



Paintings Celebrate Chimacum Creek Read to Rover Dogs

Three years ago when Kim Pratt, co-coordinator of the Read to Rover program at Chimacum Creek Primary School, decided that she wanted to honor the dogs by painting their portraits, she could not have imagined how her project would serve to bring the community together during the isolation of COVID. Back then, Kim also didn't know how to paint, so she decided to learn how by taking a pet painting class from Julie Read, through the Port Townsend School of the Arts.

This January and February, her paintings were shown at Elevated Ice Cream and the Read to Rover volunteers flocked to see them (and each other) at the artists' receptions. Then King 5 TV's Evening Show got wind of the show and filmed a segment about it. Many of the teams came to be a part of that. You can view that video from a link on our website. Now, the paintings are in the school library for the kids to enjoy.

Kim's dream became much more than a set of wonderful portraits. Thank you, Kim, for your gift to our R2R community.



Kim Pratt and art instructor, Julie Read, at Elevated Ice Cream



Photo shoot for King 5 TV's Evening Show segment that aired on January 27, featuring Kim Pratt and Julie Read as well as many of the Read to Rover teams



Paintings now hang in the Chimacum Creek Primary School Library
photo credit: Kim Pratt

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the President	2	Donors.....	6
Retirements from the Pet Pals Board	3	Honoring Dr. Johnson on her Retirement.....	7
Meet Read to Rover Dog, Shailah.....	4-5	In honor of and In memory of... ..	7
Thank You.....	5	HSJC Veterinary Trailer has Arrived.....	8

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Olympic Mountain Pet Pals is a 501(c)(3) (non-profit) organization whose mission is to prevent the birth of unwanted pets and community cats through our spay and neuter programs. We are funded by donations and grants.

For more information about Olympic Mountain Pet Pals, visit our website at www.ompetspals.org

From the President

How can we get the most impact from funding in regard to proactive prevention of dog and cat overpopulation? OMPP has always focused primarily on low cost spay/neuter services for owned pets, complemented by a trap/neuter/return program for community cats. It stands to reason that the more money allocated to spay/neuter, the fewer resources will eventually be needed for rescue, adoption, sanctuary and relocation. In this way, we help support the local entities that provide those rescue services and help keep them from being overwhelmed.

Details on how we are doing our part are available in our 2020 Annual Report which is available on our website. The bottom line is that the total number of procedures for owned pets and community cats in Jefferson County since inception of our program is a staggering

8,216. Since our primary source of funding is via donation, you've made this possible!

2021 brings us a new model of partnerships with Center Valley Animal Rescue and the Humane Society of Jefferson County to help fund low cost spay/neuter clinics for county residents. Early numbers show that 109 procedures have been done through the beginning of April at the clinics, which puts us on track for one of our biggest years to date. We expect the numbers to go up as the Humane Society's state of the art surgical trailer arrives at the end of April and as Center Valley Animal Rescue gets more veterinarians and vet techs on board. Preliminary costs show that this increased number of procedures is costing far less than our previous model of issuing vouchers for private veterinary clinics. This savings should keep us in business for many years to come and makes your dollars stretch further.

Other changes this year include the inception of our e-newsletter, which will be delivered about six times a year to help keep you informed between our semi-annual newsletters. We are also saying goodbye this year to two long-time Board members, Phyllis Becker and Randi Winter. You can read more about their accomplishments in this newsletter and you'll understand why we will miss them and also why their retirements are so well-deserved.

We are optimistic that part of the return to "normal" after COVID is under control will include the sight of our therapy dog teams visiting schools, libraries, and senior facilities in person once again. During this past year they have done their best to connect with kids through Zoom sessions. We miss our active therapy dog programs but know they will be back.

The pandemic has made us very aware of the importance of animal companions in our lives and the struggle many community members go through to keep their pets healthy and safe. We want to continue providing key services that will help both lower-income residents and the other non-profits that work so hard on behalf of animals. Many thanks to our supporters for sharing in this mission. You are greatly appreciated!



Pam Kolacy and her dog, Lucy

Retirements from the Pet Pals Board

The OMPP Board of Directors will greatly miss our two retiring Board members.

Phyllis Becker is a founding member who joined the organization in 2001 with a particular interest in establishing a trap/neuter/return program for feral cats. Since that time, the program has been wildly successful, with over 2,400 cats served. Working with clients, vets, and a few volunteers, Phyllis has been the heart of this program and has a stunning history of success.

Her garage has been home to trapped cats awaiting their vet appointments and many litters of kittens in various stages of taming so they can be eligible for adoption. She has also rehomed 165 cats to barn homes. Other contributions to OMPP have included manning booths at various events like the Uptown Fair, grant writing, distributing flyers and newsletters around the area and occupying the position of board secretary for several years. All these tasks have meant being “on call” 24/7 for many years.

Her newfound free time will not be “down” time by any means as she is a very active volunteer with the Humane Society of Jefferson County. She is one of the primary cat volunteers and does a variety of other tasks as needed. Phyllis is an accomplished vegan cook and will now be able to spend a bit more time experimenting in the kitchen as well as tending her landscaping which includes flowers, vegetables and fruit trees. There may even be time for some travel to see more of the Western United States.

Phyllis said she is particularly glad she could help prevent so many feral kittens from being born. She is proud that OMPP has made Jefferson County so progressive in implementing this program and continuing it for so many years. She noted that the declining number of ferals entering the shelter has contributed to the shelter’s success in becoming an open admission facility.

After 12 years on the board of Olympic Mountain Pet Pals, **Randi Winter** is retiring. After joining the Board in 2008, Randi served as Treasurer for 6 years. Then she switched to Secretary and finally ended her stint with OMPP as Vice-President.



Phyllis Becker

Because of her dog, Rosey, a recently departed 16-year-old Havanese, Randi became interested in the Pets to People program.

She and Rosey participated in that program for awhile and then when Rosey decided he wanted to do something else, Randi decided to join the OMPP board. Randi helped with fundraisers, wrote grants, and sent lots of thank you letters to donors. She also used the professional skills she developed as a therapist to help us through some difficult situations and most recently was an active participant in our strategic planning process.

Randi noted that she wanted to help reduce the suffering of animals in the world and OMPP’s spay/neuter program helped her achieve that. She said, “It’s not often you can make that kind of difference.” Now, we’ll find her out birdwatching and bike riding and growing amazing vegetables in her garden.

It is safe to say that our programs would never have been so successful without the dedication and love of animals demonstrated by Randi and Phyllis. They have certainly earned “retirement” and we will miss them. We are deeply grateful for their contributions. Thanks for your service, Randi and Phyllis!

Finally, **Laura Joshel**, who has been coordinating the Read to Rover program at Salish Coast Elementary School (in a non-board capacity) for the past three years, will be stepping down at the end of this school year. She did a wonderful job of revitalizing the Port Townsend program before the COVID shutdowns hit, but has continued to contribute virtually in the Zoom-based reading circles. Our thanks to Laura for her excellent volunteer leadership!



Randi Winter

Meet Read to Rover Dog, Shailah

By Shelly Webb

Years ago, I used to take my West Highland White Terrier, Nickum, to a summer reading program in the library in Gustavus, Alaska. The kids clambered to pick books and sit right next to Nickum to show him the pictures and read to him. There was a lot of laughter and eagerness to read. I longed to resume that practice.

So in the winter of 2014, I began the search for a second dog. My dog at the time, Iverson, a rescue poodle-pom with severe anxiety around people, was not a candidate for a therapy dog. My dream was to get another rescue dog that could do the therapy work and be a companion to Iverson.

I had clear criteria in mind: come from a rescue situation, a young small female, comfortable around all kinds of dogs, and people and able to accommodate Iverson's personality issues. Personality and social skills were of paramount importance, breed and appearance were not. Having years of experience with rescue dogs, I knew I was asking a lot from a dog coming from a rescue situation.

After two months of lurking on PetFinder and other shelter websites, visiting local shelters, submitting six applications and conducting as many phone interviews, I was finally heading out to personally check out the first dog that might have the potential to meet my criteria. The description on PetFinder met my criteria and the phone interview further piqued my interest.

A friend and I traveled with our dogs to the Kirkland PetSmart to meet up with the foster mom and adoption facilitator from PUPS (People United for Pets) rescue group. PUPS has an arrangement with high kill shelters in San Diego, picking up a van load of dogs at a time who are due for euthanasia, bringing them to foster homes in the Seattle area and placing them in homes.

While I was observing Shea (her adoptive name), they were checking me out closely. The foster mom had grown quite attached to her and wasn't willing to easily let her go. She was very thin with her spotted skin showing through the thin coat and a little scruffy face, dominated by large intelligent eyes, somewhere between one and three years old. Future DNA revealed that she is a Shiz Tsu - Chihuahua mix. Not in my wildest dreams would I believe that I would be choosing this funny looking tiny dog. She was certainly the homeliest of all the dogs I considered.

Yet Shea (soon to be Shailah) was a very confident, smart little dog that met people politely and calmly. The foster Mom said that she was very quiet, never barking, and seemed to be housebroken. Shea was thrilled to meet Iverson (tails wagging wildly, playbows offered), approached an old Golden Retriever to meet politely nose to nose, and coolly turned aside when approached by an assertive Golden Retriever. While she wouldn't earn any beauty contest, her demeanor and confidence instantly won me over. I had found my new family member!

She spent the summer gaining weight, growing hair, romping with Iverson and learning a bunch of tricks. She learns very quickly and has in fact taught me a trick or two. Four classes with Georgia Towle at Lucky Dog Training Center and Shailah passed her Canine Good Citizen and Therapy Dog test with flying colors.

We joined Read to Rover that fall. She is particularly good with children that are timid, shy or afraid of dogs. Her diminutive size, soft demeanor and fun bag of tricks invariably win them over. She usually chooses to curl up behind or next to the student while they read as their relationship grows. She is in her full glory when surrounded by 6-7 children all clamoring to meet and pet her. There is a bit of Princess in this little dog.

One little girl comes to mind. When we first met, she was standing in front of me, in a room stuffed with 16 dogs and handlers with her hands to her face frantically saying "I don't like dogs! I'm scared of dogs! Dogs bite!" I assured her that Shailah didn't bite. Besides she had mouse teeth and not many of them. Did she want see them? Well, yes she did. So I invited her over to do a dental inspection on Shailah's mouth. Shailah was quite willing to accommodate this process. Many



Iverson and Shailah

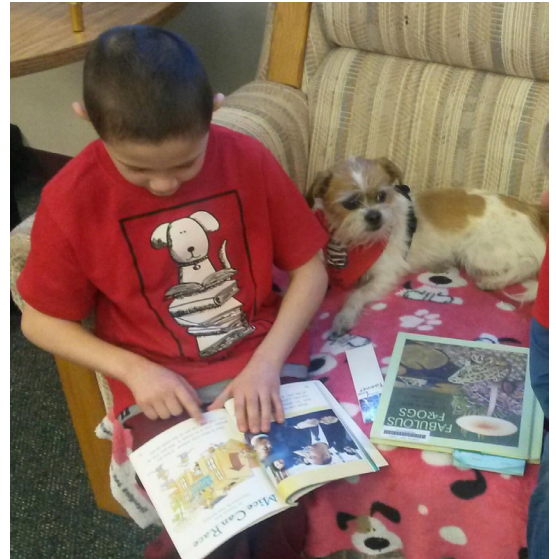
Meet Read to Rover Dog, Shailah

(continued)

teeth never came in and the rest are very tiny. The little girl was reassured and we discussed what happened to her to make her so afraid. We reviewed how to meet and act around new dogs. Over the coming weeks, she began to hold Shailah's leash, ask her to do tricks, and began to be able to hand Shailah treats. She searched for dog story books, reading very quietly, hesitantly. As her confidence grew, her reading improved dramatically and she wished for a dog of her own. On our final day together, the girl came up with a treat for Shailah that was much too large for her and I asked her to give it to a 80 pound labradoodle that sat near us. "Sure!" she said and easily walked over and handed it to this very large dog using the skills she learned about meeting new dogs. Success in so many ways!

We tried visiting assisted living homes, however, Shailah was totally bored. No kids! She is not a lap dog and the residents couldn't reach her on the floor to give her the back scratches that she prefers. So we let that opportunity go.

She lives a full life with off leash 1 ½ mile walks with a pack of small dogs almost every day, running, sniffing and being part of the pack. She is confident that every human is just waiting to scratch her back, trotting up to them, quickly turning her back to them, standing, and waiting for the massage to begin. My job is to explain to the bewildered human what their role is in this unusual behavior. She lures me and Iverson into 'trick parties' where we go through her list of tricks in exchange for treats.

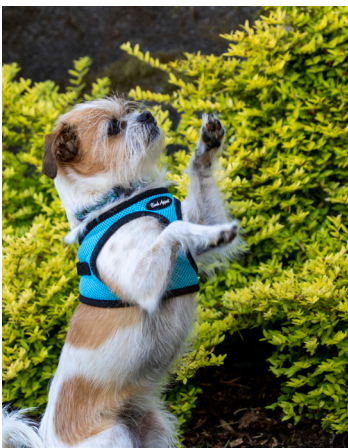


Shailah listening to student at Read to Rover

Being a California girl, she loves laying with her belly to the sun, soaking up the heat. She and Iverson have come to an agreement over the years. Iverson has backed off on his enthusiasm and Shailah at times will romp with him.

When I pull out my red shirt and Shailah's special harness, she is at my feet prancing, ready to suit up and head out for a fun visit with the kids. We both miss the opportunity to get to spend time with the students, developing a relationship with them and watching them grow. The hour we spent each week just flew by because we were so engaged. It is profoundly rewarding to see the progress our students make over the year and to know that in some small way, we have been able to help them gain skills that will aid them in years to come. They learn so much- developing a relationship with another adult, safe dog handling skills, increased confidence, knowing that they are important to another adult and of course reading.

We both miss our Read to Rover visits during these COVID times. Shailah clearly misses her kids and has had to give up meeting children on our walks. Most parents are keeping their distance, reducing Shailah's opportunity to engage with them. I hope we can return before she loses her magic touch with them.



Shailah loves performing tricks

Thank You

Olympic Mountain Pet Pals Thanks These Local Businesses for Their In-Kind Contributions:

- **Lucky Dog Training Center**, owned by Georgia Towle, for therapy dog testing.
- **OlympusNet**, owned by Ned Schumann, for hosting our website.
- **Olympic Mailing Service**, owned by Caroline Stuckey, for handling the mailing of our newsletter.
- **Helmsman Financial** for help with our accounts.
- **Deja View Photography**, owned by Deja Webster, for providing photos of shelter dogs and cats for the newsletter.
- **Bishop Hotel** for providing space for our Board meetings when we can meet in-person.

This is the list of 2020 donors from January through December.
The list of "In honor of" and "In memory of" gifts is current as of April 15, 2021.

DONORS

~~~~~  
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Gitte Zweig

## Remembering Our Pets

Losing a beloved pet can be devastating, but it helps to know that others care about your loss. Contributing a memorial gift to Olympic Mountain Pet Pals in honor of a friend's dear companion both expresses your sympathy and helps local animals. When we receive a gift in memory or in honor of a pet or person, we acknowledge that gift to the family with a personalized Olympic Mountain Pet Pals card. Please include the name of the pet or person to be remembered and the name and address of the person who should be notified of your donation when you make your contribution. Your kindness will be greatly appreciated.

## IN HONOR OF...

**Dr. Ginny Johnson, thank you for caring for our dogs for so many years.**

*Jamie Reudink*

**Dr. Virginia Johnson**

*Lois McFeely*

**Sally Rodgers**

*Lesla Barnes*

**The CCP "Rovers", past and present**

*Kim Pratt*

**Our dear friends, Michael**

**Everitt and Dottie, a Read to Rover team**

*Catharine MacMillan*

**Elizabeth Weaver's beloved dog Moxie**

*Beth Weaver*

**Beloved cat "Buster Brown from Out of Town"**

*Diane and Clinton Hurd*

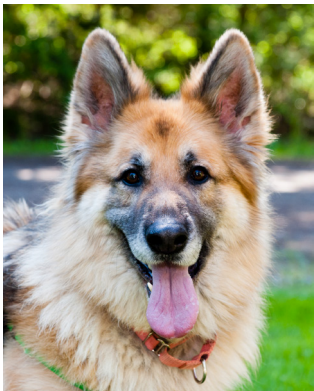


Photo credit: Deja Webster of Deja View Photography

## IN MEMORY OF...

**Beloved Kate Schumann who brought the amazing Read to Rover program to our schools**

*Kim Pratt*

**Kate Schumann**

*Sally Rodgers*

*Elsa Golts*

*Katie Whitman*

*Robin Hake*

*Marsha Wiener*

*Mel and Erica Epling*

*Jean and Keith Marzan*

*Gitte and Leonard Zweig*

*Roger and Mary Dickerson*

*Catharine Robinson*

*Ned Schumann*

*Carolynn Moody*

**Kate Schumann and her many years of dedication to OMPP**

*Kathleen Mitchell*

**Kate Schumann and honoring her legacy. A Lady of Grace.**

*Barbara McColgan*

*Mary Robson*

**Kate Schumann, who**

**introduced me to Read to Rover**

*Pat Swain*

**Betty Kuller**

*Pam and Keith Kolacy*

**Christie Johnson**

*Kim Pratt*

*Patti Smith*

**Gabe Ornelas**

*Robin Ornelas*

**My beloved husband, Scott and his beloved doggie-soulmate "Bobo" Together always.**

*Kathleen Mitchell*

**Scott Landis**

*Linda Mitchell*

*Pam and Keith Kolacy*

**Scott Landis with thanks to him and Kathleen for making better lives for so many dogs.**

*Ned Schumann*

**My sister, Erica Springstead**

*Linda Jeannotte*

**Rhonda's mom, Eva Ahlson**

*Rhonda and Steve Scharf*

**My dog-indifferent dad, P. Dub**

*Jan Schroeder*

**Amy and Ahren Howard's**

**beloved Rex Pickles and our**

**sweet grand dog**

*Kathryn and Thomas Howard*

**My beloved dog Ruthie, who**

**loved Read to Rover**

*Barbara McColgan*

**My beloved therapy dog, Ivy**

*Kathy Joyce*

**My beloved "Harry" the JRT**

*Meemie Sullivan*

**Obie, beloved cat of the Lucas**

**Hernandez family**

*Cynthia and Joseph Lesh*

**Oso, beloved family dog of the**

**Reimnitz family**

*Kathleen Mitchell*

**Tom Duke's beloved dog**

*Shirley and George Williams*

**Randi and Linday Winter's good**

**dog Rosey**

*Karen and Tony DeLorenzo*

*Kay Adamson*

*Ginny and Mark Messina*

*Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd*

*Pam and Keith Kolacy*

**My beloved cats Peetie, Joey,**

**Wimsey and Handley**

*Sandy Guinup*



Photo credit: Deja Webster of Deja View Photography

**Simba, beloved dog of Judy Danberg**

*Maggie Smith*

**Tom Tom, beloved cat of Dayna Neely**

*Margo Garton*

**Topaz, beloved dog of Georgia**

**Towle and Patty Greeny**

*Shirley and George Williams*

*Helen G Williams*

*Christina Pivarnik*

*Maggie Smith*

*Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd*

**Xola Orenda, beloved dog of**

**Dominica Lord-Wood**

*Will and Patricia Barrett*

**Bella, my beloved cat**

*Maria Holtgrave*

**My beloved cat Baby Doll**

*Brigid McCarthy*

**Daniel the Spaniel, Mark**

**Gertzendaner's beloved**

**Read to Rover dog**

*Carla Ellis and Rick Floyd*

*Maggie Smith*

**Homer, beloved dog of Patti**

**Reynolds and Harold Nelson**

*Sally Rodgers*

**Sam-i-am, my beloved cat**

*Sharon McKenzie*

## Honoring Dr. Johnson on her Retirement

**D**r. Ginny Johnson's support was essential to the success of our low-income spay and neuter program of the past 20 years. She provided veterinary services for thousands of animals, at a substantial discount to Pet Pals. Her generous contributions of time, service, and advice meant that we never had to turn away anyone who applied for help with their pets or for homeless cats in their neighborhood. Her volunteer efforts had a similar impact on other local animal welfare organizations.

We wish Dr. Ginny all the very best in her well-deserved retirement from her veterinary practice in Port Hadlock. We are grateful for all the compassion and commitment she has given to helping the community's pets and homeless animals.



# HSJC Veterinary Trailer has Arrived!

Our low-income spay and neuter partners at the Humane Society of Jefferson County are excited about the delivery of their new surgical trailer, which will be used for community spay/neuter clinics as well as serving shelter animals.

For details on its design and construction see <https://hsjcwa.org/veterinary-surgical-trailer>.



Finished exterior of the trailer.



Inside the trailer.

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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