





## A Letter from our President



**Hello PPGC Members!** 

What's New With Pet Partners?



New Logo and Tag line "Sharing the love of therapy animals" and more PP approved Colors





#### How does this affect you?

If you have ordered from Lands' End (shirts, jackets, etc.) or Raspberry Fields (vest & bandanas) the Pet Partners logo has already been updated for your purchases. If you are a new customer of Lands' End, go to: <a href="mailto:business.landsend.com/store/ppgc">business.landsend.com/store/ppgc</a>, create an account, place order, PP logo will automatically be chosen. If you are a current customer with Raspberry Fields, you are all set. If you are a New Customer, contact <a href="mailto:membership@tpgcpets.org">membership@tpgcpets.org</a> for instructions on ordering.

When Pet Partners changed their name they also changed their colors from the green vest with white lettering to brown or gold vest with some pink or black lettering and pink heart color points. These colors were never very popular. As a Community Partner we were obligated to start changing to the brown & gold, however we did have the option to use our own branding of colors for the shirts. Since the conversion was very expensive, costing thousands of dollars, the Board wanted to pick colors that people would want to wear and still go with the PP colors. The PPGC Board voted on our colors of gray or teal. Because we felt the importance of the colors helped to clearly identify our organization and that the change would also cost the members additional expenses, PPGC Board voted to pay for a new vest and shirt for each of our current members. In keeping aligned to PP, it looks like we chose the right colors since PP has added teal and the logo is becoming more gray than brown.

PPGC's preference is to keep our shirt color choices to the gray or teal, and use the same colors as Pet Partners, gold or brown for the vest, bandanas, and shirts if you have them.

The reason we would like to keep the color choices limited is the same reason the Bengals use black and orange. It is a recognizable brand color. Just as red is Therapy Dogs International's (TDI) color and blue is Alliance of Therapy Dogs' (ATD) color. If you have other color shirts, we do not expect you to stop wearing them. However, with the change of not having to wear badges, our color branding is more crucial in recognizing teams as Pet Partners. (more to come on the badges)



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#### New Online Handler's Course, New Handler's Manuals, Updated Assessment

#### How does this affect you?

Unless you downloaded a new manual in the last 6 months, your current manual is outdated. So some of the information is not correct. This does affect you since the Assessment you take to renew your PP handler's registration has changed.

If you have not taken the Online or the In-Person Handler's Workshop in the last 5 years, consider re-reading the Handler's Manual or attending a workshop. Handlers have found the workshops to be very informative. *If there is enough interest, we are considering giving a condensed version, a less than 4 hour refresher course covering the changes in PP policies and the key points from the all day Handler's Workshop.* 

Please let me know if you are interested or have questions. marilyn.edwards@tpgcpets.org

#### Examples of the type of questions on the Assessment:

Fill in blank with Reliable, Predictable, or Directable

\*Because Sassy is \_\_\_\_\_, Dell knows that she will walk pass the food.

\*The Facility staff is impressed by how well-behaved Sassy is and confident how the team's behavior is.

Are these behaviors Avoidant or Approaching behaviors?

- \* A guinea pig accepts a treat from your hand, but will carry it back to her house to eat.
- \*A miniature horse is relaxed and still when being groomed by others.
- \*A rabbit will approach new people to say hello, but only when they have a treat.

Is this an example of AAA, AAE, or AAT?

\*Lisa and her dog Chance are invited to a second grade classroom as part of a unit on community safety. Lisa talks about how to interact with dogs that you don't know, and the lesson ends with everyone practicing how to pet a dog.

Know the Team Qualification matrix:

\*A parent and their child are checking out books at the local library while a therapy animal reading event is being held. The parent signs up the child to read with a therapy animal for 15 minutes, because it looks fun and encourages the child to read.

The child enjoys it so much that they plan to come back next month for the same event.

Team Qualification Matrix- Predictable or Complex?



## Treasurer's Report



	Pet Partners o	of Greater Cincinnati dba of Greater Cincinnati 6/30/2023	
4th Quarter		Year to Date	
4th Quarter		6/30/2023	
		0/30/2023	
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$26,268.17	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 19,075.58
Income	\$ 2,656.29	Income	\$ 18,473.99
Expenses	\$ 1,620.57	Expenses	\$ 10,245.68
ENDING BALANCE	\$27,303.89	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 27,303.89
ENDING BALANCE	\$27,000.00	ENDING DADANCE	27,000.00
INCOME		INCOME	
Dues/Membership	\$ 350.00	Dues/Membership	\$ 1,680.00
Donations	\$ 646.29	Donations	\$ 9,643.78
Evaluations	\$ 500.00	Evaluations	\$ 2,060.00
Shirts	\$ 280.00	Shirts	\$ 760.00
Workshops	\$ 880.00	Workshops	\$ 3,360.00
Other/CC Refund		Other/CC Refund	\$ 970.21
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2,656.29	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 18,473.99
EXPENSES		EXPENSES	
AACR Reimbursements	\$ 212.09	AACR Reimbursements	\$ 608.09
Booth Fees		Booth Fees	\$ 300.00
Evaluations/ General/ Workshops	\$ 385.96	Evaluations/ General/ Workshops	\$ 5,275.90
Insurance	\$ -	Insurance	\$ 887.00
Luncheon	\$ 1,008.80	Luncheon	\$ 1,008.80
Donations-Glenna	\$ -	Donations-Glenna	\$ 250.00
Shirts	\$ -	Shirts	\$ 1,720.34
Bank & PayPal Fees	\$ 13.72	Bank & PayPal Fees	\$ 195.55
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,620.57	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,245.68

## Susan's Musings



#### A NEW ROLE

Currently, our PPGC Board is primarily a governance board – setting the strategic direction and assuring the financial health and ongoing operation of PPGC. During our June Board meeting, our President, Marilyn Edwards proposed adding an additional, non-voting role to the Board, that of Executive Director. In addition to approving this new role, they also appointed me to that position.

So, what does this mean? In general, the expectation is that my role will be looking at long term strategies that will provide greater continuity and accountability on several key strategic areas.

Over the coming months, I will be focused on the following areas:

#### **Benchmarking**

• I will be looking at the organizational structure and operations of other successful organizations, both Pet Partners and non-pet therapy related groups. So far, I have been in extensive conversations with Denver Pet Partners (check out their website – it is impressive). Their Board Chair has been extremely generous with his time and has helped provide meaningful input on our efforts to upgrade our website as well as suggestions for possible operational changes. I will be looking at other organizations in the near future.

#### Recruiting/Membership

- We have been blessed with strong partnerships with our local hospital systems who have helped sponsor several "Volunteering With Your Pet" information sessions over the last year as part of our recruiting efforts.
- We were able to offer workshops at St. Elizabeth and Mercy West in addition to our usual Bethesda North and Mercy Anderson sessions.
- We are looking into offering these sessions over Zoom. This is an area where I could use some help (brainstorming how to reach potential members, possible use of listservs and QR codes, folks willing to do the presentation). If this is of interest to you, please contact me:

susan.steinhardt@tpgcpets.org, (513)236-9860.

#### Funding/Grants

- Over the last several years, I have been the point of contact for the local Magnified Giving Program (where students learn about philanthropy and select non-profits to research and propose giving grants to; we have received over \$6000 over a 3-year period).
- This year, we have also had several opportunities to apply for grants. While our current operating budget
  is sufficient for our ongoing efforts, we are looking at possible investments in technology (using tablets for
  evaluations), additional banners, other marketing materials. Grants are a way of funding these efforts.

#### Communication

- As I am sure you are all aware, there has been a tremendous amount of effort by our instructors, evaluators, and membership team to streamline and make consistent our communications about workshops, evaluations and membership.
- Our current challenge is getting all members to begin using their tpgcpets.org emails. All personal emails will be removed from our systems on September 1. If you need help setting up your account, contact Kathryn Louis: kathryn.louis@tpgcpets.org.





## Debbie Bauer, Secretary



My name is Debbie Bauer and I joined PPGC as a volunteer in 2022. Having recently retired from a 30-year career in law enforcement, I wanted to find a volunteer opportunity which incorporated two subjects near and dear to my heart - animals and senior citizens. I have always been an animal lover and advocate, whether they have fur, fin, or scales! Animals bring such joy, love, and comfort with just their presence and calming nature. I previously spent six years volunteering at an assisted living facility, which was an extremely rewarding and enlightening experience. One

thing that left a lasting impression was how the residents' and employees' faces lit up whenever an animal was brought in to visit. For many, it was the highlight of their day, week, or even month. When I learned of Pet Partners, their mission, and the service they provide, I knew it could be a perfect volunteer opportunity for me. At the time, I did not have a pet qualified to be a therapy animal, but hoped PPGC could use my administrative skills and experience to help further the mission. I help out at Evaluations and Workshops, work closely with the Support Team for 1st Responders, and assist with other tasks. I also recently became a dog mom to Piper, a miniature Bernedoodle puppy! Hopefully in a year or so she will be ready to be evaluated as a therapy animal and we can become another team to brighten someone's day and make a positive difference.

## Lora Wynn, Trustee

My name is Lora Wynn. I joined Pet Partners in 2016 with my retired Bernese mountain dog, Carry Ann. I am now volunteering with my Great Dane/Neopolitan Mastiff mix, Mobius (Mobi). I plan on testing my Great Dane, Hank. We volunteer at St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Ohio Living Hospice in Llanfair, and StoryPoint.









Congratulations to Anne Hodapp for becoming an evaluator for Pet Partners. She will be a wonderful addition to PPGC's evaluators, especially with all her experiences as a pet therapy handler (10yrs) and her extensive background in dog training.

Most of her evaluations will be at Bethesda North. We now have six evaluators currently doing evaluations at Bethesda North, Mercy Anderson, and St. Elizabeth (KY).

The PPGC Board and all the PPGC Members welcome you and we truly appreciate your hard work to make this happen!









## Presentation by Gena Stonefield of Circle Tail



Circle Tail is in Pleasant Plain, OH. It is an Assistance Dogs International (ADI) accredited facility. They offer free service dog placement of Service/Hearing Dogs for Mobility assistance, hearing, diabetic alert, and seizure response. They also provide School & Facility Dogs that spend their days providing emotional support at facilities that have multiple people, and then go home at night.

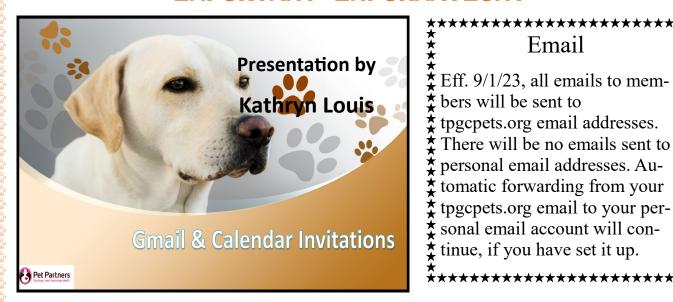
Lircle Tail needs foster homes for dogs for a week, a month, or more, as well as volunteer help at their facility.

Visit their website at www.circletail.org





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### Email

Eff. 9/1/23, all emails to members will be sent to ★ tpgcpets.org email addresses. There will be no emails sent to ‡ personal email addresses. Automatic forwarding from your tpgcpets.org email to your personal email account will continue, if you have set it up.

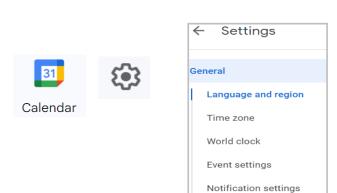
Google

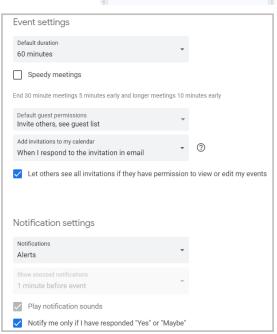
## Invitations to PPGC Visits and Events On your Google Calendar

- 1. Open the email in your tpgcpets.org Gmail Inbox.
- 2. View details, RSVP by clicking the box in the email.

Maybe No

- 3. The event will appear in your Google Calendar when the invitation is sent, and your status updated when you RSVP.
- 4. To only see events in your calendar that you responded to as attending, change your Event Setting and Notification Setting.











Join PPGC for the World's Largest Pet Walk



Saturday, September 23 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Summit Park, Blue Ash



Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati will join <u>Paws In the Park</u> for a unique dog-focused event. Proceeds from the "Paws in the Park" event will go to United Pet Fund which supports countless shelters, rescues, and individuals struggling to care for their animals.

This event will attract over 4,000 people. There'll be something for everyone! Furry friends can participate in lure chasing, Frisbee demos, agility courses and a costume parade while humans can shop an array of independent vendors selling both pet-related and non-pet-related goods, fill up at the food truck station and more!

We will have a booth promoting Pet Therapy and will be participating in the World's Largest Pet Walk to raise funds to support the Pet Partners organization. Won't you join us?

Click here to register <a href="https://p2p.onecause.com/wlpw/accept?challenger=heather-hauser&team=pet-partners-of-greater-cincinnati-2">https://p2p.onecause.com/wlpw/accept?challenger=heather-hauser&team=pet-partners-of-greater-cincinnati-2</a> or enter the URL in your browser's address window.

Learn more about the World's Largest Pet Walk 2023 at https://p2p.onecause.com/wlpw?challenger=heather-hauser&team=pet-partners-of-greater-cincinnati-2

Questions? Contact Heather Hauser, heather.hauser@tpgcpets.org or Trish Smith, trish.smith@tpgcpets.org

Go to https://petpartners.org/events-fundraisers/wlpl for more info.



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## **Keep Your Dog Cool**

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#### From pets.webmd.com

Summer can mean lots of fun outside with your dog. But when the temps soar, take steps to protect your pet. Whether you take them for a walk down the street, a ride in the car, or just out in the yard to play, the heat can be hard on them. Here's how to keep your furry best friend safe.

Never leave your dog in the car. No, not even if you think you'll only be a few minutes. Even when it isn't that hot outside, the temp can soar inside a closed car. On an 85-degree day, it can reach 102 F within 10 minutes. And that's with a window cracked. After 30 minutes, it could be up to 120. Leave your dog at home, or go places where they can come with you.

**Keep your house cool.** If Fido's home alone, make sure they can truly chill. Leave the air conditioner on, and close the drapes. If you don't have AC, open the windows and turn on a fan. You may want to see if a cooling vest or mat can help.

Watch when you exercise. Limit when and how much you do when it's hot and humid. Take walks in the cooler part of the day -- the early morning and evening. And carry enough water for both of you.

**Check the pavement.** Before you head out for a walk, touch the pavement. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for your dog's paw pads. Walk on the grass and stay off the asphalt. You also might want to try booties for your dog so their paws don't burn.

Offer plenty of water and shade. Don't leave your pooch alone outside for long. And when they are there, make sure they have shade and lots of fresh, cool water. Add ice cubes when you can. Trees are better than doghouses for shade. They let air flow through. Doghouses can trap the heat and make it worse. Think about a kiddie pool or a sprinkler to help your pal cool off in the yard.

**Make cool treats.** Help your canine chill from the inside out. For puppy ice pops, make ice cubes with tasty treats inside. Or fill and freeze a chew toy to make a chilly snack.

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## **Keep Your Dog Cool**



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**Keep an eye on the humidity, too.** When the air is full of moisture, your dog may not be able to pant enough to cool themselves off. That can raise their temperature, which can lead to heatstroke. Stay inside, and limit exercise, too.

**Take care of at-risk dogs.** Be watchful if you have a snub-nosed pet like a pug or bulldog. Their smaller airways make it harder for them to release heat when they pant. It's also easy for old and overweight dogs, or those with heart and breathing problems, to get heatstroke.

**Groom your pet.** If your dog has long hair, get rid of any mats and tangles. It will help keep them cool. Don't shave or clip their coat before you talk to your vet or groomer. The extra fur that keeps them warm in winter may also keep them cool in summer.

Visit your vet. Keep his shots up to date, especially in summer. The parvovirus spreads in hot weather. And your dog probably spends more time outside, which means it's more likely they could come in contact with a critter that has rabies. Summer is high season for fleas, which spread many diseases, and mosquitoes, which carry heartworm. Get them on regular meds to prevent these pests.

**Watch for signs of overheating.** Your dog can't tell you when they don't feel well, so keep an eye out for heatstroke, which can have these symptoms:

Heavy panting

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- Heavy drooling
- Trouble breathing
- Rapid heartbeat
- Dark or red gums and tongue
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Agitation

If you see any signs, get them to the vet right away.



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# Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati









Moose and I became a registered team with Pet Partners in February 2023. Becoming a registered therapy team has been a lifetime goal of mine because my brother was in/out of medical facilities growing up.

When I went off to college I volunteered with Circle Tail to train service dogs. My husband and I trained 11 service dogs and 1 guide dog (through Pilot Dogs) before deciding to get our own dog. Through that experience we had the opportunity to work

with a variety of breeds and ages. Thus, when we began searching for our own dog, we knew we wanted an adult poodle or poodle mix.

We adopted Moose, an Aussiedoodle in November 2020 from a shelter in Southern Ohio. Since then, Moose has completed seven obedience classes, earned his AKC CGC title, has his BARK ranger tag from the National Park Service, and joyfully participates in events around Cincinnati like the Flying Fur. Passing our exam as "complex" with Pet Partners and becoming a registered therapy team has been our most meaningful accomplishment! God put this on my heart many, many years ago. The day we passed our exam I cried as I reflected on the number of



lives Moose has already touched and knowing God was making moves for even more people to be comforted!

We currently volunteer at Ronald McDonald House, nursing homes, P&G, and the Cincinnati Public Library, with hope to bring our smiles and love to hospitals soon. We are excited to begin our journey with Pet Partners and look forward to meeting everyone!

As a side note, we would love to be fur friends! If there is anyone near Hyde Park, Oakley area who loves coffee...we tend to visit a local coffee shop every weekend and go for a walk with the pups. :)



# Pet Partners of Greater Cincinnati

I got Frankie when she was 11 mo and knew immediately she was pretty special. She is my third Springer Spaniel and has a great temperament and loves people. We've been attending obedience classes since I got her. After talking to other pet partner volunteers during obedience class about therapy work, I decided to give it a try.

I noticed while walking Frankie at places like the Cincy nature center that people (especially kids) were drawn to Frankie and she would sit quietly while they pet her. We live in Loveland and have visited a nursing home near us a few times. I knew

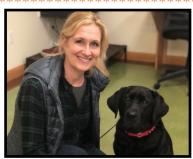


it would be a rewarding experience but was blown away at how we were received. Very few remember my name but they all know Frankie.

I've heard many stories of lost pets and loved ones. While mentoring at Bethesda a resident that we had visited at the nursing home was one of the patients we visited. She remembered Frankie and Frankie sat quietly in bed with her during our visit. I wish I could put into words what it's like to witness the interaction between Frankie and the residents.

I am so blessed to have Frankie and able to work with Pet Partners.

#### ~ Mary Ralph



Hello! My name is Gena Stonefield, and this is my 3-year-old lab, Wenli. I adopted Wenli in February 2022 from Circle Tail, Inc. She works with me as an Ambassador Dog representing and sharing information about Circle Tail at various events and functions. Circle Tail trains and places service and facility dogs. When I heard about Pet Partners, I felt the need to explore the possibility of becom-

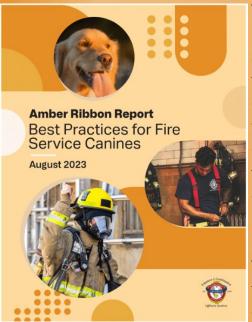
ing a therapy dog team to fully round out our experiences. I have been so impressed with the teams that I have met and am very excited to join this amazing organization and expand our work as a therapy team. Thank you!

~Gena Stonefield





# AMBER RIBBON REPORT FOR CANINE SUPPORT Approved by International Association of Fire Chiefs



Throughout history canines have played an important role in fire and emergency services. Who doesn't remember the stories of their childhood, the Dalmatian running alongside the horse drawn apparatus, always present as the firehouse dog. Other breeds like the Saint Bernard were associated with alpine search and rescue, German Shepherds associated with explosive detection, Labradors with accelerant detection, and the list goes on. Today we look to our canine companions as therapy, service, emotional support, crisis response, and comfort dogs, to name a few.

The Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) of the International Association of Fire Chiefs established a committee to develop a report on canine support in today's fire and emergency service organizations. With most of

their reports they associate a color to reference the specific topics that have been addressed and this report is no different. After some discussion it was decided to consider Amber. The committee researched and noted that with amber, we can't help but feel joyful, vibrant and spirited; it effortlessly puts others in a good mood.

The Amber Ribbon Report was written to provide guidance, roles and recommendations including best practices and considerations for a successful canine program centric to the health and well-being of fire and emergency services personnel.

#### **OTHER VCOS RIBBON REPORTS**

Lavender Ribbon Report: Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer

Yellow Ribbon Report: A Proactive Approach to Mental Wellness

Silver Ribbon Report: Guidelines and Best Practices for a Successful Youth Fire Service Program

Also: Orange, White, Red, and Blue Ribbon Reports

For more info, click here https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/resources/resource/vcos-ribbonreports, or enter the URL in your browser's address window.



## THERAPY SUPPORT TEAM for EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AT WORK



Lunch break at Peer Support Class, West Chester Safety Services Center, 5/13/23



Hamilton County Coroner & Crime Lab, 6/7/23



Independence Fire District, 7/19/23

#### **MONTGOMERY INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE**

Trish & Rosie, Andrew & Max, Deb & Oliver, Cindy & Penny











## Dax's Fan Club at St. Elizabeth



Dax and I were completely amazed by the birthday party organized by the St. Elizabeth Edgewood Cath Lab. The SMILES and HUGS were priceless. As a handler I had no idea how special Dax has become. Best way to express how I felt is similar to

the Grinch heart when he returned to Whoville.

#### ~ Mary Sargent





## **RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE**





These three teams get along so well together at RMH. We love bringing smiles and joy to children and their families. The kids love this trio!



Pride Month at RMH. We always get compliments about Moose not licking the kids. The parents appreciate the dogs who don't lick.



Birthday boy, Bo, at RMH.



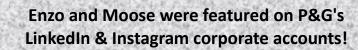




# P&G (various Sites in Cincinnati) Mental Health Awareness Month









activities, with a variety of global resources to prioritize mental health and help employees be at their best.

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Tap the link in bio to learn more about how P&G creates a culture that prioritizes employee wellbeing year-round.

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Mary Kay & Bucky (from Therapy Dogs Internat'l), Anne Hodapp & Corby, Nancy Mulvey & Minnie, Trish Smith & Rosie.



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Rosie





Board President Marilyn Edwards

Board Vice President Heather Hauser

Board Secretary Debbie Bauer

Board Treasurer Louise Nathanson

Trustees Sam Gingrich

Denise Sebastianelli

Lora Wynn

Executive Director Susan Steinhardt

## Editor's Note

I hope you are enjoying the summer time. It's hot, humid, and thunderous. In short, it's a Cincinnati summer! Please give extra attention to how hot the pavement is on your pet's paws, and how difficult it is for them to cool down if overheated in the humid weather.



Welcome to our new Board members Debbie and Lora! Thank you so much Kathryn Louis for all your work with the email and event calendaring transition, and Heather Hauser for her continuing work on managing visit requests. And, of course, many thanks to all who contributed such wonderful content for this newsletter.

~Sharon Newman