Harmony on Tap “Quacks Up” to Benefit Zoo

Hilo’s dynamic women’s vocal ensemble Harmony On Tap will perform its eighth annual benefit choral concerts at 7:30 p.m. November 18-19 at First United Protestant Church, 1350 Waianuenue Avenue in Hilo.

The theme of the show is “Quacking Up for the Friends of the Pana’ewa Zoo.” Proceeds from this year’s concerts will go toward the zoo support group’s efforts. There is a suggested donation of $15 for adults; children 9 and younger are admitted free. Tickets are available from Friends of the Zoo board members, HOT members, at the Pana’ewa Zoo gift shop, or downtown at Basically Books.

Cheryl “Quack” Moore will accompany the group on piano for a portion of the program. The concerts also will feature HOT’s trademark a cappella harmonies in a wide range of musical styles, from barbershop to Broadway.

There are new songs with lyrics personalized for the zoo theme, along with other specialty numbers, one of which will feature Faith Elarianoff, a Friends of the Zoo board member and also a wildly popular Zumba instructor. Elarianoff will perform a bit of “Zoo-mba” during one of the zoo-oriented numbers.
What’s New in the Zoo

In the next two weeks we are expecting to receive a shipment of several species of Poison Dart Frogs for our “Jewels of the Rainforest” exhibit and these new frogs will certainly shine as jewels with their bright colors of blue, yellow and green. In addition to these colorful beauties, several Red-Eyed Tree Frogs will inhabit a new exhibit that was designed and constructed by our newest Zoo Keeper, Kyle Arakaki. He has an amazing talent for making aquarium and terrarium habitats and has shown off his skill with this new exhibit that includes a waterfall and pond.

Our Alligators, Lilo and Stitch, spent the summer months soaking up the sun and doing what they love best, EATING! If you haven’t seen them lately you will be surprised how much larger they are. It looks like they have increased their girth and weight by almost 50% since they arrived and they enjoy having the addition of water hyacinths and tilapia in their pond.

Yesterday, Lilo came out of the water to sunbathe with a water hyacinth hitching a ride on her back and it stayed on her the entire afternoon.

Sriracha and Tzatziki would like to say...Thank you to the FOZ Enrichment Team for the belated Halloween enrichment of two pumpkins! They had a blast rolling, carrying and then destroying them in the pond!

Our tigers are so lucky to have such wonderful “friends” who will present them with another pair of pumpkins during the Christmas for the Animals Celebration on Saturday, December 3, 2016. You won’t want to miss it!

Lots to see and do in the zoo so make your plans to visit us soon!

Happy Holidays~

Pam Mizuno
Zoo Director
From the President

I visit the Zoo at least once a week, and sometimes more often, depending on what needs doing with Friends of the Zoo events. Monday is my day to take care of our ferret, Bandit, who lives in the Petting Zoo. Others visit with him on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Sometimes, Bandit gets to see interested zoo guests. He likes to get out of his cage and on to the floor of his second cage, so he can explore his surroundings, while I clean his litter pans and cage trays. He’s such a cutie and in spite of having long canine teeth, he doesn’t bite. He licks a lot! Along the path to get to Bandit’s house, I also visit with Max and Salsa, Zoey and Rowdy and any other bird that shows an interest, including hens with chicks! Max talks without reservation, but Salsa only seems to verbalize when no one else is around, which is too bad, because he has an amazing vocabulary and at least 4 identifiable songs that only a few are privileged to hear. I am so grateful for the cadre of Petting Zoo and Animal Enrichment volunteers who help with Bandit and all the other Zoo residents.

Every time I go to our Zoo I am amazed at the variety of plants and flowers that surround our visitors. As is usual with most organizations, a few people do most of the work on the planting beds, trees and groupings, but we are so happy to have those few dedicated people who help make our Zoo look so good for our own people and those who visit from away.

Pam Mizuno, our Zoo Manager, has arranged for new amphibians for the “Jewels of the Rainforest” reptile house. She should report on that in this newsletter and may soon have some good news about our tigers expanding their habitat before the summer, so they can escape the heat in both ponds!! But we’ll see. It is a large undertaking for a small staff.

I hope you are all following our Zoo Face Page. Shirley Howard is doing fabulous work with almost daily updates, wonderful videos and beautiful still shots of our Zoo residents. Check out the videos of Spunky Monkey, our Colobus, and our ever-popular Tigers. Thanks, Shirley.

If you haven’t been to our Website for a while, please check it at hilozoo.com. Our Gift Shop Manager, Leina, has made some improvements to the site and I think you’ll like the new look. Thanks, Leina.

And we are so happy that Harmony On Tap, a great group of cool Women singing hot songs for a good cause will be joined by world famous Cheryl “Quack” Moore on the piano for a FOZ fundraiser at First United Protestant Church on Waianuenue in Hilo at 7:30 on November 18th and 19th. Your $15 donation will help FOZ with many projects at the Zoo. Tickets are available from board members, HOT members, Basically Books and the Zoo Gift Shop.

See you at the Zoo,

Pat Engelhard,
President, FOZ
**Vireya Society at the Zoo**

The October 16th Vireya Society meeting was held at the Pana’ewa Rainforest Zoo for their annual vireya public outreach. Everett & Sandy Pang, who drove over from Waimea, walked in with 3 boxes of rooted vireyas. Lucy Moody brought more plants and Rene Siracusa and Chuck Martin added to the bounty with vireya trusses.

On the positive side was the amount of trusses and plants for giveaway as well as the number of members attending. Thank you to all who helped make this event so enjoyable.

Somewhere in the middle of the zoo outreach day, a young local girl about 10 years of age approached our table. She was given a lesson in “cuttings” and several plants. A short time later, she returned and handed me money. I explained the plants were free. She insisted several times saying she wanted to give us a donation. There in my palm was $6. Her sincerity and the smile on her face from her giving act was absolutely priceless. She was aloha and acted in aloha. At this time of the year, let’s all remember to carry with us aloha and act in aloha.

The organization has been hard at work cleaning up, pruning, and replacing plants in the vireya beds. A small group, led by board member Armon Collman, installed a wall around the area replacing old wooden logs.

Viva Vireya,

_Sherla Bertelmann_
_President, Vireya Society_

One of the flowers on the Vireya Society’s vireya bench at the zoo was threatening to fall off. Charlene Lofgreen came to the rescue, not only fixing the flower, but adding a leaf for extra strength. All she needs to do is paint and seal the new work.

Thank you, Charlene!
Christmas for the Animals will be on Saturday, December 3. Look for more details on our website, hilozoo.com.

Contribute to the Zoo

Amazon Smile: FOZ is now included in the charities able to participate in Amazon Smile. When a customer chooses us we will receive .5% of their order. Use the following link and send it to your friends: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/99-0248039.

Recycling: Designate FOZ as the beneficiary when you recycle your HI-5 items at The Arc of Hilo, Mr. K's Recycle and Atlas Recycling Centers.

Adopt any animal at the Zoo for a year. For a donation of $25 you receive: adoption certificate, fact sheet and photo of your "adopteer.

Tiger Day Images