



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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**APRIL IS ENVIRONMENTAL MONTH**

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Happy Birthday</b> | <b>Happy Anniversary</b>     |
|                       | Apr 14: Dave & Sharon Rempel |

**UPCOMING SPEAKERS:**

|                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Apr 09: Susan Pynn<br>Who's Who | Apr 16: Sayed Atthari<br>Empowering Young Kurdish Girls in Iran | Apr 23: Lindsey Willis<br>Ridge Meadows Hospice Society |
|---------------------------------|---|---|

**LAST WEEK'S MEETING**

President **Brenda Jenkins** presided.

Program: **Magda Romanow** - the founder of Katie's Place



## Katie's Place Animal Shelter

*Katie's Place is a volunteer-run nonprofit animal shelter in Maple Ridge B.C. We rescue and nurture small animals, adopting out those that we can and providing permanent sanctuary for the rest. The shelter is named after the cat who was its first resident and the rightful owner of the barn where we began. Katie's Place houses up to 125 cats with separate enclosures for new or convalescent cats and for the FIV/FeLV+ residents — who still hope for loving homes of their own.*

**Two principles guide us:** *all life is valuable, and we are responsible for improving the quality of life for all those in our care. We make no judgment on whose life is worth rescuing. The sick, elderly and homely are as precious to us as the healthy, young and attractive.*

[Google Note: FeLV stands for feline leukemia virus, and FIV is feline immunodeficiency virus. Although caused by distinct viruses, these diseases have similarities: both are contagious and incurable; both are more likely to be acquired by a cat that is allowed outside.]

**Magda Romanow** said that "in 1999 as a single person, with no kids", she started Katie's Place in a barn (which somebody allowed her to use for the purpose), with the help of some volunteers. As noted in the above paragraph (taken from their website) Magda said the shelter is named after the cat "who was the first resident and the rightful owner of the barn where we began". The cat's name was Katie and she used to get her tail in a knot because of the new intruders. They needed a name for their new venture, and thought "if we name the shelter after Katie, maybe she won't be so upset". So they did.

One of the volunteers said, "We need more cats. That was the last time someone said that", remarked Magda. Since the shelter was started, they have taken in approximately 7,000 cats, and currently have 350 cats now in their care, either housed at the shelter (approximately 127) or at foster homes.

Katie's Place is operated by volunteers – no one gets paid. All donations go to the cost of the care of the animals. They currently have about 100 volunteers working for the animal shelter. Some of the volunteers make up a "medical team", who provide low-cost veterinary care. It started out as a cat shelter but has morphed into a "last chance cat care home". Magda says "our vet bills are astronomical". "We even have cats with diapers on because they're incontinent". This is in keeping with their two guiding principles as noted above: *All life is valuable, and we are responsible for improving the quality of life for all those in our care. We make no judgment on whose life is worth rescuing. The sick, elderly and homely are as precious to us as the healthy, young and attractive.*

They can provide live traps to catch feral cats that they can take in and get neutered, and thereby "decrease the surplus population" (to plagiarize the words of Scrooge – not Magda's phrase) in a kind and caring way.

Our Meadow Ridge Rotary Club members donated money to Katie's Place in the amount of \$1,270 in memory of Deborah Hyslop, who (as we all know) was a great lover of cats, and of Katie's Place.



**Happy and Sad** dollars included **Ineke and Peter** who will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. In honour of the occasion, they will be going to Holland this summer with their children and grandchildren.

Also, **Ineke** is off to Belize on her Rotary trip which will last from April 3 to April 13, 2024 with members of the Port Moody Rotary Club.

**Wine Fest** tickets are now available. Lynda reminded each of us that this is one of our major fundraisers and each of us must focus on ticket sales; and purchase our own tickets and sell them to family and friends. "We all have a role in making this the most successful event to date". The Wine Fest will be held on May 15, 2024 and the tickets are \$50 each.

President's Quote for the Day:



**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**