memory of little Missy, the prettiest little butterfly girl.”
Anne Ollctt and Robert Beech in loving memory of Fuzz, “a cat who triumphed over adversity.”
Carly Osborne in loving memory of Carly’s Emma.
Ashley Perugini in loving memory of my uncle Bob Bowen.
Marsha Rabe and Thom Brown in loving memory of Lily, beloved companion of the Beacom Family.
Marsha Rabe in loving memory of Norman Marchione, “a man who loved animals.”
Jean Rubin in loving memory of Rusty, Smokey, and Baby Theodore.
Maryann and Robert Santa Barbara in loving memory of Sabrina, “our wonderful and loving black Lab.”
Ethel Sciacco in loving memory of Poppy, “beloved companion for 12 years. ‘Til we meet again.”
Judi Sheffel in loving memory of my sweet, gentle cocker spaniel, Dylan.
Colette Sirois in loving memory of Lawrence D’Angelo.
Jen Taylor in loving memory of Tucker, “a wonderful friend!”
Wild Bill Taylor in remembrance of Dr. Pepper.
Linda Turner “in memory of Max. Rest in Peace.”
Martha Walzczak in loving memory of Mr. Tony de Rosa, “who loved animals.”
Cindy Walker and Patrick Edwards in loving memory of Hercules. “We miss you.”
Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity (Sally, Allison, Rick, Jessica, and Melanie) in memory of Norman Marchione.
Susan and Tim Yolen in loving memory of Isabelle and Dignan Yolen.
Stephan R. Young and Mark Ryan in loving memory of “our beloved Maggie, from the New Haven shelter.”

In honor of…
Anonymous in honor of volunteer Lori Hillson.
Edith Brown in honor of volunteer Anna Schildroth.
Marsha and Tom Brundle in honor of Muffin “and the fun she brings to our lives. Adopted from NHAS 2008.”
Monica and Ernest Cofrancesco in honor of Harley D., “8½ and doing great.”
Michael Desmond in honor of Zoo Dovyalis.
Evelyn Fowler in honor of the wedding of Sarah Miller and Lee Cruz.
Barbara Gajewski “in honor of my loving pet cat of 12 years, Grayson.”
Joanne Goldblum in honor of Maya Lew’s bat mitzvah.
David and Sally Katz, “Happy Hanukkah in honor of Alex Teller and Family.”
Michael and Susan Keeneey, “In memory of the family of animals.”
Kelly Krasko on behalf of Ray Dalo.
Debbie Lovel, “To Carol Feiden for her dedication and commitment to FNHAS and for her years of good work for all Furry Friends.”
Nancy Manoni, in honor of Abbott, “who I adopted from FNHAS 8 years ago. He makes my life complete.”
Edward and Alice Mattison “in honor of Gracie, a shelter dog.”
In honor of an amazing woman, Joan Ellen Marcini, and Frank, the kitten.
Vito and Karen Mazzella in honor of “Kira (#229), whom we adopted from FNHAS on 9/20/08. She has brought us so much joy and is the perfect addition to our family.”
Diane McGuire in honor of Moe, “who says ‘Hello’!”
Ann and Chad McLaughlin in honor of Greta Honen-Cress.
Susan Papa from Claudia Schatz in honor of Granny, Cheesie, and Julie.
Barbara Parry, “This modest gift is given in honor of my two dogs, Tintin and Decca. Thanks for taking care of them — until I came along.”
Joyce Paci in honor of Phantom and Baby.
Dennis and Kathryn Rosenfeld in honor of Bragg and Tucker.
“Thanks so much for the work you do and for bringing two wonderful friends into our lives.”
Carol Santacruze in honor of “my baby,” Buster.
J. D. Savard, “In honor of Tesa (and Toda raba).”
Susan Spero and Gary Heller in honor of Tonka.
Holiday Greetings from Joy Tanaka “in honor of Gunter, who turned four in August, and whose favorite activities are basking in the sun and playing fetch with George.”
The Taylor Family in honor of Lily. “A special thank-you to volunteer Jeannie Ranalli.
We are so lucky to have Lily.”
Debby Wan “In honor of my fellow volunteers with the FNHAS.”
Sara Welch in honor of Emmy and Bodie, who “wish for happy pets!”

BirthDy Wishes:

Marsha Silverman Brunelle on her special birthday from Gloria Schulman.
Debbie Lovel from Barbara and Conrad Boucher, James and Mary Elizabeth Crispino, Leroy Daniels and Robert Guidry, Sharon Friedman and Ricky Cyr, Marlene and George Klein, Pamela Nyri, Candace Rodak and Dori, and Samantha Wnek.
We have made every effort to include all tributes. If we have missed anyone or misspelled any names, please let us know and we will include you in our next newsletter. Thank you for your understanding. The editor.

Our special thanks…

Blue State Coffee, New Haven, tor including us in its nonprofit donation options during the last six months. Lottu java and incredibly generous donations brought in more than $8,000 for our medical fund. We hope to be part of the next round of donations at Blue State Coffee, so stop by, have a cup, and make sure to donate to FNHAS! Our thanks to manager Drew Rubin and staff.
Congregation Mishkan Israel, Hamden, for its continued support through its annual Mitzvah Mall. This event enables children in the religious schools and adults in the community to contribute to worthwhile local charities and to learn about the practice of tzedakah, “charity” or “justice. Toda raba, or “thank you very much.”
The Curran Foundation, New Haven, for its generous donation to support our work.
The Dodd Middle School, Cheshire, National Junior Honor Society (Donna Lee Goodwin, advisor) for baking up a great batch of goodies to sell during our recent visit to The Cheshire Cat and Dog, Too. The students’ enthusiasm and generosity raised funds for medical care and helped us have a successful day of adoptions.
Hillel Children’s School at Yale, for its generous donation. The children and families of this school voted on where to send the money they collected each week for a charity, and animal concerns were their first choice.
We are “thank you” very much.
The editor.

We have made every effort to include all tributes. If we have missed anyone or misspelled any names, please let us know and we will include you in our next newsletter. Thank you for your understanding. The editor.

Matched Gift Program.

Pitney Bowes Matching Gift Program.

Car Donations: John D’Agostino, Max Simmons, and Matthew Storm for donating their cars to us through Car Program, Inc. (For information on how to donate your car, visit www.findafriendforlife.org. Click How to Help and scroll down to Donate a Car!)