

POPLAR SPRING Post



Spring 2012

A Newsletter from
Poplar Spring
Animal Sanctuary

Jason the steer, at right, was
rescued from a truck that
overturned on the PA turnpike

FIFTEEN YEARS OF PROVIDING SANCTUARY A look back at our largest animal rescue

On January 1, 1997 Poplar Spring officially opened its barn doors, and it has now been 15 fulfilling years of providing a safe and loving home to hundreds of farm animals rescued from abandonment, abuse and neglect. Over the years there have been so many



171 pigs were stacked 3 levels high in this trailer

incredible memories, and wonderful animals that we have come to know and love. From our very first official sanctuary animal, Petunia the pig, who was saved after she was crushed under a barn door, to our most recent rescue of Aggie the cow, who escaped from a livestock auction, we have been working hard and steadily growing in our capacity to rescue animals, educate the public, and promote compassionate treatment for all animals. We have grown from a farm with only a few outbuildings and a handful of animals to a sanctuary with seven new barns and structures to house over 200 residents. We have maintained the 5 ½ miles of perimeter fencing so that the horses, cows and other animals can safely roam the more than 400 acres of pastures, woods and streams, and we have given tours to thousands of school children, adults and families to show them how amazing farm animals can be.

While we have had many memorable the most was the “big pig rescue” which occurred when the sanctuary was not even two years old. On October 1, 1998 we received a call from D.C. animal control, telling us that a tractor trailer loaded with 171 pigs from North Carolina, enroute to a slaughterhouse in Pennsylvania, had been abandoned by the driver on a residential street in northeast Washington D.C. It was a very warm day and the pigs, who were crammed so tightly they couldn't even move, had no food or water and four had already died. We immediately agreed to take them, and the humane society towed the vehicle to Poplar Spring. Volunteers from all over the area joined us to help. It took 20 hours to unload the very frightened pigs, as we had to build a large ramp to get them out of the top level. All of the pigs were exhausted, and were covered with scrapes and bruises. As they came out of the trailer they could barely walk, and they collapsed onto the soft beds of hay



Caring for 167 pigs was a labor of love

we had spread around the pasture for them. In the morning we saw a sight that brought tears to our eyes – these pigs, who had been born and raised in a factory farm and had never seen the light of day, had never been out of a small indoor enclosure, were walking shoulder



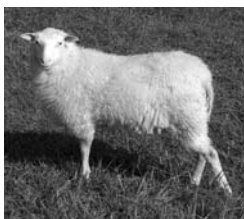
Priscilla, happy to be rescued

to shoulder to the farthest ends of the four acre pasture, looking up at the sky and the grass and their surroundings in amazement. It must have seemed like a dream to them. We knew we could never send them back on that truck, and we would do everything in our power to save their lives. After three days the owner was located, and he wanted his pigs back. We locked the gate at the entrance to the farm, called our lawyers, and worked out an agreement with him that if we did not charge him for board, feed and expenses, that he would sign over custody of the pigs to Poplar Spring. The pigs were finally safe, and would now be able to live out their whole lives in peace and happiness. We found homes for 145 of them at other sanctuaries, keeping 22 of them at Poplar. They have lived long and happy lives, most of them passing away peacefully of old age over the last few years. Three of the rescued pigs – Parker, Penelope and Paul C. Piggy are amazingly, at age fourteen, still with us and doing well. They have lived the lives that all pigs deserve to live, with creeks to wallow in, grass to graze on, and warm barns with soft hay to sleep in. While the rescue was very challenging for us financially and physically, we are so happy that we were here as a sanctuary, and were able to save the lives of these amazing and wonderful pigs. And after fifteen great years, we plan to be here for

Santeria – Sacrificing Animals for Religious Rituals

Visitors to the sanctuary are often surprised to learn that many of our farm animals are not rescued from farms, but are found in the middle of the city. Goats, sheep, chickens and guineas have been discovered abandoned or wandering on busy city streets or in inner city parks. One explanation is that in many large cities there is an active Santeria following - a religion of West African and Caribbean origin with Roman Catholic influences that involves ritual sacrificing of animals as part of its ceremonial practices. In 1993 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that animal sacrifice done by Santeria practitioners was legal under freedom of religion. Because of this, animal control officers are often unable to confiscate animals from those who claim to be holding them for religious purposes, even if they are in obvious danger. Often the animals are kept for days in tiny cages with no food or water, suffering terribly before they are killed.

Some of our most wonderful animals have been saved from these rituals, often just in the nick of time. Animals like Adam, a very friendly sheep who was



Adam, rescued from 5 men with a butcher knife

discovered by a man walking through a wooded area on his way to a metro station. He noticed a sheep in a small cat carrier surrounded by five men with a butcher knife and a bottle of barbecue sauce. He called the police and they took little Adam to the local shelter, despite

the men's protests that this was a legal religious ceremony. Adam was just a young lamb, and he was so happy to be rescued. He loves to be petted and scratched, and wags his tail like a dog when you scratch him in the right spot.

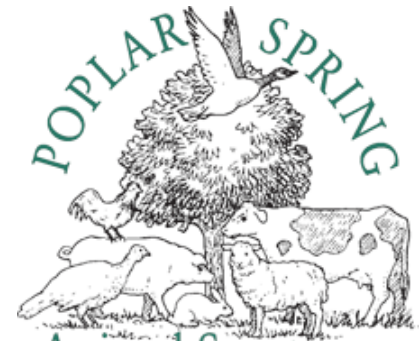
Another lucky animal is Alvin the rooster. Animal control officers in Maryland were called to a home with a report that there was a goat tied on the deck of a townhouse. When they arrived on the scene, there was nothing left except blood and hair. And a cardboard box.



Alvin, found in a cardboard box

Inside the box was Alvin, who was about to be used for the next sacrifice. In this particular case the people who lived in the house willingly gave Alvin up to the officers.

Some of the Santeria rituals involve killing some animals, and releasing others in cemeteries. One of our newest rescues, Iris the hen, was found in a cemetery in Maryland. A woman who was there to visit a gravesite with a friend accidentally got locked inside the cemetery at closing time. While looking for a way out, she came upon a small black chicken who hopped right up to her car. The little chicken seemed very friendly, and drank water that the woman offered. She left the chicken to continue to search for an exit, and when she found a security guard she informed him about the little hen. He told her that Iris had been released there the day before but that a Santeria practitioner was on his way back to the cemetery now to retrieve



Animal Sanctuary

OUR MISSION IS TO:

- offer care, rehabilitation, and permanent sanctuary for rescued farm animals
- provide protected habitat for wildlife
- furnish information to the public regarding farm animal and wildlife issues
- promote compassion and humane treatment for all animals

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P.O. Box 507
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her for a sacrifice. Hearing this the woman returned to the chicken, scooped her into her car and sped away. She brought Iris to us a few days later, and she is one of the sweetest chickens we've ever met. She will hop onto your shoulder and even your head, and will fall asleep in your lap while being petted.

All of these wonderful animals have been given a second chance at life, and it is truly a miracle that they were rescued literally moments before they were about to die. We hope that future legislation will change this barbaric practice, and make it illegal to kill animals for religious purposes. ■

“Our task must be to free ourselves . . . by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures.” —Albert Einstein

Ninth Annual Run for the Animals

Sunday, May 20, 2012, 8:30 a.m. • Wheaton Regional Park, Shorefield Rd., Wheaton, MD

Chip racing! Back by popular demand (Please return your chips at the end of the race)

Our annual 5K Run and 1 mile Fun Walk will be held as in previous years, in Wheaton Regional Park. The challenging USATF certified course takes you through the park's paved and gravel trails. And if you're not into running, come on out and try the Fun Walk, where you can take a one mile or optional 1.7 mile stroll past the lake. (Dogs are welcome on the fun walk course, and we will have dog and people raffles after the race!) All pre-registered participants will receive a reusable Tote Bag. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the top 3 overall male and female finishers. Awards will be given for top finishers in each age group and to the two entrants with the highest amount of sponsorship funds raised. All proceeds will benefit the rescued animals. Poplar Spring is working hard to make the race as "green" as possible.

Check out www.animalsanctuary.org/events/run.html

to find out how Poplar is working to help the environment.

Register at <http://poplarspring.kintera.org> or fill out and send in the registration form below with your check or charge information by **May 15** to PSAS, P.O. Box 507, Poolesville, MD 20837 or fax to 301-349-3850.

Directions and more information at www.animalsanctuary.org

Questions? Want to Volunteer? All volunteers will receive a Poplar Spring Tote Bag. Contact PoplarSpringRun@yahoo.com or call 301-625-9321

Come on out and Run (or Walk!) for the Animals!

A big thanks to Lisa Berigan, Radio host of BIG 100.3, who will once again be the MC for the race! And to the 5K Run Committee who spent many long hours planning this event – THANK YOU Howard Edelstein, Naomi Dyer, Robin Walker, Donna Ziegfinger, Mary Finelli, Alan Green and Akisha Townsend for making this such a fun and well organized event!

And a special thanks to Scantek Inc., A.R.T. Design, Conscious Corner, ProFeed, A Well Fed World, Bethesda Co-op and all our other wonderful Race Sponsors!



Registration Form for Poplar Spring Run for the Animals - May 20, 2012

___ 5K Run ___ 1 or 1.7 Mile Fun Walk

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Sex: ___ Male ___ Female Age on May 20, 2012: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Payment type: ___ Check ___ Cash Credit Card: ___ Visa ___ Master Card

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration date: _____ Signature: _____

Fee: (\$25 by April 22, April 23-May 19 \$28, May 20 \$30) _____

___ I would also like to include a donation to benefit the animals at Poplar Spring

Donation amount: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____

Emergency Contact: Name: _____ Phone # _____

In consideration of you permitting me to participate in this event, I hereby release the organizers of this event, their agents, volunteers and the event sponsors from all liability, and I waive, as against the organizers, agents, volunteers and event sponsors, all claims of any kind whatsoever I may have for personal injuries or property losses suffered by participation in this event. I certify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event and I am physically fit and able to participate, and that unless indicated to the contrary by the signature of parent/guardian below, I am 19 years or older.

Signature: _____

Mail by May 15 to: PSAS RUN, P.O. Box 507, Poolesville, MD 20837

In Honor and In Memory Of

Thank you to all those who remembered a special person or animal with a donation to Poplar Spring. This is a wonderful way to honor someone, and to help animals at the same time!

This issue is dedicated to the memory of our wonderful avian vet, Dr. Donald Zantop, whose incredible skill and caring manner saved the lives of so many of our special chickens and turkeys.

In Memory Of People

Aunt Mike JaneAnn Daniel DePas	Mrs. Bodil Gaon Cliff Kaminsky Ron Klasmyer	Bethany Richmond Walt Rave	Dr. Richard G. Rogers, Jr. Delores (Dolly) Roser	Richard Schultheis Lisa Silverberg Shane Straight	Zeke Wierzynski Dr. Donald Zantop
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In Memory Of Animals

Albert	Cleopatra	The Girls	Lilly	Norman	Sami
Alexandra	Cloud	Gracie	Lotta Meg	OMG	Sammy
Alice	Cody	Greyson	Louie	Opal	Sassafras
Annie	Cooper	Hal	Luka	Pandora	Scoutie
Baxter	Copper	Hester	Lynx	Pebbles	Simba
Bear	Cuddlewump	Holly	Magnificat	Pele	Sir Willie
Benny	Cypruss	Irene	Makala	Peony	Snow
Bingo	Daisy	Iris	Mamasan	Pete	Squeak
Bosco	Danny	Jackie	Mary Grace	Phoofee	Starr
Brock	Dia Sunny Gal	Jake	Mattie	Pinky	Stevie Veverka
Bruce	Dickens	Jazz	Max	Pinty	Sunny
Buddy	Dizzy	June	Maximus	Pip	Susie-Q
Buddy Girl	Edgar	Juniper	Michael	Pitch	Teddy Prolman
Buster	Feather	Kaiya	Misha	Poppy	Thea
Callie	Figaro	Kashew	Miss Gatto	Punkin	Tom
Casey	Fred	Katie	Momo	Ripken	Tumo
Celine	Freya	Kipper	Monty	Roseabelle	Wimbley
Charlie	G3	Larz	Nicolette	Roxy	Zoe
Chico	Gertrude	Layla	Nitrox	Rudy	

In Honor of People

Lynn Abbott	Sean Day	Becki Hardie	Kucsera	Lori Oleksy	Chris Stringer
Michael Adelson	Stephen Devereaux	Shannon Harper	Dave and Claire	John Parrish	Carole Sutton
Fred Ammerman	Christy Diefenderfer	Wendy Harris	Kuemmerle	Brittany Peet	Ziona Swigart
Diana Artemis	Adrian DiSilvestre	Cindy Helmick	Julie Lehman	Rich Peppin	Marianne Merritt
Randy Auerbach	Kathy Droubi	Marie Howlett	Jonathan Lewis	Leah Peralta	Talbot
April Avnayim and Ben Simon	Brett Evans	Vicki Hunter	Kitty Lewis	Ryan Rakovan	Daniya Tamendarova
Lisa Borghesi	Collin and Alison Evans	Diane Hurley	Wade Lindsay	The Reingold Family	Odin Tidemand
Finian Boone	Theresa Fiscella	Kathryn Isaac	Rasine MacMichael	Susan Ringland	Regina Tosca
Lorian Bristow	Jessica Fomalont	Fern Jarmulnek	Dr. Monique Maniet	Lianna Rosman	H. Glenn Twigg
Rebecca Cardozo	Anika Fontaine	Hilary Jones	Sandy Mattingly	Ruffieux and Konecke Families	Robin Walker
Michele Carsrud	Jerry Friedman and Natalie Khazaal	Jill Karpf	Steve McCormick	Trudy Scanlan	Jill Wasserman
Jeanie Freeman	Rebecca Gruber	Francis Kellerman	Mark McKenzie	Ari Schenke	Greg and Barbara Wierzynski
Ciskowski	Kayleigh Gunnoud	Emma Khasin	Tony Mick	Lila Schwartz	Susan Wyatt
Tony Clarke	Linda Guttman	Malita Kim-Schultz	Cindy and Dennis Miller	Kristin Smith	Sandra Yarrington
Sheila Cochran	Austin Hall	Konecke and Ruffieux Children	Amy Morgan	Morgan Snader	Bennett Ziegler
Louis Comfort- Cohen	Kristina Handy	Susan Kremer	Dr. Carole Nicholson	Claire Specht	
		Tom and Cheryl	Cynthia Nieparent	RG Steinman	

Special Ways to Give to the Animals

Stock Donations – If you would like to make a stock donation, please provide your broker with the following information:

Broker: Morgan Stanley Smith Barney for Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary

Acct.#22L-4584D-12

Stock donations are tax deductible and can reduce your capital gains tax

Bequests – Help to leave a legacy for the animals by making a provision for Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary in your

will or by designating Poplar Spring as a beneficiary in your life insurance policy. Our tax ID# is 52-1970569. Please contact us at 301-428-8128 or info@animalsanctuary.org if you have questions. ■

KID'S CORNER

Many thanks to all the kids who helped the sanctuary in lots of unique ways:

■ **Girl Scout Troop #834** from Germantown raised \$280. from a bake sale to sponsor animals.

■ **Owen McGleenan**, age 5, donated \$25.67 that he saved from his allowance at the Run for the Animals in May and \$11.21 from his allowance at the Open House 2011.

■ **Ellie Goldenberg** and friends **Isabelle** and **Helena** had a lemonade stand and raised money to sponsor two rabbits.

■ **Hannah Kuperman** age 13, did a community service project for her Bat Mitzvah by volunteering at the sanctuary and donating part of her Bat Mitzvah money for the animals.

■ **Caroline Flower** donated \$150. for the animals from gifts received from her Bat Mitzvah.

■ **Emma Khasin** raised \$85.00 by asking guests to donate for the animals in lieu of birthday gifts.

■ **Bnai Tzedek's Greenzaid Early Childhood Center** raised funds to sponsor animals for their nursery school classes again this year.

■ **Louis Comfort-Cohen** raised \$16.95 for the animals selling cookies

■ **Rasine MacMichael**, for her 5th birthday, asked her friends to make donations to Poplar Spring in lieu of a birthday gift and raised money to sponsor Rocky the goat.

■ **Lila Schwartz, Rebecca Gruber** and **Lianna Rosman** celebrated their 8th

birthdays together and asked guests to donate towards an animal sponsorship at Poplar Spring in lieu of gifts.



Rasine MacMichael holds little Alina the hen

Huyen MacMichael

W I S H ★ L I S T

Funds

Gift Certificates from Southern States
(for animal feed and supplies)

Folding chairs

Donations for Yard Sale and/or Silent
Auction

Stamps

Photo Paper

Paper Towels

AA, AAA or D Batteries

Ecover all purpose cleaner

Copy Paper

Exam Gloves

Wild Bird Seed

Apples and Bananas

6 or 8 ft. folding tables

Sanctuary News and Notes

Spring has arrived extra early, and the animals (and staff!) loved the wonderful mild winter we had this past year. Because the grass never really stopped growing, the animals, who started shedding their winter coats in February, enjoyed



Our new sheep barn

grazing year round for the first time in their lives. The warm temperatures brought many additional benefits, such as lower hay costs, and the ability to complete extra outdoor projects such as fencing and painting.

Thanks to a generous gift from Ahmed and Emile El Ghandour and an amazing bequest from former volunteer Emily Salmon, we were finally able to build a new large barn for our rescued sheep, something we have needed for some time. Amish workers from Pennsylvania traveled to the sanctuary and spent four days working from dawn to dusk to complete the beautiful new barn, which has three large stalls, two hay lofts, a feed room, and a large indoor area for the sheep to relax in, without having to compete for space with the more dominant goats. The large fans in the barn keep them cool in the summer, and when the weather is rainy or snowy they have plenty of

space to stay dry and comfortable.

This year we took in many new residents, including Aggie, an adorable red shorthorn calf. Aggie was discovered walking down a railroad track in Winchester, VA, and presumably escaped

from a nearby livestock auction which had recently held a sale. Nobody claimed the little calf, who was only a few months old, and who thankfully wandered onto a



Aggie, happy in her new home

property where a kind woman took the time to feed and care for her, working with her for months until she was trusting enough to load onto a trailer. When Aggie arrived at the sanctuary and was finally able to be with other cows, she was so excited she ran in big circles, bucking and kicking and mooing with joy. The other cows welcomed her with big cow licks, and she quickly

became best friends with Nellie, another young cow who is close to her age. Aggie spends her days happily grazing and playing with Nellie and the other cows, but she will come running for animal crackers or bananas, her favorite treats.

Several domestic waterfowl have become permanent sanctuary residents this year, including Melvin, a Chinese goose, and his best buddy Curtis, who just happens to be a duck. Melvin and Curtis came from another sanctuary where they were wandering onto a neighbor's property who was threatening to harm them. Another Chinese goose, Nobby, came to Poplar after getting caught in some fishing line, which permanently damaged his foot. Nobby and Melvin are extremely friendly and come running to visitors as soon as they arrive, looking for handouts.

Our special events over the last year went very well. (See back page and page 3 for dates and info on this year's events.) Our 8th annual Run for the Animals, held in May, was a great success. Over 600 people participated in the 5K Run and one mile Fun Walk, which was held again in beautiful Wheaton Park. In July we once again participated in the Montgomery County Farm Tour, which was unfortunately an extremely hot weekend. Despite the heat, visitors to the farm enjoyed hay rides, refreshments and our giant yard sale. The 2011 Open House and Fundraiser brought large crowds of supporters, and raised an amazing \$75,000. for the rescued animals. Author Colleen Patrick Goudreau was

our keynote speaker, and spoke eloquently about living compassionately and healthfully. Our good friends at Java Green, Vegetable Garden, Honest Tea, Barrel Oak Winery and many other local businesses contributed fabulous food and drink for the event, and we auctioned off over 300

generously donated items in our silent auction. In November, we had gorgeous weather and over 800 people attended our Thanksgiving with the turkeys. The huge potluck offered dozens of delicious vegan dishes, but watching the turkeys enjoying treats at their special tables, and the feeding of the pumpkins to the pigs were the highlights of the day.

A huge thanks to everyone who attended or generously



Tom Kucsera

Colleen Patrick Goudreau speaks at Open House



Best friends Curtis and Melvin

donated to all of these events, sponsored animals or contributed throughout the year, and helped us to make this our most successful year ever! ■

Help Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary by Becoming a Farm Animal Sponsor!

Are you someone who would love to bring a farm animal home but just don't have the room? Then a sponsorship of your favorite animal is the answer! For a small monthly donation you can help support the animal of your choice—your sponsorship will help cover food, bedding and veterinary costs. You will receive a framed photograph and your animal's story, along with the opportunity to visit in person. Sponsorships also make a unique gift for friends and relatives! With your support we can continue to rescue even more animals who desperately need a home.

Monthly Sponsorship Rates

Chicken	\$5.00
Rabbit	\$7.00
Turkey	\$8.00
Goat	\$15.00
Sheep	\$15.00
Pig	\$20.00
Cow	\$25.00
Horse	\$30.00

If you would prefer, sponsorships can also be paid on a quarterly or yearly basis.

Thank you for helping us to save animals!

Please make check payable to Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary.

Please mail your completed sponsorship form to:
Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary
P.O. Box 507
Poolesville, MD 20837

Phone: 301-428-8128
E-mail: info@animalsanctuary.org
Web: www.animalsanctuary.org



Yes! Please sign me up!

Please print all information clearly.

I would like to sponsor a _____ (type of animal).

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Check Enclosed for \$ _____ Monthly Quarterly Yearly

Charge \$ _____ to my Visa/MasterCard Monthly Quarterly Yearly

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ 3 Digit Code _____

This is a Gift Sponsorship

Name of Recipient _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

I would like more information on: Volunteer Opportunities Gift Donations





**Poplar Spring
Animal Sanctuary**
P.O. Box 507
Poolesville, MD 20837

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 10480
Suburban MD

Address Service Requested



Malita Kim-Schultz

Shya and Rocky waiting for visitors



HELP THE ANIMALS – DONATE YARD SALE OR AUCTION ITEMS

Do you have good quality items (anything except clothing or shoes) that you don't need? Why not help the animals and donate them to our giant yard sale on July 28, or for new or antique items, to our silent auction at the Fundraiser on October 7? All donations are very much appreciated, and you will receive a receipt for tax purposes. If you own or know of a business that might be willing to donate any goods or services for the auction, we would be very grateful, and the animals will thank you too!

Upcoming Events

To ensure fun and safety for all, No Dogs at events on the sanctuary grounds, please! (Dogs are welcome at the Fun Walk at Wheaton Park on May 20)
Events will be held rain or shine, and all proceeds benefit the rescued animals.

Benefit Day at Great Sage Restaurant, Clarksville MD – Sunday, April 29, 2012 –
Enjoy delicious food at this fabulous vegan restaurant – a portion of the day's profits will be donated to benefit the animals. See our website or Facebook page for more details.

Run for the Animals – Sunday, May 20, 2012 8:30 a.m. (details on page 3)

Montgomery County Farm Tour – Saturday, July 28, 2012 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Come on out and meet the animals and enjoy hay rides, ice cold lemonade, veggie burgers and veggie hot dogs. Shop for t-shirts, sweatshirts, and handmade crafts in our gift shop, and for hidden treasures at our giant yard sale in the carriage barn.

Fifteenth Annual Open House and Fundraiser – Sunday, October 7, 2012 1-5 p.m.
Our biggest event of the year – and everyone's invited! Come enjoy a live band, delicious catered food and drink, a fabulous silent auction, clowns and face painting, speakers, and the opportunity to stroll around and visit the rescued animals. No admission fee, but donations (of any amount) are very much appreciated. RSVP requested.

Thanksgiving with the Turkeys – Saturday, November 17, 2012 - 12 noon – 4 p.m.
Come celebrate Thanksgiving WITH the turkeys – join our friendly turkeys and all their friends in celebrating a cruelty-free Thanksgiving potluck. Please bring a vegan (no meat, dairy, or eggs) dinner or dessert item to serve 8. \$10.00 suggested donation to benefit the animals. No charge for children under 16.