



October 2017 ♦ Interim Newsletter ♦ Established 1974



Macaws Sugar & Spice & Sometimes Not So Nice!

Sunday, November 5th
2 pm – 4 pm

Hosted by SBBS and our own
Parrot Lady Karen Allen

Macaws have a story to tell!

More details? See flyer page 4



*Join Us For
SBBS Annual Fundraiser & Auction*

Sunday, December 10th, 2017 • 1 pm - 3:30 pm

AUCTION TIMES

PREVIEW TIMES: 1:00 - 1:30 PM

BUY IT NOW: 1:30 - 2:00 pm

GENERAL BIDDING: 2:00 - 3:30

More details? See flyer page 5

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Notes from Janet

SBBS ANNUAL AUCTION/FUNDRAISER UPDATE

SBBS Annual Fundraiser date has changed to: Sunday, December 10th, 2017

Mark the date on your calendars! Our auction starts at 1:00pm and ends at 3:30pm. Please refer to the auction flyer on page 5 for additional details.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR OUR ANNUAL AUCTION/FUNDRAISER

Donations can include a wide variety of items. Here are some suggestions: Service and retail certificates, pet gifts, jewelry, art, bird toys, children's toys, games, household items, wine and/or spirits, homemade items, and candy grams/food. All donations can be individual items or made into cohesive/themed baskets. Shop our SBBS sponsors for ideas!

The items must be new or nearly new, in working order, with batteries. We cannot accept anything worn out or dated. This is a Fundraiser, and we are obliged to provide quality items.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO SBBS FUNDRAISER! PLEASE SHARE THE INFORMATION WITH OTHERS! We encourage individuals, especially our members, to MAKE A \$\$\$\$ DONATION.

We are a Non-profit 501c3, therefore, your donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE! Your support, however large or small is essential to our continued success and operation.

No birds at the auction, for their safety please leave them at home. Thank you.

BRING YOUR DONATIONS

Bring your donations to the upcoming November 5th Bird Club Meeting. You may also drop off your donations at Janet's home. November 3, 9, 11, 18, 20 from 12 noon – 4:00 pm and December 2nd before 12:00 noon. These are the same dates we are wrapping the donations for the Fundraiser. Join in and help us wrap your donations. For Janet's address in Redondo Beach, please contact Janet at: ragonesi@att.net, (310) 376-5954 or Kathleen Powell: winebird1@msn.com

FYI: Fundraiser donations brought to the auction December 10 must be table ready, with a list of items and the minimum bid. There will be no items wrapped at the auction. We will place them on the tables where there is room or wait until the first tables have closed. We encourage you to bring your items to the November 5th meeting or the drop off dates above.

That is why we have listed drop off dates at Janet's and at the November 5th meeting to bring your donations.

Please attend our November 5th meeting and donate, volunteer and participate in our annual fundraiser and auction, Dec. 10th.

SBBS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER IS the ONLY TIME DURING THE YEAR WE RAISE FUNDS FOR SBBS AND OUR PROGRAMS!

The auction is great fun! We will have food, music and friendly people to meet. Come join us for this special event. I hope that our event will become a regular addition to your Seasonal Festivities! Everyone is welcome!

DR. STEWART METZ, THE FOUNDER OF THE INDOONESIAN PARROT PROJECT and friend of SBBS passed away September 15, 2017. For details of Stewart's work in Seram go to: <http://indonesian-parrot-project.org/>

LANEY RICKMAN FOUNDER OF THE BIRD ENDOWMENT passed away August 26,2017. Laney was a gal 4 all seasons! Read details on page 6. <http://birdendowment.org/>

LANEY AND STEWART WERE CHAMPIONS IN THE WORLD OF CONSERVATION AVICULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD! THEY ARE DEEPLY MISSED!

SBBS OCTOBER MEETING, Attorney with Sibylle Grebe was outstanding! Check out Diane's report on Trusts, Wills, and Pet Trusts. A sensitive topic yes, and worth a few minutes of your time!

SBBS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5th MEETING ON MACAWS: SUGAR AND SPICE hosted by SBBS and the Parrot Lady Karen Allen. Please note: Our next meeting is Sunday from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. View the flyer on page 4 for details.

SBBS SEPTEMBER PICNIC was so much fun at the Columbia Park in Torrance – check out the pictures!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE. If a new or renewing member pays for a 2-year membership in advance, they will receive \$5.00 off the 2nd year. For example, as a senior, \$25.00 the first year, the second year would be \$20.00 for a total of \$45.00. Same \$5.00 discount applies for a single person or a family by paying your annual dues in advance. This discount does not apply to Lifetime Membership.

See you Sunday, November 5th 2:00pm – 4:00pm for our next Bird Club Meeting "MACAWS SUGAR AND SPICE!"

Cheers, Janet

Dr. Stewart Metz Memorial Fund for Seram

PRS Masihulan Avian Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release Center

The Holistic Parrot

Become Inspired Ecotour with the Indonesian Parrot Project
10th-21st October, 2017
Limited to 10 guests

Our Pets Are Our Family

An Evening with Sibylle Grebe

By Diane Sivas



We had a very special guest for our October meeting, and were fortunate to receive a wealth of valuable information on a very important subject. Our guest, Sibylle Grebe, is a local estate planning attorney who specializes in wills and trusts. She joined us on October 2nd to speak about providing for our pets after we leave this world.

After we got everything set up and ready to go, Janet started the meeting with the usual introductions of board members and helpers. She reminded us about upcoming events, including our Sunday afternoon meeting in November, and the December annual fundraiser. We'll be sending out flyers with details.

Sibylle began by reminding us that we need to provide for our pets after our departure. What happens to them after we're gone? Who cares for them when, and if, we become incapacitated? These animals are family members, and we must make sure they are cared for in the same way we would care for any of our family members. The time to make arrangements is now, while we are still able to do so.

So, what happens if we don't? Sibylle told us the story of an obese 9-year old Labrador Retriever who had always received great care. When Rudy's owner died, Rudy was surrendered to a shel-

ter where his chances of adoption were slim. An older dog with possible health issues? Well, you get the picture. And there's the story of the elderly woman, living alone with her cats, who became ill and needed to be hospitalized. Her daughter came from England to temporarily lend a hand, but her mother could not afford to have in-home, round the clock care, and the house needed to be sold to cover the medical costs. Unfortunately, the cats were not permitted to live with her at the care facility. These are the things, Sibylle told us, that need to be arranged before something happens. We need to be ready for the inevitable "what ifs."

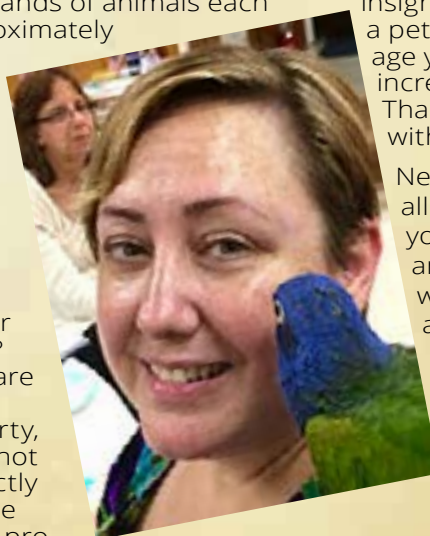
The City of Los Angeles euthanizes thousands of animals each year. Approximately 25% of surrendered animals are euthanized. How can we be sure that our pets won't end up in a shelter after we're gone? Since pets are still considered property, money cannot be left directly to them. The only way to provide for them is through a pet trust, or a provision in our living trust.

Sibylle told us that pet trusts were, at one time, not enforceable in California, but that has now changed. So, whether we use a pet trust or a living trust, we should include provisions for both our death and our incapacitation. By using a trust, we can designate how much money we want to go towards providing for our pets. There should be a named individual to whom money will be given for the sole purpose of caring for the animal, and we should include one or more backup people in case the named person is unable to comply. The pets should be specifically

mentioned by name. In the case of choosing to leave the animal to a sanctuary, there should be set aside whatever amount of money we think will be needed for the life span of the pet—which, in the case of parrots, can be many years. If we have more than one pet, we may wish to specify that they always stay together. We should also include any specifics regarding vet care or diet, as well as what we want to happen after the animal passes.

So much to think about. For those of us who are not attorneys, the smartest thing to do is find one who can help guide us through this process. This is obviously a very important topic, and I hope that everyone gained some insight. If you need help with a pet trust, we would encourage you to contact Sibylle. She is incredibly engaging and helpful. Thank you, Sibylle. Our evening with you was terrific!

Next month's meeting will be all about macaws, so bring your macaws, large and small, and bring your stories of life with these amazingly funny and affectionate birds. Remember that the November meeting will be on Sunday afternoon, November 5th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. See you there!





Sunday November 5th, 2017 • 2 pm - 4 pm
 Monthly Drawing • Outstanding Food

Macaws

**Sugar & Spice
 & Sometimes Not So Nice!**

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 2 pm – 4 pm
 Hosted by SBBS
 and our own
 Parrot Lady Karen Allen

**Macaws have
 a story to tell!**



Location: Kiwanis Club of Hermosa Beach
 2515 Valley Drive • Hermosa Beach • www.sobaybirdsoc.com
 Cross streets are Gould and Valley Drive • For more info, phone 310-376-5954



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Join Us ❄️

***AUCTION TIMES:**

PREVIEW TIMES:
1:00 – 1:30 pm

BUY IT NOW:
1:30 – 2:00 pm

GENERAL BIDDING:
2:00 – 3:30 pm

- *Holiday shopping with something for everyone - family, friends, pets and you!*
- *Catered complimentary food and beverages*
- *Cash, Check, Debit, Credit Cards are Accepted.*

Location: Kiwanis Club of Hermosa Beach
2515 Valley Drive • Hermosa Beach • Cross streets are Gould and Valley Drive
 • For more information www.sobaybirdsoc.com
 Janet: 310-376-5954 • Kathy: winebird1@msn.com

Farewell Laney

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

For publication in Sunday 24 September edition

Laney Slator Rickman

Laney Tarlton Slator Rickman, 65, died unexpectedly and suddenly on 26 August 2017 at her farm in Cuero, Texas after a week of physician care for debilitating chest pains of undetermined origin. The center of Hurricane Harvey was passing over the farm as EMTs worked gallantly and professionally in attempts to revive her.

Descended from the Austin 300 family of Robert Hemphill Millican, Laney was a 9th generation Texan. Millican's Gin in Jackson County was owned by her in-line grandparents. The gin was the site of the Lavaca-Navidad Meeting in 1835 which presaged the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Laney was born 15 April 1952 and raised in Houston. She was a member of the graduating class of 1970 from Robert E. Lee High School. She attended the University of Texas at Austin, Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, and the University of Houston, where she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish.

Since 1998 Laney was President/CEO and co-founder of the nonprofit Bird Endowment, Inc. based in Cuero, Texas. As well -- and much to her absolute delight! -- she had recently become a prize-winning photographer in the start of a serious interest she intended to master. Prior to Bird Endowment, Laney had been an executive with the Houston Post newspaper. She previously had worked at the Houston Chronicle where she met Jack, her husband of 38 years.

She is an internationally recognized speaker-writer known for many accomplishments in the in-situ/ex-situ conservation of the Blue-throated Macaw (BTM). This Bolivian-endemic parrot is critically endangered and near extinction, with only about 300 remaining in the wild.

The American Federation of Aviculture presented Laney and Bird Endowment with its singular 2013 Silver AVY Award for achievement with an individual avian species.

"She was recognized for her work with the Blue-throated Macaw ex-situ for advocating raising those birds that were in captivity as closely as possible to the way they would be raised in the wild by the parents. Laney advocated that parent-rearing by wild-cap-



tured parents already in the pet trade helps preserve the wild species culture of the threatened BTMs in their domestic flock," said an AFA member.

Laney, with Bird Endowment, Inc., originated and developed the impactful Nido Adoptivo nest box project in 2007 in Bolivia in partnership with the Bolivian bird conservation NGO Asociación Armonia. Nido Adoptivo supporters supplement the dwindling supply of natural hollow-tree nesting sites by sponsoring nesting boxes affixed to trees for the wild BTM population. The successes of the Nido Adoptivo Program are demonstrated by the 71 BTM hatchlings that have fledged from the nest boxes, including in 2017 the first chick to be raised by parents who both had fledged from these nest boxes.

"We are sure that the Blue-throated Macaws of El Beni, Bolivia, will always thank Laney, the fact she provided to the next generations a brighter future," said Wolfgang Kiessling, whose early 1990s conservation efforts as founder of Loro Parque Fundacion is perhaps the singular cause the Blue-throated Macaw is not already extinct. Kiessling is also president of the popular European resort Loro Parque located in Tenerife, Spain (Canary Islands).

Also, when the purchase by other donors of the privately owned ~1500 acres Esperancita (Hope) ranch is completed, it will be known thereafter as the Laney Rickman Reserve. Esperancita is the first private-land acquisition in protecting the southern range, Lareto,

of the Blue-throated Macaw. The northern range, now with ~27,000 protected acres of BTM habitat, is known as the Barba Azul (Bolivian name of the BTM) Reserve.

Laney was predeceased by her mother Dorothy "Dot" McDonald Slator. She is survived by her father Damon Tarlton Slator, her husband Jack or Jackie (Jackson) Rickman of Cuero, her daughter-of-the-heart Valda "Che" Rickman and husband Matt Crawford, and her granddaughter Sway Opal Crawford of Houston; her sister Dorothy Slator Paterson and husband Malcolm Paterson of Houston, and her sister Helen Slator Young and husband Holland Young of Austin and Galveston; as well as her nieces and nephews: Audrey Tarlton Paterson of Knoxville TN, Andrew Slator Paterson and wife Kim of San Francisco CA, Rachael Slator Baker and Grady Damon Baker of Austin.

A celebration of Laney's life and accomplishments is planned for January 2018 in Houston. In her honor, Laney's family, the Bird Endowment, the Asociación Armonia (Bolivia), and the American Bird Conservancy (USA) have partnered to establish the "Laney S. Rickman Memorial Fund for Blue-throated Macaws." The fund will continue the Nido Adoptivo project as well as long-term conservation and support for the wild Blue-throated Macaw in Bolivia. If you wish to make a memorial donation in remembrance of Laney, please go to www.abcbirds.org/rickman-memorial-fund/ OR, to make a donation by mail, please send a check made out to American Bird Conservancy to:

American Bird Conservancy

"Laney S. Rickman Memorial Fund for Blue-throated Macaws"

P.O. Box 249

The Plains, VA 20198

"It is a difficult time, but we have to keep alive her determination to succeed, her resilient spirit and her constant overcoming aim, and continuing the project she pushed, because she will be proud to see her friends achieving the goals she had in mind. In doing so her legacy and principles will remain with us forever," Kiessling said, in offering "the support of Loro Parque and Loro Parque Fundacion."

