



# Long Island Parrot Beacon

Volume 28 Issue 4 April 2023



Goodbye March, Hello April . . .

Lots of changes during Spring, longer days, flowering trees,

bulbs blooming, grass turning green, birds returning and welcoming the day with their song.

We've made a change for the betterment of the club—due to a large increase in rent, we've changed storage facilities. We're no longer in Amityville, but have relocated to StorQuest Self Storage in Ronkonkoma. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this happen and a VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to board member, Susan Seddo, for orchestrating the move. Susan researched many storage units and negotiated a rate that better fits our budget.

More changes (for the good) on the horizon—stay tuned!

With the mild weather moving in, windows and doors will be opening more. Please be aware of where your parrots are in the house—keep them safe. Is it time to get them groomed after the winter? When taking your parrots out of the house, have you considered harness training? There are plenty of light-weight travel cages available to transport your parrots outside of your home.

More and more outreaches are being scheduled. Check the events calendar on our website to find out more and if you're interested in volunteering, please let us by sending an email to: [info@liparrots.org](mailto:info@liparrots.org)

Thank you to the Suffolk County SPCA for being the presenter at our March 15 in-person meeting. Our Zoom meeting presenter for April 19 is Debbie Goodrich from the Flight Club Foundation in Seattle, WA. See inside the newsletter for more information.

Our own, Roberta Fabiano, serenades us each Monday from 2-3 pm ET via Facebook Live. It's a wonderful hour of music (you can even make requests)! Roberta's parrots also make cameo appearances. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063624034653>

Reminder, Robin Sullivan from The Leather Elves conducts a FREE Facebook Live stream on Fridays at 7 pm ET. Always a fun and learning experience. <https://www.facebook.com/theleatherelves> If you don't catch live, you can watch via YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=the+leather+elves](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+leather+elves)

Lafeber has some great FREE webinars as well on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LafeberNutriBerries> Here is the link the watch the webinars via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@lafebercompany-official3250/videos>

Save the date: Our annual Member Appreciation Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 3 at Belmont Lake State Park in West Babylon (Pine Pavilion) from 10-5 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of our events, want to be added to our volunteer email list, want to donate unwanted items, and/or would like to suggest

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speakers/topics you would like to see/hear about, please either leave a message at 631-957-1100 or please let us know by sending an email to [info@liparrots.org](mailto:info@liparrots.org).

Diane P Hyde, President



VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING starts 7:00 p.m. following speaker. PLEASE MUTE YOUR AUDIO during speaker.

SPEAKERS: Begin at 7:30 p.m. +/-20 minutes.

Please be respectful. Mute!

# Financial Report

## Deposits as of March 2023

Deposits	\$1501.40
Total Deposits	\$1501.40

## TFCU Account Balances as of March 2023

Operating Fund:	\$6270.47
EXPO Fund:	\$10,600.96
Parrot Care:	\$2592.36
MM (Shelter):	\$142,106.45
CD (Shelter):	\$9,504.79
Total:	\$171,075.03

## Expenses as of March 2023

Phone:	\$120.00
Best Value Printing:	\$238.17
Life Storage:	\$442.00
CRM (SalesNow)	\$45.45
USPS	\$111.36
StorQuest Self Storage	\$51.00
Misc:	\$661.55
Total Expenses:	\$1669.53



# Board Business

## Board Meeting Minutes - March 2023

March 8, 2023 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Donna Barbaro, Susan Chamberlain, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little, Susan Seddo

- Summary of 3/4/23 LI Pet EXPO—Candy/Diane ; Diane posted photos of event on FB and downloaded to Birdbox. Volunteer turnout was great. Everyone complied with sanitation requirements. Few people asked to hold birds; Diane had made up a flyer about bird flu precautions for attendees. The prize wheel did well; collected \$97.00 for spins! New members who came as attendees came by booth. The volunteers and their birds were fantastic. The tent was 10x10, so we slid out a table and put it on the outside.

- Event in Port Jeff on 4/1/23 6-8 pm (requesting two parrots)—pirate themed. Shawn has volunteered with 2 parrots; Diane may attend as well. UPDATE: Cancelled--Venue will not allow animals.

- Storage Unit—Susan Seddo has an update on a storage company in Ronkonkoma. Important that we are allowed to have cage sales on site. UPDATE: Move to STORQUEST in Ronkonkoma in progress.

CURRENT— LIFE STORAGE (Amityville) Have been there for 11 years.  
Per month: \$517  
Per year: \$6,204

STORQUEST (Ronkonkoma) "Brand New"  
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Per year: \$4,013.50  
Waive: Lock Fee & Administrative Fee  
SAVINGS: \$2,190.50

- Susan S. asked at Sam's Club about discounts...can discount for 501c3
- Picnic: Sunday, 7/23 best date. Cost: Approx. \$250. UPDATE: Date unavailable; scheduled for September 3 Shed clean-up (4/15 or 4/16)—Susan and Tony Seddo (with help) depending on possible move
- Cage Sale Sunday, April 23 (10-3 p.m.) location depends on possible move.
- SC 1777-2022 (stopping animal traveling performances or shows in Suffolk County) has been tabled/postponed. (<https://www.scnylegislature.us/DocumentCenter/View/86930/IntroductoryResolution-1777-22-PDF>). Tabled document: <https://www.scnylegislature.us/DocumentCenter/View/88068/01262023-Ways--Means-Committee-Regular-MeetingMarked-Agenda-PDF?bidid=> "10 Tips on Approaching Legislators . . ." flyer from the AFA.
- Future presenter suggestion by Marla Greene: Can we reach out to Ollie the tiel's humans in New Zealand to talk about his trip on the the Arora trail. I think NZ is 15 hours ahead of us, so it would be about 11:00 in the am I also found this article from Lafeber regarding Ollie: <https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/ollie-the-cockatiel/>

[takes-on-epic-fundraisingtrek-across-new-zealand/Ollie](https://www.scnylegislature.us/DocumentCenter/View/86930/IntroductoryResolution-1777-22-PDF) is a 'tiel with special needs and his human includes him in everything.

- Possible presenters discussed; board is brainstorming for in-person presenter for June meeting. Discussed possible meeting events...seed exchange, game night, toymaking workshop.
- Newsletter: We have a calendar on the website that works via Google. Shawn moved upcoming meetings and outreach to the back of NL. Shawn suggested adding a QR code instead of listing events in NL— Decision: will stay as-is for now.
- Discussed code of conduct for members; FB etiquette, etc.
- EXPO: 2400 sq ft facility available October 14 VFW on Lakeland Ave in Sayville; 8:30-6:30PM; Main speaker; vendors, birds; smaller crowd; smaller space.
- Possible free meeting space
- New ads coming for newsletter.



(Continued to page 16)

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Long Island Bird & Exotics Veterinary Clinic (LIBEVC) is a state of the art veterinary hospital dedicated entirely to the care of bird and exotic pet species. We specialize in surgical procedures, endoscopy and minimally invasive surgery and advanced imaging of these unique species. We are open seven (7) days a week and our overnight staff can be reached by calling our emergency line: (516) 441-2726

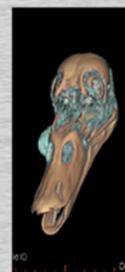
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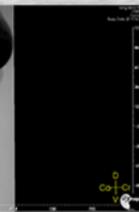
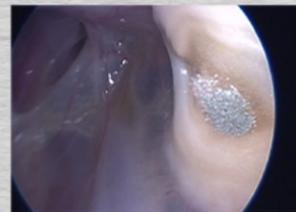
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- Soft tissue surgery
- Rodent/Lagomorph dentistry and maxillofacial surgery
- Avian and reptilian reproductive tract emergencies



As you've likely read elsewhere in this month's Long Island Parrot Beacon, a contingent of club members got together last month to move our gear from the Amityville storage unit to a new one in Ronkonkoma. It was a long, labor-intensive day. We unearthed many treasures for future sales and raffles, along with historical documents and photos. There's still some organizing to do, but we've got this! We're looking forward to hosting the next in-person meeting (June 21), a spring cage sale and a special event before year's end, where some of the great bird accessories will be available for purchase. We can also promise that the raffle tables will be overflowing!

### Shelter & Adoption Report

While fewer people own pet birds than cats and dogs, there is a frightening increase in the number of displaced and unwanted birds. More people can provide proper care for cats and dogs than there are people capable of providing care for exotic birds. Most municipal animal shelters have neither the space nor trained personnel necessary for taking in birds.

What does this mean for parrots? Parrot sanctuaries, adoption programs and shelters become quickly overwhelmed by requests to take in pet birds. Many of these birds belong to baby boomers, who are elderly, retiring, and are developing age-related health issues. Their children are often not interested or able to take the birds in. Hoarding and abuse situations often require emergency intake, straining the budgets and space limitations of rescue organizations. The work involved in setting up accommodations, and vetting and rehabilitating such birds is unrelenting. Contrary to the accusations of some disgruntled members of the avian community, no one gets rich in parrot 'rescue.' Just one minor health problem can result in a \$1,000.00 vet bill.

Even the Long Island Parrot Society has had to temporarily suspend its Parrot Placement Program from time-to-time due to the overwhelming workload. Calls and emails from people wanting to rehome birds are fielded daily. People often obtain parrots, believing they are easy to care for. Reality check: birds are loud, messy, destructive, live long lives, and need lots of attention. Many new parrot owners quickly realize that the bird is not a good fit for their family. Buyer's remorse frequently leads the owner to sell or give the bird away. Many of these parrots end up at rescue, shelter, or sanctuary organizations.

Our Parrot Placement Team continues to work hard, making referrals between qualified adoptive families and bird owners who must rehome their birds. Thankfully, Shana Kersten at Long Island Budgie Rescue has been a great resource for placing small birds.

We continue to raise money for our future avian shelter. We need an affordable, centrally located storefront or building with parking, hook-ups for dishwasher and washer/dryer, space for quarantine, an office/reception/bird supply sales area, room for birds ready for adoption and storage space. Additional space for meetings or seminars would be a dream. Reliable volunteers will be the lifeblood of the effort. To date, we have \$151,352.90 in the Shelter fund. At first look, it seems like a fortune, but when we factor in licensing, permits, rent, utilities, insurance, vet care, supplies and likely a modest payroll, we still have a ways to go. Our other funds,



By: Susan Chamberlain

the Parrot Care Fund, Operating

Fund and EXPO fund are all healthy, due to careful budgeting and mindful expenditures. Many thanks to our President and Treasurer, Diane Hyde for her meticulous record keeping. You can see a financial report in each issue of the Long Island Parrot Beacon. And thanks also to Susan Seddo for saving the club several thousand dollars a year by negotiating the best deal for our new storage unit.

### Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2023

Every day is Earth Day when you share your life with a pet bird. Once you get a companion bird, you become more aware of household hazards and seek out ways to provide a more natural and non-toxic lifestyle for your feathered friend. Most new bird owners become more vigilant about toxic cleaning products, scented candles and the danger posed by conventional non-stick cookware and appliances. We also tend to become more cognizant of our birds' wild counterparts and thus, realize an increased awareness of conservation and the environment.

Make 2023 the year you forego the use of toxic chemicals on your lawn and in the garden. They poison baby birds in the nests when parents feed them affected insects. The chemicals eventually seep into our water table and affect us all. Plant an organic garden for your pet birds and attract bees, birds, and butterflies too! Re-use plastic yogurt containers as starter pots for seedlings. Spring is a great time to plant fast growing, cool-weather crops like peas, and parrots often enjoy eating them right from the pod. Carrots, kale, string beans and other nutritious produce are easy to grow as well. Grow some sunflowers for the wild birds or for your own pets. Parrots love eating the ripened seeds right from the flowers.

Honor Earth Day 2023 by donating to a conservation cause and by doing your part to maintain and save your own corner of the world. Plant some milkweed for Monarch butterflies and some dill for Eastern black swallowtails. Plant flowers for their nectar eating stage. Stop using garden pesticides.

Sadly, due to climate change and illegal logging, the population of Monarchs wintering in the Michoacan state in Central Mexico has dwindled by 22% in just one year. The effects of climate change have affected Monarch populations in storm-ravaged California. Their numbers have dwindled from ten million individuals in the 1980's to just 1,914 in 2021. In 2022 Monarchs were listed as 'endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Resolve to use only reusable shopping bags, leave a dead tree standing for woodpeckers, start a compost pile, keep plastics out of landfills and use resources responsibly. Tomorrow's birds will have a chance because of what we do today.



## Summer Vacation is Coming! - Bird Sitter Checklist

By Susan C.

When I plan an extended trip out of town, the first person I call is my bird sitter. Plane, hotel and tour reservations all depend on her availability. If she's not available, I adjust my dates accordingly. I have five birds, and boarding them might be rather unwieldy, so I have a bird sitter come to the house. I am lucky enough to have a sitter who sleeps overnight at my home, a definite plus, especially during extreme weather conditions! Whether your bird sitter comes in once or twice a day, or spends the night, this check list will help you both. Even when boarding a bird or swapping bird sitting services with a friend, many checklist items will be useful.

When the trip is still a dream:

If you don't already have a bird sitter, ask for referrals. Some sources for referrals are: vet's office; bird store; bird club; other bird owners; professional pet sitter's organizations: Pet Sitters International [www.petsit.com](http://www.petsit.com) or National Association of Professional Pet Sitters [www.petsitters.org](http://www.petsitters.org) The Long Island Parrot Society has a list of pet sitters at [www.liparrots.org](http://www.liparrots.org)

Schedule interviews so prospective pet sitters can meet your birds. Check references.

Ask your bird sitter about availability on the dates you plan to be away.

Confirm services required and cost.

When you have made your trip plans:

Contact your pet sitter and confirm dates and cost.

Call or visit your avian veterinarian to plan for your bird's medical care if the need should arise while you are away. Tell your vet the dates you will be away, the name of the person who is authorized to bring your bird in for treatment or evaluation and plan to have such visits billed to you directly.

A month before you leave:

Bring your bird to the vet for a well-bird visit. Re-confirm emergency arrangements.

Re-confirm dates with your bird-sitter.

Purchase some safe toys ('hand' toys or other proven safe playthings) for your bird to play with while you are away.

If you purchase bird supplies via mail order catalog or online, order them now.

Two weeks before your trip:

Line up a friend or family member to check in on your bird sitter once or twice during your absence just to be sure everything is okay.

Have your bird groomed. Trimmed toenails and clipped flight feathers will help reduce the risk of accidents or escape while you're away.

Purchase extra trash bags and cleaning products for the bird sitter to use while you're away.

Make sure there's an ample supply of newspaper or cage tray paper. Save time later and cut paper to size if necessary.

Label any spray bottles and bird cleaning products your bird sitter might use. Your bird's bath spray bottle should be clearly marked "Clean Water for Bathing Birds".

Make an extra set of house keys for your bird sitter and test them to be sure they work.

Begin making your own *Bird Sitter's Check List*. Leave the check list where your bird sitter will find it. Include the following things as they apply to you and your birds and add your own special items:

Phone number where you can be reached; landline at destination and your cell phone numbers; your e-mail address

Emergency numbers while you're away: relatives, veterinarian, heating company; household repair people; alarm company

Location of electrical panel and shut-off switches for boiler, etc.

Airline flight numbers and schedule or driving itinerary.

Date and time of your return

Garbage collection days and location of cans

Location of mailbox, newspaper delivery and package delivery so bird sitter can bring items inside

Dates and times of scheduled service visits: cleaning person, lawn service, etc. (You may be assessed an additional charge if your sitter must make a special trip to let people in.)

List of your bird's names and species

The week before you leave:

If you're using a new bird sitter, ask him or her to come over for a final visit before you leave. At this time, answer questions, re-familiarize the sitter with your home and give the sitter your house keys and your alarm code. (Some alarms accommodate a special, additional code for this

(Continued to page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

purpose, so you do not have to divulge your own code.)

Call your veterinarian again and re-confirm previous arrangements.

It is time for heavy cleaning. Scrub or power wash bird cages, trays and gratings. Discard soiled or frayed toys and accessories.

You should now have your trip itinerary. Print a copy of your itinerary and flight schedule to leave for your bird-sitter.

Launder cage covers. Use unscented detergent and forego the use of dryer sheets.

Purchase seed, pellets and treats.

Two days before departure:

Post your bird's names, special habits ('escape artist', 'stick trained', 'bites', 'afraid of purses', etc.) and diet needs on cages; do this in a place where birds won't be able to access the paper. I tape these to the edge of the angled cage aprons.

Put Post-it® notes on cabinets to let the bird sitter know where things (including carriers for emergencies, vacuum cleaner, paper towels, etc.) are.

Wash and sterilize bird dishes.

Set timers for lights, radio, etc. and monitor them to see that they're going on and off as scheduled.

Remind your friend or family member to check in with your bird sitter periodically.

The day before you leave:

Wipe soiled cage gratings, bars, aprons, and clean perches where necessary.

Change filters in air cleaners.

Purchase fruit, vegetables and other fresh food for your birds.

Touch base with your bird sitter and reconfirm the time he or she will service the birds the following day.

If you have a security camera set up so that you can check on your birds remotely, it's polite to let your sitter know the camera is there. Resist the urge to spy on your bird sitter—that's just creepy.

Day of departure:

Leave itinerary, check list and other instructions for your bird sitter in a pre-determined place.

Change cage tray paper; give birds fresh food and water.

If you are going to be gone for more than a few days, leave some cash in case the birds need fresh produce, etc.

Relax and have a wonderful time!

## Storage Shed Moves to Ronkonkoma

We have a great team—on both ends (Amityville and Ronkonkoma).

A BIG shout out of thanks to:

Susan S, David, Bob, Robert, Candy, Mike & Carol, My nephew, Jason, Susan C, Shawn & Karie-ann



# Conservation Notes

Since implementing a nickel charge for single use plastic bags, Suffolk County has seen their utilization go down more than 80 percent! A reduction of more than one billion plastic bags was reported during the first year after a bag fee was imposed in New York. Special thanks go to everyone who uses reusable bags for shopping.

The bald eagles in Centerport are reportedly sitting on two eggs. Several suitors are still courting the female. The widowed male bald eagle in North Ft. Myers, Florida continues to raise his two youngsters, who, at this writing are fledging.

A dozen scarlet macaws flew to freedom in Costa Rica this past February, thanks to the Macaw Recovery Network See video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p7RdadYCZI> or visit [Parrots, Habitat, People | Macaw Recovery Network](#) To date, all 12 birds are doing well.

From Australian Geographic: For just over 100 years, Australia's endemic night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) was considered extinct. After a series of unconfirmed reports, and the discovery of two dead specimens in 1990 and 2006, photographs and video footage captured in 2013 by naturalist and wildlife photographer John Young confirmed the species' modern existence, albeit in extremely low numbers.

Scans of a historic specimen showed that the night parrot has an asymmetrical skull and ears similar to those of owls, to locate where sound is coming from. This may explain why the species can survive with limited night vision in the dark outback. The external ear region is also exceptionally large. "We were impressed by how far one of the night parrot's ears stick out sideways, and also the sheer size of the external ear region," said senior co-author, Flinders Professor of Palaeontology Gavin Prideaux. "Taking up about one-third of the length of its head, its enlarged ear chambers may act like amplifiers which in turn would increase the volume of sound transferred to the inner ears."

From the World Parrot Trust: Orange-fronted Parakeets are found on offshore islands in New Zealand. They have reached a critical status in the wild due to introduced predators and the loss of their nesting trees. Thankfully, the species has been subject to intensive breeding-for-release and nest protection efforts by the New Zealand Department of Conservation, which have helped to increase their population. Birds have been released on

Chalky, Maud and Blumine islands, which are now predator-free.

From the Japan Times: Some 60% of animal cafes in Japan contain exotic species restricted by international trade laws, raising fears that their popularity may not just threaten their conservation, but may also heighten the risk of animal-borne diseases, a recent study found. By species, birds made up 62% of the total, of which 40% were owls. A total of 38 stores also sold the animals displayed in the cafe. Many of the owls were available for \$1,500. to \$4,400., while reptiles could be obtained cheaply. The most expensive animal listed was a secretary bird for nearly \$23,000.

From the American Bird Conservancy: ABC and partner Aquasis have been working in Brazil's Baturité Mountains, one of the species' last wild strongholds, to prevent the gray-breasted parakeet's extinction. Barely 13 percent of the Gray-breasted Parakeet's original habitat remains. Until recently, most of the population was found in just one isolated area. Aquasis has collaborated with landowners to prevent poaching and to install nest boxes that provide the parakeets with nesting sites. The nest box program has been successful, adding hundreds of birds to the population — enough to get the species downlisted from Critically Endangered to Endangered in 2017.

In addition, the partners have begun to establish additional populations of the species. For the first attempted reintroduction, they selected a protected area in the Aratanha Mountains, about thirty-five miles northeast of the Baturité Mountains. Starting in November 2021, conservationists took several groups of Gray-breasted Parakeets to the new site. In February 2023, three chicks fledged at the reintroduction site — the first official members of the first-ever reintroduced population of gray-breasted parakeets.

The Long Island Parrot Society recently sent two packages of feathers to Feathers for Native Americans in Virginia. The nonprofit 501(c)(3) feather distribution program collects molted feathers and donates them to the Pueblo Indians of the Southwest for use in their rich customs and traditions. By gifting molted Macaw and Parrot feathers, we can eliminate sellers of illegally imported feathers from Central and South America. If you'd like to donate feathers, send to: Steven James, Feather Collection Center, 3415 Butterfly Arch, Virginia Beach, VA 23456 To learn more, visit [www.feathersfornativeamericans.org](http://www.feathersfornativeamericans.org).

## Why Focus On Enrichment?

BY LARA JOSEPH | FEBRUARY 23, 2023

### Enrichment isn't an option; it's a necessity

What is enrichment?

I've always described enrichment as an arousal of the senses. There are five different senses, and many times, I incorporate enrichment using more than one of these senses. Enrichment can come in the form of visual, olfactory, tactile, audible, and oral. Enrichment can come in the form of a toy, a change in the environment, a scent, food, or something the animal can touch or manipulate. There is such a wide variety of ways we can incorporate enrichment into the lives of animals under our care.

Is enrichment important?

That depends on whom you ask. Most of our work at The Animal Behavior Center focuses on enrichment for many important reasons. Studies show if you are actually using positive reinforcement training, it is the animal's preferred form of enrichment. I agree. I see this every day. If the animal is giving behaviors for items or events of high value, why would it want the training to stop? This is the primary reason why I train.

If you were to ask me if enrichment is important, I would tell you it's not an option; it's a necessity. When an animal is in our care, its choices are usually restricted in some form or another. These choices can be restrictive due to their safety when we aren't able to supervise. A dog living in a house has restricted options in choice. For this reason, it is important to focus on the animal's choices and increase those choices by providing enrichment.

There are government regulations on enrichment for zoos and aquariums. These government regulations are starting to focus more on all animals, not just those of higher intelligence. Birds are the most recent focus of their implementation. There is also the Animal Welfare Act, first implemented in 1966 and revised numerous times since then. The primary purpose of the AWA is to ensure that animals receive the minimum standards of humane care and treatment.

How does one identify enrichment?

Enrichment should engage the animal in interacting with it. The more the animal interacts with it, the more it manipulates it through investigation and curiosity. Curiosity engages the animal mentally and physically. Studies show that mental and physical stimulation is extremely important to an animal's well-being.

When I'm working with a curious animal, it is manipulating its environment to identify what the environment contains that can bring the animal satisfaction. I observe the choices the animal makes. I then take those reinforcers and provide them in various ways to keep the animal engaged in the future.

When we help provide choices to an animal, we are helping empower that animal. Empowerment is giving that animal power over its environment. We can set up the environment to help the animal make appropriate choices and help prevent behavior concerns. We can

empower animals by providing choice, control, and changing and increasing complexities.

It is important to note that enrichment should be individualized and based on and designed around the one animal in front of you. Let me give you an example that made this point very clear to me. Let's say I'm a teacher of a fifth-grade class. Just because I have one student in my class named Sarah doesn't mean all future students named Sarah will be the same and have the same likes, dislikes, personalities, and behaviors. This is the same for every Rottweiler, ring-tailed lemur, or Umbrella cockatoo sitting in front of us.

Animals of the same species are all individuals and should be treated and approached as such. An individual animal's history will differ in how it was raised, what choices it was provided, and the behavior concerns it may have. These factors are extremely important when deciding what enrichment we will provide.

How does enrichment impact behavior concerns?

Behavior concerns develop from a lack of individualized enrichment. If we don't provide mental and physical stimulation in the form of enrichment, the animal will find a way to occupy its time, and it's likely not going to be behaviors we want them to learn. Once they learn undesired behaviors, we need to counter-condition them, meaning retraining them. This can take a lot of effort and be preventable in the first place.

Animals living in boring, stagnant environments often develop more serious behavior concerns. The longer the animal lives in these conditions, the more likely the animal to develop abnormal repetitive behaviors, also known as stereotypical behaviors. These health-concerning behaviors can be repetitive rocking, rhythmic screaming, circling, excessive grooming or preening, eating inedible objects, pacing, self-mutilation, and more. In many cases, these concerning behavior issues can turn into medical concerns.

If the animal has a behavior concern, I always include enrichment in my behavior modification plan. One of my favorite types of enrichment to provide is foraging. Foraging is when the animal works for its food. It's like providing puzzle feeders where an animal has to figure out how to obtain the food. The food should be attainable, and often this process needs to be shaped, meaning reinforced in small approximations.

I always observe the animal before I include any type of enrichment. Just because I may need enrichment for a ring-tailed lemur doesn't mean I provide the same kind of enrichment that I did with the last lemur I worked with. Each animal is its own individual and what might be considered enriching and empowering for one could be a feared item or situation for another. Many of the animals I work with come from various backgrounds or histories. The animal that is raised with little or no enrichment is also usually the animal that develops abnormal repetitive behaviors due to a lack of stimulated environments. In these cases, something we may consider a small, simple object could be a stressful event for an individual. In these situations, changes in the environment need to be shaped based on the individual's behavior. I have yet to have one encounter with a stressed animal showing abnormal repetitive behaviors. These behaviors could not be modified through positive reinforcement training and we can shape enrichment through

(Continued to page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

positive reinforcement training. I observe the animal, note concerns, and jot down goals and ideas. Then I implement them at the animal's confidence level once I've identified positive reinforcers. When I first began working with exotics and zoos, it was common to hear that exotic animals should only be provided natural enrichment. This bothered me because I always wanted to provide whatever the animal was comfortable with, whether natural or not. Most enrichment that would be considered natural are things like browse (tree limbs), trees to climb and fly to, tall grasses to roll in, scents, etc. Yes, that could be enrichment, but you will have a bored animal pretty quickly. I'll provide foraging toys like pools filled with balls, puzzle feeders, and hidden blocks that animals have to try to fly to, swing to, climb to, etc.

It is also extremely important to provide variety and complexity levels in enrichment, including our training. With predictability comes boredom. Once the animal engages with or figures out the enrichment, it is extremely important to add consistent challenges to the enrichment that results in continued engagement. With engagement, the animal is learning. If the animal is learning it means the animal's choice is involved. When the animal has the choice, the animal has control. You have an empowered animal when animals have choice, control, and complexity.

\*Used with permission - [www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com](http://www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com) - <https://www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com/why-focus-on-enrichment/>

## The Severity of Separation Anxiety

BY LARA JOSEPH | OCTOBER 20, 2018



A snapshot of a slide in my presentation to the Exotic Animal and Animal Behavior Clubs of the OSU veterinary students.

I'm sitting in my hotel room in downtown Columbus, Ohio. I'm a few blocks away from Ohio State University, where I was asked to collaborate and give a presentation to the veterinary student clubs. I gave the presentation last night focused on, but not limited to the causes of feather picking in birds and the importance of enrichment. I told the students how important it was for this talk to not be limited to only birds. Many animals, especially exotics have many of the behavior concerns and issues in common that result in feather destructive behaviors, self-injurious behaviors, and mutilation that is prominent in the companion parrot world.

I spoke for two hours and stayed an additional forty minutes addressing questions and brainstorming ideas and future collaboration with the students. I discussed the severity of misunderstood behavior issues that end up turning medical, some to the extent of euthanasia. Euthanasia for behavior issues in the companion parrot world is not uncommon. Many times this is due to misunderstood behavior issues and inaccurate behavior modification plans. This doesn't need to be. Several of the residents at The Animal Behavior Center, not just parrots, were cases likely ending in euthanasia. My goal is to provide full quality and empowered lives to these animals in addition to showing how these are behavior issues that can be addressed.

Many of the behavior issues in the companion parrot world are due to separation anxiety, unknowingly

## IN MEMORIAM

### Meredith Peet Bain 1-29-1948 -- 2/28/2023

Charter Long Island Parrot Society member, Meredith Bain passed away at her winter residence in Florida after a valiant, three-year battle with ALS.

Even without the ability to speak she charmed an audience in the Broadway play Newsies, rode her beloved horse Spicey Jax until 6 months before she passed, and enjoyed a sip of a nightly cocktail. Her beloved caique traveled between Florida and Long Island with Meredith and her husband, Gene Nifenecker each season.

Meredith was truly a force of nature, and the world is diminished without her in it. All who knew her will miss her humor, her energy, and her sense of fun. She lived a truly remarkable life, and we are all richer for having her in it. As Meredith would say, "Cowgirl up!"





## Birdie Corner



**Roberta Fabiano:** This is my blue fronted Amazon, Amy Landsperg Fabiano. She is 23 years old. I adopted her from our long time LIPS member, Barbara Landsperg about 14 years ago. She's a good girl and when she wants to sing, she has a beautiful, almost operatic voice. She says "Hello" in English and when she wants to,

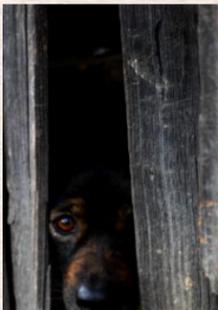
she'll say "Hello" in an Elmer Fudd accent (<https://youtu.be/MrslcxTszVO>). She also likes to ask the question "Do you like it?" And exclaims a sound of joy when she's getting her head scratched.

**Ray Young:** Each morning when I take out my Scarlet and Greenwing macaws, they demand their morning Walnuts. While the scarlet is enjoying her treat from atop her perch by the window, I get a tug on my pants leg from the Greenwing as if to say "Wheres mine?" to which I must give in.

If you would like to participate in Birdie Corner, email [editor@liparrots.org](mailto:editor@liparrots.org). Email subject Birdie Corner Article. Tell us what you do with your bird on a daily basis in about 4 to 5 sentences. You can participate as much or as little as you wish. Don't forget to send a picture of you and your bird to go with your article.

## The Hardest Animal to Train

BY LARA JOSEPH



A fearful, unsocialized animal can communicate this history through behaviors such as hiding, cowering, growling, and more. These are all signs of communication that serve a purpose for the animal.

Many times I am asked, "What is the hardest animal you have ever trained?" My answer may surprise you, then maybe not. It's not a certain species. My answer is 'the ones with a long, unenriched, unsocialized history'. Those can also be the most dangerous to the uneducated public. Along with these histories come the labels as 'unpredictable', 'neurotic', 'odd', 'aggressive', 'dangerous', and more. I would also not call the training 'hard'. It's labeled that because it takes time, attention, and planning. All of which people call 'hard' because they are inconvenient to the lives of the people taking care of them. When shown the small signals

to look for in behavior change, this isn't hard at all. Many times people want too big of behaviors too fast. 'Too big' means, the animal doesn't understand what you are asking or your intentions, because they haven't yet been communicated through training and learning. These examples are often the cases of numerous returns to the shelters, euthanasia, chained to the garage, or covered in a cage in a basement.

Each animal is as individual as each person and should be approached as such. We, as caretakers can fall into the trap of expectations in wanting or adopting the animal we have in mind. No person or animal comes with a guarantee. We work with what we are given and we can do better for them and their future with us by recognizing this. I was recently contacted by someone that adopted a dog with fearful behaviors. This person told me "This is not what I wanted." I responded by saying "You have what you adopted... a unique individual."

The above conversation correlates to a recent example I heard someone describe. It is relative to a teacher saying "Sarah just graduated from the fifth grade and therefore I expect all fifth grade students named Sarah to be exactly alike. This worked for my last Sarah. Why isn't this working for this one?" Genetics, history, nutrition, environment, medicine, and experience through consequences all play a major factor in the behavior of the animal.



That lunge, the bite, and not coming out of its cage are all signs of communication that the animal may not understand your intentions and the consequences it will bring. If that animal can see, hear, smell, or feel us...we are training it. The key question is "What are we training?"

Education is key, yet often not a priority which can result in continuous returns to shelters, labeled as 'unadoptable', resulting in preventable accidents, and more. When knowingly dealing with a behavior issue, why not focus on the behavior? These behaviors are serving a purpose for the animal. No behavior happens for no reason. Training is teaching. Teaching is learning. Learning is communication. When we know better, we do better. There is much room for the area of education to do better. Let's do better!

\*Used with permission - [www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com](http://www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com) - <https://www.theanimalbehaviorcenter.com/7088-2/>



## Australian Boy Fights To Help Save The Glossy Black Cockatoo

by Matt Rowe

The world is constantly in a state of flux, both for good and for bad. The bad seems to almost always be the most visible of both because we're often shocked by changes that hinder and hurt. But good is not always hidden under shadows. On occasion, there arises something – or someone – that strives hard to make a creative difference in the lives of creatures and those around them. That individual comes in the person of 12-year-old Spencer Hitchen.



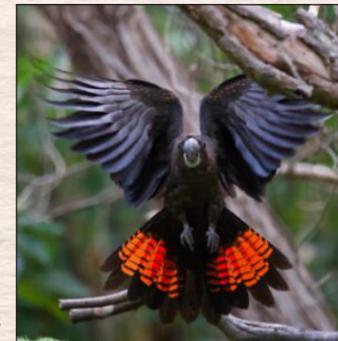
An avid photographer, Spencer Hitchen poses with a glossy black cockatoo. image by Spencer Hitchen

Australia-based Hitchen has dedicated himself to the protection of the dwindling Glossy Black Cockatoo population. Recently, the eastern sub-species was listed as threatened by the IUCN, an organization that monitors the vulnerability of bird species. But Hitchen has a goal to help change that. Here's the story:

A developer has been given the rights to construct a care and residential village for the aging population of Sunrise Beach. But the area of development is a definite section, albeit a small section, of essential habitats that help the Glossy Black Cockatoo to thrive as best it can. However, there is a consistent development of properties that slowly eat away at the natural environment, reducing the habitat to a smaller spread. This is a strong concern.

## Saving Trees to Save Black Glossy Cockatoos

Hitchen, along with the support of his mother, has taken it upon himself to passionately campaign for ceasing the active development. Birdlife Australia agrees, as their fear is that the Glossy Black Cockatoo will suffer "death by a thousand cuts," each cut being a small reduction of their habitat. The new construction that Hitchen is combating impacts an expanse that contains some 70 she-oak trees that are essential to feeding the Glossy Black Cockatoo. The tree produces cones that the birds feed favorably on making the plight even direr for their future source.



glossy black cockatoo in flight by Spencer Hitchen

Hitchen has stated that the trees are too important to remove for the project. It's not his intent that the facility doesn't get built, but that it is built elsewhere leaving the habitat untouched. Spencer has undertaken several forms of protest. One is a [Change.org petition](https://www.change.org), which currently has 75,159 signatures out of 150,000. He has a [Save Sunrise Glossies Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/savesunriseglossies) to help bring further awareness to the issue.

Hitchen is an avid photographer who is often found capturing the birds he loves in beautiful photos. He has produced a calendar of photos filled with a wealth of information. The money he collects is designed to help his cause in small but important ways and his campaign's intent is to have the construction stop. Responsibility for the Glossy Black Cockatoo and other wildlife and trees is being sought at the developer level as well as the community level. His calendars can be ordered for 2023 for \$20 (email [savesunriseglossies@gmail.com](mailto:savesunriseglossies@gmail.com) to inquire about one for yourself and to help his cause).

It is a rare but impassioned thing to have a young individual like Spencer Hitchen stand up in support of nature. His organization of a strong campaign to protect what is thought to be the right thing to do is a beacon. It helps to send the message that while we know we need to create housing and care facilities; it is also a responsibility to investigate potential habitat infringements and locate them appropriately.

\*Used with permission - [www.lafeber.com](http://www.lafeber.com) - <https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/australian-boy-fights-to-help-save-the-glossy-black-cockatoo/>

## Links worth Checking Out!

Using More Than 4,000 Pieces of Paper, Artist Lisa Lloyd Painstakingly Constructs Birds and Butterflies. [Read article.](#)

How to solve your toughest bird behavior problems (biting, screaming, attacking, fear... solved!). [Watch video.](#)

The Rainbow Bridge: The True Story Behind History's Most Influential Piece of Animal Mourning Literature [Read Article](#)

## Adoption Update from Parrot Placement



**Sunny the sun conure.** Sadly, Sunny's owner passed away. We had a candidate whose conure just passed away and she was looking for an older conure in need. It was kismet that they found each other—here's an update from the new owner: I'm just writing to let you know that Sunny is a total character and has bonded himself firmly to my son, Peter! This morning I watched as Pete scrambled eggs with Sunny on his shoulder, and Sunny was dancing to the rhythm of the egg beating! Sunny tolerates me, but the minute Peter is home, there's just one person for his little birdy heart. Our little parakeet is also very bonded to Sunny and gets all bent out of shape if Pete takes Sunny out of her sight. Thank you for entrusting Sunny to us.

**Pearl the cutie Cockatoo.** Pearl joined a family of four humans and a sulphur-crested cockatoo. Note from new owner:

Pearl is doing very well here and has gotten very accustomed to our family. She prefers me over my husband, but gets along well with both of us and the kids. Thanks for the opportunity to let us adopt ❤️ (it was commented that Pearl is so cute and the new owner said she even sounds cute)!



# Long Island Pet Expo March 3, 2023



Photo credit to Diane Hyde



"We're Back!"



LIPS Donates to Eric Powers at CEED

Sign up for Feather Flash

The official, online news service of The Long Island Parrot Society

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SALE

Portion of the sale donated to LIPS

Etsy Store: [someguyssewing.etsy.com](https://someguyssewing.etsy.com)

## LIPS MEMBER DISCOUNTS

The following businesses give the discounts noted for LIPS members. You must show your current membership card. Discounts are subject to change; we suggest you ask before you make your purchase. If you have a problem with a store or service not honoring it, let us know. (631-957-1100):

- Bird Paradise**, Burlington, NJ, 10% off (doesn't apply to purchased birds or Harrison's products) - in store only. 15% discount for on-line purchases—code: LIPS15.
- B.T.J.'s Jungle**, West Islip (631-587-8191) 10% off
- Central Veterinary Associates**, 24/7, Valley Stream + 5 other locations, 10% off all services, call (888-4CVA-PET), [www.centralvets.com](http://www.centralvets.com) — for LIPS members
- Fine Feather, LLC** (The Pet Store Next Door), [www.finefeather.us](http://www.finefeather.us) (516-801-6400) discount code liparrot10
- First Flight**, 514 Middle Country Road, Coram (631-732-1494) 10% birds and related
- Paumanok Veterinary Hospital**, Patchogue (631-475-1312) 10% off exam
- Total Pet Care/Lawrence Labs**, Holbrook (800-TOTL-PET) 10% LIPS.

**goodshop**

Support the Long Island Parrot Society when you shop on [GoodShop.com](http://GoodShop.com).

- Simply click on Choose a Cause at the top of the page.
- In the search box type in Long Island Parrot Society.
- On the right of the page, a link for Long Island Parrot Society will appear. Click the link.
- Goodshop.com will display information on LIPS, on the right, click the SHOP NOW button.
- At the top of your page, it will now display, Supporting the Long Island Parrot Society. You can now shop and donate!



Vet list

To view our list of Avian Veterinarian, just scan the code or [click here](#).

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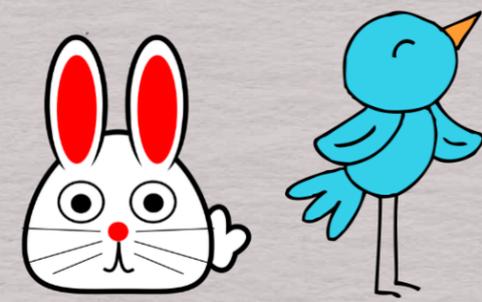
**One Call Does it All!**  
**631-563-0838**  
**DietrichSVC@gmail.com**

**Check Out Our Meeting Vendors!**

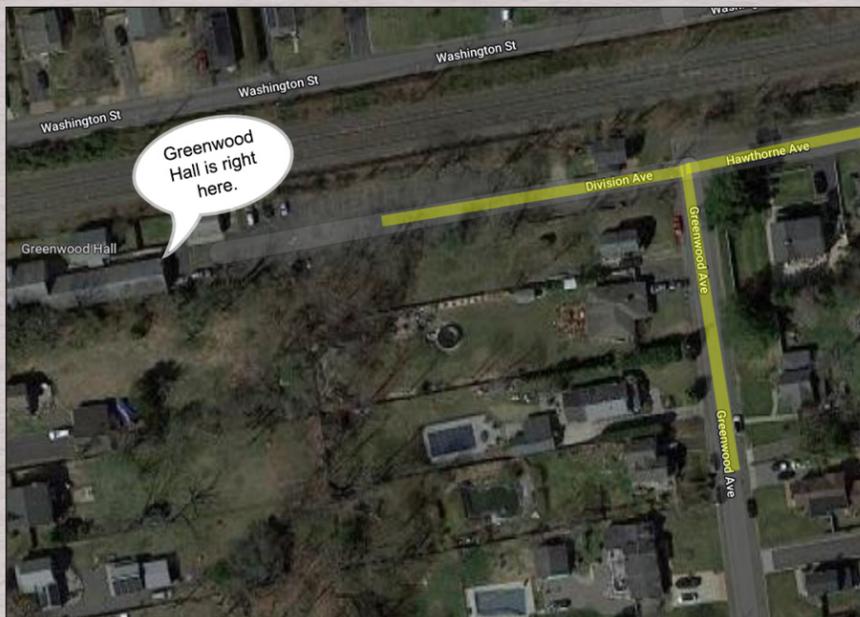
- 14 Karat Parrot—Great "Parrotphernalia"! Fine Gifts and Accessories for the Exotic Bird Lover!
- K&M Mobile Grooming & Bird Food

**Become a LIPS Volunteer!**

We need help with Administrative work, answering phone call, emails, data entry, committee specific help, just to name a few. Get more involved with the Long Island Parrot Society. Let's build a team that helps grow our organization. Scan the QR code to take our Skills Survey. Once we received your information, we will contact you.

## Directions to Our Meeting Hall, 58 Greenwood Avenue East Islip, NY 11730



**From the East:**  
Sunrise Hwy to exit 46. Left on Connetquot Avenue. Stay straight. Turn right at Hawthorne Ave. (Just after Railroad tracks.) Stay straight until the end of the street, note the Greenwood Hall Sign. Follow into the long drive way.

**From the West:**  
Sunrise Hwy to exit 46 toward County Rd 17/Carleton Ave/East Islip/Central Islip. Merge onto Sunrise Hwy South Service Rd. Turn right onto Garfield Ave. Turn left onto Jackson St. Turn right onto Carleton Ave. Turn left onto Union Blvd. Turn left at the 2nd cross street onto Greenwood Ave Street.

### Please observe the following rules for the safety of your parrots and others!

- You must be a LIPS member for at least 60 days prior to bringing birds to meetings or events.
- Non-members and guests are not permitted to bring birds to meetings or events.
- Flighted birds must be confined to carriers or cages.
- All birds must remain under supervision of their pet human or a caretaker designated by said human.
- Please clean up after your birds (poop, food, etc.).

The following birds must have been quarantined for 60 days prior to attending meetings or events:

- Newly acquired birds, baby birds and geriatric birds.
- Sick birds; any bird exposed to sick birds within the past 60 days.
- Birds that have been boarded in pet shops.
- Pin-feathered baby birds are not permitted at meetings or events unless contained in appropriate, solid sided containers or incubators. Owner assumes any risks associated with bringing such birds to meetings or events.

**We Welcome Our New Members with Open Wings:**

# News from the Flock



January 2023: MaryKate Brennan; Nichole Scalone; Jane O'Halloran; Liz Bitondo; Christina Segovia; Susan Murphy; Rosemarie Vega; Stamatina Gregory; Lauren Kolesinkas, Melissa Bonet; Bonnie Zimmerman

February 2023: Kimberly Rastelli; Lisa Labrusciano; Giovanni Arroyo; George Stockdale; Lisa Bono; Michelle Gren Raynor

March 2023: Nancy Taubenslag; Barry Jones; Yasmin Tejeda; Luis Ramos; Susan Walsdorf; Janna Jovine; Emily Rothschild; Marina Slasten

We hear that Dr. Heidi Hoefler has retired but remains on staff as a consultant at Island Exotic Veterinary Care in Huntington Station. Dr. Meredith Davis acquired the practice last year. Long Island Budgie Rescue founder, Shana Kersten works there too!

Condolences to Tom Walkowiak, whose toucan, Sam, passed away in March. He had purchased/rescued Sam from a pet store and gave her a couple of great years. He knew Sam was an older bird when he got her. Sam waited for Tom to get home and pick her up before she made her journey over the rainbow bridge.

Best wishes to Diane Ciardullo as she recovers from back surgery.

A little birdie told us that member Linda LaFleur entered her pup in one of the dog events at Pet Expo last month!

Condolences to Joan Napolitano on the loss of her sister, Marian DiFazio.

Do you remember Sister Barbara Seaward, a regular meeting attendee with her African grey parrot, Angel? Sister Barbara is now in the nursing center at Dominican Village in Amityville. Send her a card at: Sister Barbara Seaward, Dominican Sisters, 555 Albany Avenue, Amityville NY 11701

Happy wedding anniversary to Frank Huwer and his bride of 47 years!

Sympathy to Andrea Mercier on her dad's passing. Many thanks to first-year Board member, Susan Seddo, who is proving to be a real go-getter! She researched and visited alternatives to our storage unit, and negotiated a move that will save the club several thousand dollars a year! Thanks also for her generous, and much-loved donation to the March raffle table! Delicious!

Condolences to Denise Coscia, on the loss of her 25-year old Quaker parakeet. She had him for 21 of those years.

Best wishes to Patti McKenna who is recovering from surgery.

Amazon Smile sent us a donation of \$108.57, covering the period from October 1-December 31, 2022. Thanks to all who shopped!

One of our members, who has the personality for it, has been working part-time as a food demonstrator at Costco in Westbury. Can you guess who?

Sign of the times? The March issues of two major pet industry magazines featured only three ads for bird products, and not a single article about pet birds.

Special thanks to Michele Benner whose birthday Facebook fundraiser resulted in \$120.00 in donations for LIPS as of this writing!



Debbie Goodrich, CPBC IAABC  
President, Flight Club Foundation  
[www.flightclubfoundation.org](http://www.flightclubfoundation.org)  
Executive Director, Seattle Parrot Expo  
[www.seattleparrotexpo.com](http://www.seattleparrotexpo.com)  
Owner, Parrot Ambassadors  
[www.parrotambassadors.com](http://www.parrotambassadors.com)  
Manufacturer, Parrot Pockets  
[www.parrotpockets.com](http://www.parrotpockets.com)

Performing with Parrots since 2001, Debbie believes people and parrots can both lead enriching lives despite any limitations that face them. She began her professional career receiving her degree in Psychobiology, Animal Cognition and Behavior, from the University of California, Santa Cruz in pursuit of professionally training dolphins. Her career took a turn toward parrots when she was hired at Rainforest Cafe. The experience gained from working with other zoo Curators, Directors and more created the independent work she completes now from behavior consulting to event planning. This includes speaking nationally at conventions, supporting field research through literary searches, and contributing to social media concerns and questions. In 2013, she helped create Flight Club Foundation, a 501 c(3) non profit organization furthering support for parrots and parrot people. Beginning with "Parrot Playdates", Flight Club Foundation supports charities through the Parrot Grant program, Owners with Parrot Issues, Recovery of Lost Parrots and Rehoming. This work is funded by the largest, last remaining parrot-centered event in the Pacific Northwest, Seattle Parrot Expo. She feels that together, we can save the parrots of today and and through them, ourselves tomorrow.

Barbara Goodrich

Meet  
Speaker

# Meet the Member



Brother and sister members, David and Marcia Abrahams first joined the Long Island Parrot Society in 2002, about a year after they got sun

conure, "Sunny" and yellow-shouldered Amazon "Kiwi". Marcia learned about the club from a friend whose husband's sister was a member at the time. The following year, they adopted Oscar, a greenwinged macaw who lived in an aquarium store. The owner felt that the environment was not ideal for Oscar, so offered the bird to the Abrahams. "She was about 15 when we adopted her," said Marcia. "Dr. Susan Clubb in Florida thought she was older, but there was no way to be sure. We originally thought she was a male, but then she laid an egg!"

"Pepper, also a greenwinged macaw, came to us in January 2004. We were boarding our birds at a pet store in Queens right next to the store Oscar came from. The husband died and the owner offered him to us. Oscar and Pepper were very bonded to each other for years until he became jealous of the attention she paid to her eggs," David related. "We had to separate them after that...she never forgave him for breaking her eggs."

Marcia and David got Maui, a blue fronted Amazon at Parrot EXPO in 2005. Maui became a professional actor, appearing in a theatrical production of Treasure Island at Brooklyn's Irondale Center for 6-7 weeks and eight performances a week. "She seemed to really enjoy it," said Marcia, and I can attest to the bird's composure and attention onstage, having attended a performance!

Both Pepper and Maui worked at a Verizon FIOS event at Jones Beach Theatre during a Jimmy Buffett concert. "It was a fun event but got rained out before the end of the gig," Marcia said. Both macaws appeared on Good Day New York to promote Parrot EXPO one year, and most recently, Pepper and red-lore Amazon, Coco, appeared in print ads for Dio cocktails!

The Abrahams moved to Florida in 2011 with their caravan of parrots, and joined up with former club member, Elise Negrin to participate in parrot related events, including Hollywood's Candy Cane Parade. They joined the Bird Lover's Club and participated in outreach events, often bringing Oscar and Pepper with them. Combined with

Elise's greenwing, Henny Penny, they made quite an impression! Both Marcia and David served on the board of the Bird Lover's Club, and when Elise founded the Parrot Society of the Palm Beaches, they joined that as well. Lifetime LIPS member, Terri Pakula had also moved to South Florida, and they saw her periodically as well.

Sunny, the sun conure sadly passed away in Florida, and because Maui seemed lonely afterwards, they adopted red-lore Amazon, Coco. They are not the best of friends, but they are comfortable with each other, according to David and Marcia.

Although the Abrahams had backyard bird feeders when they lived in North Babylon, they really got into birding in Florida, and Marcia became quite an avid birder. "I got involved with Audubon and learned how to identify birds. It started as a photo effort, but then I got into serious birding. I started with eBird, a website devoted to birding (Visit ebird.org). For me, it's really about seeing new species and seeing 'lifers'. I like getting out & getting into nature." Marcia is anxious to see the sooty fox sparrow, recently reported at Brooklyn Bridge Park. "Having pet birds of my own made me much more aware of wild birds," she said. "When I lived in Florida, I loved seeing the wild parrots. There are white fronted Amazons and mitred conures at the Biltmore Hotel!" Marcia did a Zoom presentation for LIPS, featuring photos of the many parrot species she saw around Florida. She belongs to the Queens County Bird Club and has arranged for some speaker presentations.

David and Marcia moved back to New York in 2019, and showed up at Parrot EXPO and then got right back into attending meetings until COVID struck in early 2020. They live with their mom and three parrots, Pepper, the macaw, and Amazons Kiwi and Coco in a Bayside apartment with a million-dollar view of New York City bridges. "Part of me will always want another sun conure," shared Marcia, "But space limitations won't allow it." However, the apartment provides birdwatching opportunities of its own: "We see Merlins, Cooper's hawks, red-tailed hawks and American kestrels," Marcia enthused.

Before retiring, David supervised a computer unit at the District Attorney's office in New York City. Half-jokingly, he said he's glad he's not there now! Marcia formerly worked selling print and digital media for Newspapers First in New York, then worked for TV stations and Wellington Magazine in Florida. "It was stressful, but I loved my equine clients," she said.

Always enthusiastic volunteers and event participants, both Marcia and David hope that we get beyond the avian flu and can do more outreaches with their birds. David, in particular loves "That you can show people how to take care of their birds. Helping educate parrot owners is extremely rewarding. Many don't understand what a commitment it is and how difficult it can be at times.

"We enjoy the meetings and seeing everyone. For the future, I hope we are able to attract younger people to keep things going. I look forward to continuing to educate people and seeing varied speakers at meetings and on Zoom," he said. And here is where I mention that David is on the Long Island Parrot Society's Board of Directors, and he has been doing a fantastic job of recruiting those varied speakers he mentioned!



# Adoption Spotlight

**Parrot's Name** Kesha  
**Species** Indian ringneck  
**Age of Parrot** 12  
**Sex** Male  
**Are the Wings Clipped?** No - Fully flighted  
**Bird Color** Blue  
**Does your bird talk?** No  
**What do you currently feed your bird to eat?** Pellets, seeds, fruits, veggies  
**Is your bird hand tame?** Yes  
**Does your bird have any feather issues?** None  
**When was the bird last Vet checked?** February 25, 2023  
**which of the following your bird is good with?** Other Birds  
**Tell us if your bird has any behavior issues?** He is afraid of new people  
**Why are you needing to rehome your bird?** Moving  
**Provide us with any additional information that may help a candidate show interest in your bird.** He is very calm, likes to sit next to the mirror, has a lot of toys that are going to be donated with him. Not easy to earn his trust but once he trusts you he is very sweet, likes to play, get head scratches and gives a lot of kisses. He likes to be out of the cage all day and flies freely, I would like for him to have his freedom to fly around.



Albin is looking for his forever home. If you are interested in adopting Albin please contact us at 631-957-1100 or send an email to: [parrotplacement@liparrots.org](mailto:parrotplacement@liparrots.org) for further information. You can find our adoption application at: [liparrots.org/Adopt](https://liparrots.org/Adopt)

**LONG ISLAND PARROT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.  
A NONPROFIT 501c3 ORGANIZATION AND  
NYS REGISTERED CHARITY**

**OFFICERS:**

**President:** Diane Hyde  
**Vice President:** Shawn Florman  
**Treasurer:** Diane Hyde  
**Recording Secretary:** Susan Chamberlain  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Susan Chamberlain

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Diane Hyde, Donna Barbaro, Candy Little, Susan Chamberlain,  
David Abrahams, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross,  
Susan Seddo

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Website:** [www.liparrots.org](http://www.liparrots.org)  
**E-mail:** [info@liparrots.org](mailto:info@liparrots.org)

**Feather Flash (sign-up):** <https://www.liparrots.org/featherflash>

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/liparrots>

**Parrot Phone:** 631-957-1100; Diane Hyde

**GET INVOLVED—TEAMS & SERVICES—JOIN A TEAM:**

**Accountant:** Adam Seyam, CPA  
**Bookkeeper:** Sharon Millard  
**Cage Donation Committee:** Bob Dietrich, Robert Gross, Susan Seddo  
**Fundraising Coordinator:** Susan Chamberlain  
**Grooming:** Nicole Pica, LVT  
**Holiday Party Coordinator:** Diane Hyde  
**Hospitality:** Carol and Mike Christenson  
**Membership Coordinator:** Bob Dietrich  
**Media Coordinators:**  
(Newsletter, Social Media, Signage, AV, Web, & Research)  
Kaitlin Saxton, Donna Barbaro, Karie-Ann & Shawn Florman  
**Outreach Events Coordinator:** Candy Little

**Parrot EXPO Coordinator:** Board of Directors  
**Parrot Placement Program Coordinators:** (631-456-1813)  
Diane Hyde, Shawn Florman, Marla Greene  
**Parrot University® Coordinator:** Robert Gross  
**Picnic Coordinators:** Bob Dietrich, Diane Hyde,  
Carol and Mike Christenson  
**Programming and Education Coordinator:** David Abrahams

**Publicity and Public Relations Coordinator:** Susan Chamberlain  
**Raffles Coordinators:**  
**Special Events:** Susan Chamberlain  
**Vendor and Venue Liaison:** TBD  
**Volunteer Coordinator:** Candy Little

**HELP WANTED!**

**Monthly Meetings:**  
**Help with set-up before meeting and break down afterward**  
**Coffee/Refreshments**  
**Volunteers for Parrot University and Outreach Events**  
during the year

**LIPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
(Please Print Clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_  
eMail Address for Feather Flash: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in the Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc. Check all that apply:

- NEW MEMBER       RENEWAL       SENIOR (62+ 10% off)
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
(includes electronic newsletter delivery: \$45)       LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$500
- Only select this option if you **do not** want electronic newsletter delivery  
Paper Copy (\$15 additional annual fee charged to help defray the cost of paper version)
- Gift (if gift, list your name as sponsor): \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check or money order payable to the Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc.

Mail to: P O Box 2754, North Babylon, NY 11703-0754

Memberships may also be paid on-line on our website using  
PayPal: <https://www.liparrots.org/membership>

General Phone: 631 957 1100      Adoption Line: 631 456 1813      eMail: [info@liparrots.org](mailto:info@liparrots.org)

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/  
OUTREACHES**

**June 21st** - In Person Meeting at  
Greenwood Hall. Starts at 7pm.

\*Mini-ZOOM meetings are held on  
the first Wednesday of each  
month at 7PM. In-person meetings  
will be live-streamed via ZOOM.  
Meeting invitations are sent via  
email

**OUT OF TOWN & VIRTUAL  
EVENTS**

Organizations: list your upcoming  
events here. Email information to:  
[editor@liparrots.org](mailto:editor@liparrots.org)

Join The Leather Elves Facebook  
page every Friday evening at 7PM  
EST! Robin Shewokis-Sullivan  
hosts an informative and  
entertaining presentation on  
different avian topics each week!

**May 12 - 14** - [Festival of the Birds](#)  
Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA

**May 13** - [Audubon's World Series  
of Birding](#) - Bernardsville, NJ

**May 18 - 21** - [New Jersey  
Audubon's 2023 Cape May Spring  
Festival](#) - Cape May, NJ

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