



Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.

PO Box 17523 Tampa FL 33682 www.FloridaVoicesForAnimals.org
727-656-8368

fvaonline@yahoo.com
Oct/Nov/Dec 2024

Have a Heart

FVA's 30th Annual Awards Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser



Saturday, February 22nd: 2:30pm to 6:30pm

Location: **Solid Rock Community School**
2801 Keystone Rd, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Catered by:



Speaker

Kari Bagnall, Founder and President of: Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, **'I found the perfect pet... NOT!'**



Kari's journey into compassionate living began nearly 50 years ago, when she embraced a vegetarian lifestyle at a yoga ashram in Phoenix. This experience laid the foundation for 'Jungle Friends' plant-based, communal culture, where interns and volunteers from across the globe contribute to the sanctuary's mission. Visitors are invited to explore a vegan lifestyle while at Jungle Friends, nurturing respect for all beings and fostering empathy beyond species lines.

2024 Animal Hero & Activist of the Year Awards will be recognized

COST: \$50 in advance, no later than 02/14/25. \$65 at the door. Students: \$35

♥ **SPONSOR A TABLE OF EIGHT:** two tables available that will be placed at the front, and be first in line at the buffet: \$500.

Volunteers (TBVF 2023 & any event until now) & Current Paid Members (past year or paid with HAH tickets), \$40 until 2/14/2025.



TO RSVP: Mail a check to:

FVA, PO Box 17523, Tampa, FL 33682

Pay online at: www.floridavoicesforanimals.org

Tel: 727-656-8368

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS: If you would like to donate an item for our silent auction, please call ahead; no items accepted without prior approval. Items must be received no later than 2pm on the day of the event! Thank you in advance.

FVA in Action - Quarter 4, 2024

Dear FVA members, friends, and readers,

Again, we share with you our FVA meetup events! We have over 4721 signed up as 'interested' in our group and activities. As you can see, we continue to have a variety of opportunities for you to become involved. WHERE ARE YOU? Please join our Meetup group, sign up for events that interest you, then attend the events and help the animals! (If for some reason you are unable to attend, *please* be kind enough to change your RSVP. This will help us know what attendance to expect at our events and plan appropriately.)

FVA in the Community /Tablings:

7/20 - Lotus Vegan Restaurant Pinellas Park Family Style Prix Fixe Lunch – FVA members joined many other vegan loving foodies at this event organized and hosted by **Paul Murphy**, from **Sarasota Vegan Society**. Other groups who joined in at this “sold out” event included: **Manatee & Sarasota County Vegans; Sarasota Vegan Foodies; South Venice, Florida Vegans and the surrounding area; Veg Sarasota; Vegans of Sarasota Meetup & others!**

7/23 - Bill Samuels' Florida Panther Slide Show: Back From the Brink! Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library – Nice groups of activists and locals joined us for a wonderful and informative presentation! Our unique Florida Panther is an endangered species and needs protection. The panthers and most of our precious wildlife are threatened by the extreme development in our state.

8/1, 9/5, 11/7 - Vegan Support Groups held the past two quarters. Our monthly meetings are Open Forums, held virtually via Zoom. You can join great discussions with some regular attendees and new ones each time. No pressure to chat, but we always like everyone to introduce themselves. Join our hosts: **Kimberly Gronemeyer, Psy.D., Myriam Parham, RD, CDCES and Cathy Unruh, Journalist, Author and Animal Advocate.**

7/5, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4, 12/7 - Karaoke and Potluck Nights at Universalist Unitarian Church, a new monthly event organized by **Trevor and Colette Chin**. Those who attend enjoy sharing yummy vegan foods, meeting new people, and have fun singing or listening to those brave ones who do sing!

8/31 - Tampa Bay Veg Fest Volunteer Meeting & Social – Revelations Café, Lutz

9/15 - Tampa Bay Veg Fest Volunteer Meeting & Social - Bare Blends Tampa (Downtown)

9/21 – Solid Rock Community School Saturday Market – Trevor & Myriam tabled and focused on promoting Tampa Bay Veg Fest and Say No to Amendment 2 on the Florida Nov 5 ballot

9/30 – Cider Press Vegan Gastropub Social – About a dozen local activists joined us for a fun evening. Sadly, shortly after our event the restaurant closed its doors permanently after many years of serving the vegan community in two different locations in St. Pete. You will be greatly missed!

9/7 & 12/7 – Al Lopez Park Quarterly Cleanup – We had 7 amazing helpers in Sept! **Laura Pennington, Ron Gray, Suzanne House, Lawrence Levesque, Myriam Parham & Tom Bird**. In Dec we had 8 amazing helpers: **Laura, Ron, Lawrence, Myriam, Tom, AnnMarie C, Jared & Adi**. THANKS to all!!

Al Lopez Park Year-Round Feral Cats feeding, trapping for medical care and/or sterilizations- Coordinated by **Tom Bird**, volunteers take turns once a week making sure the cats are fed. Thanks to **Tom, Suzanne House, Ron Gray, Laura Pennington, Amy Anderson, Maggie Litchman, and Kenny Echezabal** for doing this 365 days a year. Total dedication!

10/26 – Central Florida Veg Fest, Orlando. FVA tabled at this event and focused on educating people about the **Say No to Amendment 2** on the Florida Nov ballot. **Laura Pennington** and **Myriam Parham** also assisted at the main CFVF table.

11/27 – Nadia Tenouri spoke with Duncan Strauss on WMNF Talking Animals to promote ThanksVegan

11/28 - ThankVegan 2024 Potluck Tampa Bay – Almost 100 attendees joined our ThanksVegan Feast, a Vegan family potluck event, held on Thanksgiving Day, to give us an opportunity to gather, thank animals and thank those who are dedicated to animals, for their support. Huge thanks to **Trevor Chin, Susannah Sherman, Spencer Sherman, Joan Zacharias** and **Nadia Tenouri** for all their help organizing the event and ALL others who volunteered to help and attended.

8/30/24 – New College of Florida, Sarasota NOVOPALOOZA, Laura Weiss tabled for the student event (Continued on Page 3)



FVA Board at Have-A-Heart Fundraising Dinner & Silent Action held at Solid Rock Community School

FVA's BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FVA in Action (continued)

Media and Other Activities:

8/8 – Creative Loafing printed an article on Amendment 2. Melissa Zepeda and Myriam Parham were both interviewed for the C.L. article. We discussed the reasons to vote “No to 2” on the Florida Nov 5 ballot. This amendment was very misleading. It said to vote for Fishing and Hunting rights, which people already have. The ramifications of this amendment becoming law is that just about any protection that fish and wildlife may now have to protect them could be jeopardized in the name of the “right” for the hunters or fishermen. To learn more about this amendment please go to Noto2.org. According to the website, Amendment 2 is a threat to wildlife, marine populations and private property rights.

10/2 - Melissa Zepeda interviewed by Duncan Strauss on the WMNF Talking Animals program regarding why ALL should've voted No on Amendment 2, regarding a Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish. Existing laws allow fishing & hunting, that offer at least some protections for the wildlife. Sadly, the passage of Amendment 2 now poses a huge threat to reasonable protections. Let's not forget to help the voiceless when we have an opportunity.

Quote from World Animal Protection:

"This dangerous and misleading amendment will strip Florida citizens of their power to protect and conserve wild animals. It's designed to trick voters into allowing some of the cruelest forms of hunting and prevent citizens, scientists, and agencies from protecting wildlife in the future. World Animal Protection says a resounding "no" to Amendment 2."

FVA sends donations to local shelters - Sanctuary Monthly Donations:

July - \$200 donated to Fix and Feed Felines – nominated by Myriam

Aug - \$200 donated to Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) great undercover work on cruel horse slaughters for meat - nominated by Trevor

Oct - \$200 donated to Ybor Chickens for coop repairs from storm damage – nominated by Kim

Nov - \$200 donated to Muscovy Sanctuary of Florida, storm damage repairs -nominated by Kim

Dec - \$200 donated to Paw Warriors, Inc, Elfers, storm damage repairs–nominated by Suzanne

PLEASE consider helping us with our feral cat colony medical bills fund. This also goes to help sterilize any cat that joins any of the colonies.

FVA Demos for the Animals:

7/28 & 8/9 - Emergency Protests Against Illegal & Cruel Horse Slaughter for Meat - In response to **Animal Recovery Mission's (ARM)** recent investigation at an illegal slaughter farm in Brooksville (where retired racehorse “**Funny Biz**” was video recorded being shot, stabbed to death, and then butchered), FVA joined ARM & Solutionary Species for an Emergency Protest to ask for justice for the cruel killing of Funny Biz. A group of about 25 activists joined some local folks to call for the arrest and conviction of those involved in this horrific killing.

8/2, 8/3 & 8/4 - Loomis Brothers Circus Protests at Sarasota Fairgrounds-Robarts Arena – organized by **Laura Weiss**

8/24 & 8/25 - Sign waving events to save our Honeymoon Island state park from development. Two sign waving demonstrations were held to bring awareness about the state's plans to build pickleball courts & more within this precious habitat. Organized by local area groups. Very well attended by local residents & activists, including FVA members **Dani Hall, Kim G & Jacinda Shapiro**

10/5 & 10/19 - Bring Awareness on Amendment 2 - Sign holding at The St. Pete Market – organized by Melisa Zepeda, who was joined by **Joe, Kelly Patton, Isabelle & Myriam Parham**

10/26 & 11/16 - “Go Vegan Demos” at St. Pete Saturday Morning Market, organized by **Hussein Mourtada. Lauren & Taylor R.** attended the October demo and at the November one FREE Vegan Holiday Food/Roasts were given out by the activists, which included **Kelly Patton & Lauren**

Please check our FVA meet-up calendar to join us at events like these and more so we can get to know each other. Finally, PLEASE support vegan restaurants in your area. Most need your support to survive these difficult times. If you can't dine in, order take out! We hope to see you soon!

FVA's No to 2 Billboard



As part of our work to educate people why Amendment 2 on our Florida November 5 ballot was a bad idea, FVA paid for a billboard to be put up on a busy area of Carrollwood on N. Dale Mabry Hwy for the month of October. Hurricane Helene had a different idea and destroyed over 80% of the billboards in the Tampa Bay area. The billboard company responded by posting two billboards in the Orlando area in very busy areas at no additional cost!

St Francis Animal Rescue Needs Kitten Food!

St. Francis Society is in the middle of what seems like a kitten season that just won't quit! Over the last three months they have found homes for almost 900 kittens!

They are using over 100 cans of wet cat food PER DAY and over 100 pounds of dry food per week. They are in desperate need of kitten food and due to COVID supply constraints, many local stores have been sold out for weeks.

Time are tough and they are so appreciative for any help you can offer! Below is the link to their Amazon wish list and they would be so grateful if you could help make a donation.

<https://amzn.to/2RQwqwk>

Can you purrty please take a moment to send us some kitten food? Thank you!



Petco's Troubling History with Rabbit

By Marilyn Weaver

Despite PETCO'S "2008 promise and philosophy to do the right thing", the company has broken that promise. PETCO will be purchasing "Teddy Bear Teacup and Miniature Rabbits" (Dwarf rabbits) from breeders to sell in several of their stores. By doing so, PETCO is responsible for promoting unhealthy rabbit breeding. As cute as they may look, please refrain from purchasing Teddy Bear rabbits for ethical reasons, because these little rabbits have a problematic breeding history. Dwarf rabbits that are bred with a round, short, compact body shape suffer. The long digestive tract of a rabbit is squashed and this causes digestive disorders. Rabbits require treatment from trained "Exotic" vets who are very expensive.

Teddy Bear/Miniature Rabbits are in fact - just Dwarf Rabbits that can be adopted at shelters and at every rabbit rescue across the states.

Rabbit Rescues are overwhelmed and over capacity with dumped and neglected rabbits. Shelters are full of unwanted pet rabbits and are euthanizing. People decide they don't want them anymore so many are just "dumped" outside to fend on their own, which they can't do, as they were not born in the wild. They now breed, get run over by cars, and are prey to other species.

Please contact PETCO CEO - Joel D. Anderson - joel.anderson@fivebelow.com, andersonj24@yahoo.com - 877-738-6742

Facebook - PETCOInstagram - PETCO

Please tell Mr. Anderson that this is a bad PETCO decision that will cause you in protest, to buy your supplies from another supplier. When at a PETCO store, speak to the manager and tell them you will no longer shop there if they start to sell rabbits. Let's all of us be the voice for these rabbits.

<https://www.change.org/p/end-the-sale-of-rabbits-at-petco-stores-nationwide>

<https://www.change.org/p/petco-reneges-on-rabbit-sales-while-promoting-extreme-breeding-practices>



FVA Demo at Brooksville farm Jul 28th



Brooksville farm : Jacinda rescues chicken

"Funny Biz's Manger"

Diana Moreton



Brooksville farm : Jacinda bears witness

It's been about a month since the world has learned the fate of poor Funny Biz, of course, I wonder what the baby Jesus would say about the brutality meted out to this majestic horse. So what's left to be learned with this two-edged sword, is his name Jesus and is he the lord? When I created Funny Biz she was born a fiery and tiny little colt Romping through multi-colored flowered meadows with her mother She loved to stomp, gallop, and bolt. And as I watched over her from up above Humans began to manhandle her, push and shove. It's then I sensed the danger this helpless horse was in And ignorant behavior towards animals I then dubbed sin. From peaceful halcyon fields to a demanding racetrack exploited for excitement in her life there was no lack when Funny Biz' was no longer useful for entertainment bestowed no gratitude and then from there, containment. So it's back to a humble and lowly manger long ago One can hear a haunting Funny Biz neighing ardently low, so Funny biz has run her final race Galloping towards a deserved resting place Returning to a safe and compassionate manger To gaze on his kind and gentle face.

In honor of Funny Biz' who died maliciously and cruelly, a vigil was held for him and all the animal victims.



Diana Moreton, Joan Zacharias, Myriam Parham & Trevor Chin at Brooksville courthouse. Aug 9th

Tampa Bay Veg Fest 2024 Cancellation

By Trevor Chin



Harland Hill, Myriam Parham, Dani Hall, Suzanne House & Trevor Chin displaying Tampa Bay's Best Of The Best 2024 Award to Tampa Bay Veg Fest.



FVA was also awarded Creative Loafing Best of Bay 2024

Hurricanes Helene and Milton gave the entire west coast of Florida a classic one-two punch. It not only affected the Tampa Bay area but they also affected many of our FVA board members and volunteers. Physical wind, water and tree damages were the impacts along with some members with injuries. These all contributed to the decision to cancel the 2024 Tampa Bay Veg Fest. We will be back even stronger in 2025.

As you can see in the picture, we were celebrating the 2024 Best of The Best award from the Tampa Times in preparation for Tampa Bay Veg Fest. This was taken at Florish Restaurant.



Solid Rock Community School

2801 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688 (727) 934-0909



SRCS is a 501c3 non-profit, tax exempt, co-educational K-12 private school

We are located in Tarpon Springs, Florida, in Pinellas County, less than three miles from neighboring Pasco and Hillsborough counties. SRCS emphasizes individualized, whole-child development. We are dedicated to providing a challenging educational program that meets our students' academic, social, physical, and emotional needs.

Solid Rock Community School is making the world a greener place, starting in its own school community. With a seed to table garden and lunch program, daily fitness classes, and a focus on environmental stewardship we are teaching our students to become healthy, involved citizens who can contribute to the greater good of society and be good stewards in the world in which they live.

Solid Rock Community School is a private, not-for-profit, interdenominational school that is not affiliated with any particular denomination. Without denominational distinctions we are able to focus on topics that are relevant and agreeable to the majority of people- topics such as love, compassion, kindness, honesty, manners, self-discipline, self-control, and integrity, with the goal of raising our students to be people of good Godly character. We provide a firm foundation, not only for success in school, but for success in a very challenging world. By focusing on love, compassion, understanding, and faith, we celebrate the differences of individuals and families that mirror the diversity in God's Kingdom.

Solid Rock Community School offers a strong sense of acceptance and community. Students learn the importance of respect for themselves, respect for each other, and respect for nature and the planet we live on. We encourage, challenge, and inspire each student to learn, develop in character, and think critically. Our objective is for students to become thinkers, leaders, and collaborators who contribute to the greater good of society as good stewards of the world in which we live.

We hope that you will have your children attend Solid Rock at the soonest opportunity to enhance their knowledge and growth.

Ad paid for by Solid Rock Community School

FVA Gallery



Chuck, Myriam, Laura & Shannon at Central FL Veg Fest, No To 2 Table



Myriam, Truddie & Laura at Central FL Veg Fest, FVA Table



Paul & Laura tabling at New College, Sarasota



Puppy Mill Demo



MUSA Slaughterhouse Demo



Al Lopez Park Cleanup Sep 2024



Al Lopez Park Cleanup Dec 2024

ThanksVegan 2024



Spencer Sherman, Joan Zachariah, Susannah Sherman & Laura Weiss



Vegan Dessert Tent was filled!



So was Laura's plate!

ThanksVegan 2024 was held on Thanksgiving afternoon on the beautiful grounds of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa (www.utampa.org), 11400 Morris Bridge Road. We had approximately 115 people including volunteers to celebrate in a compassionate way. All turkeys will give our event a feathers-up sign. Although we love the venue where we've held this event 13 years, we're searching for a new location which doesn't cost as much.

You can receive this newsletter via email or download it from the FVA website. To go paperless, please email fvaonline@yahoo.com and let us know. You will both help the environment and to enable FVA have more resources for helping animals.

YES I want to support Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.

Enclosed is my annual membership fee or donation:

\$300 Teddy* Lifetime \$100 Patron \$50 Family \$30 Individual \$15 Student _____ Other

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to volunteer for:

Phone Tree Attending Demonstrations Staffing Outreach Tables Website Newsletter

Investigations Other: _____

I prefer to receive my Newsletters: **Electronically via email** Regular Mail

** In loving memory of Keith Roghair's dog, Teddy*



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GOOD NEWS



☺ **Nov 2024: NYTimes article about China's plant-based meat development** Interesting editorial in the N.Y.Times today discussing China's attempt to dominate the development and production of plant-based meat to meet the world's future need for food. The editorial suggests that China's motives for developing and promoting plant-based foods are unknown at this point but any scientific and economic progress endorsed by China's government could save the lives of millions of farm animals. That would be wonderful for animals and humans, it seems to me. **Tom Bird**

☺ **Nov 2024: A bill to end cruel backyard breeding PASSED with a resounding victory** at New York City Hall 11/21/24 with a vote of 40-5! NYCLASS responded to multiple calls of puppies in bad shape being sold on the streets of NYC - now we have the ability to end this cruelty for good! -- NYCLASS. info@nyclass.org, 11/22/24

☺ **Nov 2024: California has followed Washington State, prohibiting octopus farming and the sale of commercially farmed octopuses.** These highly intelligent, communicative animals suffer greatly when confined in stressful, intensive, unnatural conditions. The Governor of California signed the Oppose Cruelty to Octopuses Act – a huge step forward. ADI celebrates this great news, and we hope more states follow suit. – Animals Defenders International (ADI). 11/19/24

☺ **Nov 2024: Romania's parliament voted to ban fur farming starting in 2027, closing the last of the farms breeding and killing minks and chinchillas.** ADI investigations in fur farms around the world have exposed horrific suffering and brutal killing methods, but country after country is now ending the suffering. – Animals Defenders International (ADI). 11/19/24

☺ **Oct 2024: Finally! Starbucks stops charging extra for plant milk Coffee & Products starting Nov 7th** Customers in U.S. and Canada company-owned and operated stores will no longer pay extra for customizing their beverage with non-dairy milk.

☺ **Sep 2024: the California Coastal Commission officially approved the National Park Service's plan to tear down the 8-foot-tall fence that has trapped hundreds of Tule elk inside the so-called "Tule Elk Reserve" for nearly half a century.** - In Defense of Animals, 9/25/24



Our mission is to educate the public about animal abuse and exploitation. Please renew your membership if it has expired. Check your label.

M Paid membership and renewal date **L** Lifetime member
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Go Green!
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

All events are posted on our Meetup Calendar so if you haven't signed up for our meetup, go to www.meetup.com, search for Florida Voices for Animals, and then sign up.

Visit <https://newdaynewchef.com/episodes/> to watch **New Day, New Chef** vegan cooking show hosted by **Jane Velez-Mitchell** Every Tue & Thu at 10:30am WUSF Ch 16.3 **Christina Cooks** cooking show with **Christina Pirello** Every Wed at 11am WMNF 88.5FM **Talking Animals** radio show with **Duncan Strauss** Every Fri at 11am WUSF Ch 16.1 **Jazzy Vegetarian** cooking show with **Laura Theodore**

Check out the **Vegan Myth Busters** radio show hosted by **Ellen Jaffe Jones** anytime by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667198786868267/> or live every Tuesday at 6PM EST on The Dr. Don Show on KAAA and KZZZ at <http://www.talkatoz.com>

12/5 6:30pm **Vegan Support Group** Zoom Mtg. FVA is hosting a series of vegan support groups on the first Thursday of each month to help you cope with the challenges of living in a non-vegan world. Please check FVA Meetup Calendar.

2/22 2:30pm-6:30pm FVA's **Have-A-Heart Annual Dinner Fundraiser & Silent Auction** will be held at Solid Rock Community School, 2801 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688 (727) 934-0909. Discounted tickets prices for those who purchase before February 14th are highly recommended.

3/8 2pm-5pm **Christspiracy Screening**, Town N Country Library, 7606 Paula Dr, Tampa, FL 33615. (813) 554-5013 **Christspiracy** is a thrilling, eye-opening documentary that reveals the most explosive cover-up in 2,000 years. This will be hosted by **Dr Will Tuttle**. A healthy and enthusiastic vegan since 1980, and Dharma Master in the Zen Buddhist tradition, his mission is one of bringing the message of radical inclusion to our wounded and fragmented culture. Also a long-time vegan, his wife **Madeleine** shares this passion, and this is why they travel and offer presentations, having done so in all 50 states and in over 50 countries. Je is the recipient of The Peace Abbey's "**Courage of Conscience Award**," as well as the "**Empty Cages Prize**," and the "**Shining World Hero Award**." Many people know his work through his #1 Amazon best-selling book, **The World Peace Diet**.

3/23 10am-11am FVA's **Al Lopez Park Cleanup**, 4810 N Himes Ave, Tampa, FL 34614 Volunteers are needed to help clean up Al Lopez Park. The animals could use your help to keep their environment clean. Bring drink (eg water, coffee, energy drink, Gatorade), sunscreen, bug repellent, hat, sunglasses, long pants & long sleeves. Gloves, trash bags & grabber poles will be provided.

4/5 Details TBA **Jungle Friends Work Day**, 13915 N State Road 121, Gainesville, FL 32653-7509 (352) 731-0771 Since this is 90 miles north of Tampa, car-pooling is highly encouraged, so please RSVP at our Meetup and email fvaonline@yahoo.com. Bring whatever tools you are comfortable using like drills, hammer, pliers, etc. Be prepared for large projects.

* * *

We regret to inform you that Tampa Bay Veg Fest didn't happen this year due to the tremendous impacts of both Hurricanes Helen & Milton. Thanks to everyone for your support and we hope to return in 2025. If you are interested in being part of the Tampa Bay Veg Fest organizational team, please let us know at info@tampabayvegfest.com. Please continue to support all vegan businesses and pop-ups. Thanks, Tampa Bay Veg Fest team