

# OCPA E-Alert

## January / February 2009



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#### **Recent OCPA Activities**

- Thankful Turkeys Thanksgiving Celebration – Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Animal Acres in Acton
- Fur-Free Friday – Friday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in L.A.
- OCPA Holiday/Proposition 2 Celebration – Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Irvine
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac Restaurant in Fountain Valley
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Santa Ana
- Anti-Fur Demonstrations – December, January and February
- Justice 4 Karley Demonstrations – Nov. 15, Dec. 18 and January 18
- SAEN UCLA Candlelight Vigil, Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Westwood Village
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Veggie Grill/Irvine Spectrum
- OCPA and APRL Foie Gras Campaign Meeting – Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac in Fountain Valley
- UCI Anti-Vivisection Demonstration – Wed., February 11<sup>th</sup> in Irvine
- Puppy Store-Free-OC Volunteer Training Session, Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in Ladera Ranch

#### **Action Items**

- Urge U.S. Representative to Insist the Military Ban Use of Animals in Casualty Training Courses
- Urge California Department of Fish and Game to End Bear Hunting Program
- Ask Amazon.com and Google to Stop Selling/Promoting Fur

#### **Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other**

- Vegan Outreach/Club Day, Patriot's Day at Beckman High School, Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in Irvine
- Justice 4 Karley Court Appearance, Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in Riverside
- March on Mall Anti-Fur Demo, Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 in Costa Mesa
- Friends of Lake Forest Animals Meeting, Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in Lake Forest
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at That's Amore in Cerritos
- Walk/Vigil for Karley, Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Huntington Beach
- Great American Meatout - Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>
- Genesis Awards, March 28<sup>th</sup>
- HSUS Animal Care Expo 2009, April 6-9<sup>th</sup>, Bally's Las Vegas
- World Week for Animals in Laboratories – April 18 – 25<sup>th</sup>
- Conference on Animals and Religion Featuring Karen Dawn, Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. in Orange
- OCPA Write-In, Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Irvine
- Veggie Pride Parade, Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 to 4:00 p.m. in NYC

**Special Note:** If you would like to receive occasional email notifications of outreach and volunteer opportunities, please respond to [julie.meskell@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meskell@ocpausa.org) to have your e-mail address included in a separate contact list. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you out and about this year on behalf of the animals.

## **Good News for the Animals!**

### ***Pet Love in Los Angeles to Close Doors***

The Beverly Center in Los Angeles recently announced plans to terminate the lease of the pet store, Pet Love, which will subsequently close its doors and sale of puppy mill dogs.

### ***Pets of Bel Air Closing***

Due to legal issues and pressure from IDA, LCA and other activists, the upscale boutique that sold companion animals supplied by Midwest puppy mills, Pets of Bel Air, has closed its doors.

### ***Lightlife Foods to Use Fewer Eggs and Add Vegan Options***

Beginning January 1, 2009, Lightlife Foods announced plans to reduce its use of eggs by 166,000 annually – and is also introducing three new vegan items to the marketplace this spring.

### ***Canandaigua Academy to Stop Chicken Slaughter***

The Education Department instructed Canandaigua Academy (a high school in upstate New York) to terminate its chicken slaughter project under state law prohibiting studies that employ “termination of life.” Approximately 20 birds have been placed permanently at the Farm Sanctuary in New York.

### ***Polar Bears, Bowhead Whales and Other ANWR Animals Spared Shell’s Oil Drilling Plan***

A federal appeals court recently ruled that the Bush Administration’s approval of Shell’s plan to drill for oil next to the Refuse in Alaska’s Beaufort Sea is illegal. The court is sending the government back to the drawing board to study and disclose the “significant harm” Shell’s drilling could cause for polar bears, endangered bowhead whales and other species that live in and around the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

### ***Ned the Elephant Rescued from Royal Hanneford Circus***

Upon discovery of the poor condition of a Royal Hanneford Circus elephant, Ned, In Defense of Animals filed a complaint with the USDA. Ned was then rescued by the USDA and sent to the Elephant Sanctuary.

### ***San Diego Seals Protected During Pupping Season***

The city of San Diego was recently ordered to comply with resolutions of its city council requiring the placement of a rope barrier to protect the San Diego seals during their pupping season, December through May 15<sup>th</sup>. The seals then face the possibility of losing their beach to a Casa Beach dredging project to create an artificial bathing pool. Visit <http://savesandiegoseals.com/> for more information on how you can help the seals.

### ***Killer of Puppy Karley Arrested and Charged***

In December, Glynn Johnson was arrested and charged with felony animal cruelty for the fatal beating of six-month-old puppy, Karley. OCPA and other local activists are helping to ensure that the killer of Karley is prosecuted to the full extent of the law for this crime. Visit [OCPA’s myspace page](#) for upcoming demonstration and other information on how you can help with the *Justice 4 Karley* campaign.

## ***Obama Suspends Elimination of Protection for Yellowstone/Northern Rockies Wolves***

President Barack Obama suspended the 11<sup>th</sup>-hour attempt by Bush Administration officials to eliminate vital protections for hundreds of wolves in Greater Yellowstone and the rest of the Northern Rockies. However, officials in Idaho and Wyoming have already indicated their intent to delist wolves under existing management plans. Visit the [Defenders of Wildlife's action page](#) to help the wolves by urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to adopt a more responsible approach to wolf management.

## ***OC/SD County Restaurants, Five Feet, Mille Fleurs and Mr. A's, to Remove Foie Gras from Menu***

OCPA is working with the Animal Protection & Rescue League to educate and encourage local restaurants to remove the cruel cuisine, foie gras, from their menus. Recent Orange County and San Diego County restaurants that have agreed to remove foie gras include Five Feet, Mille Fleurs and Mr. A's. For more information on this ongoing campaign, visit <http://www.aprl.org/>.

## ***Seal Processing Plants Refuse to Buy Skins of Baby Grey Seals, Causing Sealers to Stay Home***

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the government of Nova Scotia announced they were authorizing another grey seal kill. But seal processing plants told seal hunters that they would not purchase the skins of the baby grey seals, so the sealers stayed home. Many sealers are now openly wondering whether shrinking markets will also impact the imminent commercial harp seal kill. The Humane Society of Canada is urging the Canadian government to buy out sealing licenses and develop alternative economies for coastal communities. For more information on what you can do to help stop the seal hunt permanently, visit <http://www.humanesociety.org/protectseals>.

## ***California Legislature Rejects Sales Tax for Veterinary Services***

The California state legislature rejected Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to extend the sales tax to veterinary services. The "Fido Fine" would have added up to 10% to the cost of caring for animals in California – but thanks to the thousands of calls and emails sent, the proposed fine was dropped.

## **Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed**

### ***Urge U.S. Representative to Insist the Military Ban Use of Animals in Casualty Training Courses***

Join PETA and other concerned activists in urging the U.S. Department of Defense to stop shooting, burning, poisoning, cutting the limbs off, and killing goats, pigs, and monkeys in horrific military training exercises and to use available non-animal methods instead.

Visit [PETA's action page](#) to send a message to your Congressional representative urging him/her to contact the Secretary of the Army and the Army Surgeon General to insist they ban the military's use of animals in trauma- and chemical-casualty training courses.

### ***Urge California Department of Fish and Game to End Bear Hunting Program***

Each year, approximately 1,500 to 1,700 black bears are legally killed by trophy hunters in California. Nearly 100 additional bears are killed by state agents due to perceived conflicts with the animals. California also permits hunters to pursue bears with packs of hounds, while countless other bears are killed illegally to feed the worldwide trade in bear parts.

Please contact the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and urge them to end their bear-hunting program:

Donald Koch, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, 1416 – 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; email: [Director@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:Director@dfg.ca.gov); phone: 916-653-7667; fax: 916-653-7387.

Encourage the CDFG to instead develop a bear protection program that immediately ends trophy hunting and hounding of black bears; recognizes the important role black bears play in maintaining ecosystems; acknowledges the many threats facing bears; affords broad, vigorous and effective protections for bears; and moves away from lethal controls of bears to a more comprehensive public education and non-lethal program aimed at preventing conflicts with bears.

### ***Ask Amazon.com and Google to Stop Selling/Promoting Fur***

Every year, over 50 million animals are brutally killed and skinned to make fur products. While many companies have pledged to go fur-free, other popular companies – such as Amazon.com and Google – continue to cause and profit from animal suffering.

After receiving nearly 12,000 emails, Amazon.com's competitor, Zappos.com, recently stopped selling all items with fur and pledged to stay fur-free. Now we need you to help us convince Amazon to follow Zappos' lead and become fur-free, as so many other retailers (including Nike, Gap, J. Crew, Polo Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, and Forever 21) have.

Visit [In Defense of Animals' action page](#) to send an email to Amazon.com CEO, Jeff Bezos, asking him to remove fur from the Amazon.com website permanently. Or send a letter to: Amazon.com Inc., 1200 – 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, S., Suite 1200, Seattle, WA 98144; phone: 206-622-2335.

Meanwhile, Google is knee-deep in the fur advertising business. Via contextual advertising on its AdSense/AdWords, Google can serve ads to literally millions of different websites around the world in a way that is invisible to many people. Some of those websites are small blogs. Some of them are big names like the New York Times, Animal Planet, Treehugger and the Guardian. (All, by the way, display Google fur ads.)

Visit <http://furisevil.org> for more information on what you can do to encourage Google to become a more ethical company.

## **Recent OCPA Activities**

### ***Thankful Turkeys Thanksgiving Celebration – Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Animal Acres in Acton***

On Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, between noon and 4:00 p.m., at Animal Acres in Acton, "veg pilgrims" met to celebrate and honor feathered friends at a fun gathering to encourage people to feed a turkey, rather than eat a turkey.

Attendees spent an afternoon meeting the sanctuary critters and enjoying a vegan meal, along with special guest presentations. Festivities began with farm tours of the sanctuary and time to meet the sanctuary cows, pigs, chickens and other animals, while hearing about heartwarming rescues. Although the turkeys didn't eat their Thanksgiving offerings, the people who love them feasted on a vegan Thanksgiving dinner provided by One World Restaurant Cuisine. The founder of Compassionate Cooks, Colleen Patrick-Goudreau, entertained the near 400 Pilgrims after dinner. Colleen is an inspiring speaker and author of the award-winning cookbook, *The Joy of Vegan Baking*.

Animal Acres, 5200 Escondido Canyon Road, Acton, CA 93510; phone: 661-269-5404;  
<http://www.animalacres.org/events.html>.

### ***Fur-Free Friday – Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in L.A.***

OCPA led a vanpool of animal advocates up to Beverly Hills on November 28<sup>th</sup> to join IDA, LCA and others for the annual fur-free Friday demonstration.

Bill Dyer from IDA addressed the crowd of demonstrators and another speaker inspired everyone to keep up the fight to pressure retailers and the public to end the bloody business that is the fur trade. A march commenced with a visit to Juicy Couture, a popular clothing store that recently stopped selling fur. IDA presented the management with a gift – a beautiful, large potted plant – as a gesture of gratitude for their compassionate decision to halt the sale of all clothing made from fur. The march then continued down

Rodeo Drive while demonstrators stopped to chant in front of stores that sell fur including Neiman Marcus, Brookes Brothers and several boutiques.

### ***OCAPA Holiday/Proposition 2 Celebration – Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. in Irvine***

OCPA held its holiday/Proposition 2 celebration on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Goddess Temple of Orange County in Irvine, 17905 Sky Park Circle, Suite A, Irvine, CA 92614.

Approximately 50 attendees enjoyed a festive gathering of like-minded individuals to celebrate the holidays and the passage of Proposition 2. The evening began with a cocktail hour (cash bar) with vegan appetizers followed by a vegan potluck dinner.

OCPA founder, Ava, reflected on historic attempts to halt the GM float at the Rose Parade years ago to stop the crash testing on animals. OCPA directors, Dina and Julie, gave heartwarming testimonials of the signature-gathering process and numerous other twists and turns in the road to Prop. 2 success, and introduced the Prop. 2 captains in attendance. Framed appreciation certificates were presented to those in attendance. The special guest was Rich McLellan, founder of California Animal Association; who gave an interesting speech on the legislative history of California's AR attempts, and discussed the California Animal Association (CAA), a coop of 11 animal rights groups, both national and local. He also discussed upcoming animal legislation on the agenda for 2009.

### ***Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac Restaurant in Fountain Valley***

The veggie/vegan luncheon/dinner club met for its monthly dining experience on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac Restaurant, 16563 Brookhurst Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708; phone: (714) 418-0658; <http://www.aulac.com>.

We have been alternating lunch and dinner meetings and would like to know which time is more convenient for most people. Please respond to [julie.meskell@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meskell@ocpausa.org) with your preference for either a 1:00 p.m. lunch meeting or a 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting.

### ***Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Santa Ana***

OCPA met on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen for a delicious veg\*n lunch, 161 City Place, Santa Ana, CA 92705; <http://www.mothersmarket.com>.

### ***Anti-Fur Demonstrations – December, January and February***

Robyn Annette organized a leafleting at South Coast Plaza on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> to help bring awareness to shoppers about the cruelty of fur. Hundreds of leaflets were given to shoppers in front of Nordstrom's. Most people were receptive to the message and took our suggestion of submitting a comment card to Nordstrom's management to let them know that compassion is the fashion, not fur. While Nordstrom's no longer has a fur salon, they continue to sell clothing throughout the store that is made from fur.

Much of the fur they sell comes from China and may come from dogs, such as Alsatisans (German Shepherds). U.S. law allows clothing designers and retailers to omit on their labels any mention of animal fur on fur-trimmed jackets. They are even allowed to dye real fur to make it look fake, and sell it without mentioning on the label that it is real fur. And Asiatic raccoon on a garment label means that the fur is really from a raccoon dog who may have been skinned alive. 50 million wild animals are brutally killed each year for the fur trade using a variety of horrendous methods including trapping, beating and being skinned alive. Animals on fur farms languish in tiny cages and are killed by anal electrocution, gassing and neck-breaking.

Animal advocates from Last Chance for Animals joined OCPA and APRL on Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> between noon and 2:00 p.m. to protest the sale of fur at South Coast Plaza.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, activists met outside of Bizaki Fur Salon in Tustin between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to demonstrate against its sale of fur during their much advertised fur sale. The traffic going by could not help but to notice us and see our awesome signs!



## ***Justice 4 Karley Demonstrations – November 15<sup>th</sup>, December 18<sup>th</sup> and January 18<sup>th</sup>***

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Assistant Fire Chief Glynn Johnson beat six-month old German Shepherd mix, Karley Toole, so badly that she had to be euthanized that same evening. A demonstration was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> at a busy intersection in Riverside County with over 100 people in attendance to encourage justice for Karley; approximately 20 people then immediately staged another demonstration outside of Johnson's home. On December 16<sup>th</sup> at approximately 4:00 p.m., Johnson was arrested and charged with felony animal cruelty. A demonstration at the Riverside County courthouse and District Attorney's office was staged on December 18<sup>th</sup> to thank the D.A. for their swift action. OCPA and LCA were represented and featured in an LA Times article.

Glynn Johnson was arraigned on January 18<sup>th</sup> and pled not guilty to the charges. Approximately 30 Justice 4 Karley supporters attended the event and let Johnson know what they thought of him as he exited the courtroom and headed toward his car. A press conference with the Riverside D.A. and the surviving members of the Toole family took place after the arraignment. A settlement conference is scheduled for Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Visit <http://justice4karley.com> for more information on this case.

## ***SAEN UCLA Candlelight Vigil, Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Westwood Village***

On Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, OCPA joined Stop Animal Exploitation Now (SAEN) and Last Chance for Animals (LCA) for a candlelight vigil/demonstration in Westwood Village against UCLA's ongoing refusal to consider alternatives to animal experiments.

UCLA earns millions of dollars every year from taxpayers to research recreational drug abuse, brain mapping, maternal behaviors, restless leg syndrome and other unnecessary experiments on animals.

For more information on this ongoing effort – and upcoming demonstrations – visit <http://www.wvail.org/> and <http://www.saenonline.org>.

## ***Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Veggie Grill/Irvine Spectrum***

The veggie/vegan luncheon/dinner club diners met at the new Veggie Grill at Irvine Spectrum on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m., and enjoyed the restaurant's food and large, beautiful patio surrounded by palm trees.

Veggie Grill is located at 81 Fortune Drive in the Irvine Spectrum located two doors down from Chipotle and across from the Panda Inn; phone: 949-727-9900; <http://www.veggiegrill.com>.

## ***OCPA and APRL Foie Gras Campaign Meeting – Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac in Fountain Valley***

OCPA has joined forces with the Animal Protection Rescue League (APRL) on their foie gras campaign, which has been very successful in San Diego County. The two groups met on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at Au Lac in Fountain Valley to discuss upcoming plans to educate more restaurants in Orange County and San Diego County about the cruelty of foie gras, such as Pascal's in Newport Beach, Hush in Laguna Beach and French 75 in Laguna Beach. If you'd like to get involved in this campaign, contact [nina@aprl.org](mailto:nina@aprl.org).

## ***UCI Anti-Vivisection Demonstration – Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in Irvine***

On Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, between noon and 2:00 p.m., OCPA joined UCI students and other concerned citizens in an educational demonstration to bring awareness to students and the public about the thousands of animals used in fraudulent and cruel experiments at the university.

OCPA plans to continue the anti-vivisection campaign in cooperation with UCI students by holding demonstrations there every month during the school year. The goal is to convey the message about the scientific invalidity of animal experimentation – and the better use of tax dollars toward the study of health and prevention instead.

***Puppy Store-Free-OC Volunteer Training Session – Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in Ladera Ranch***

The kick off of the Best Friends Animal Society's "A Puppy Store-Free-O.C." campaign has begun for those interested in wanting to help end the suffering of thousands of puppy mill dogs. Best Friends hosted a volunteer training session to go over mall tabling guidelines, role-play to show how to react to the different situations and address any concerns/questions from volunteers. After attending the training session, attendees should feel comfortable talking with people about irresponsible breeders and should be knowledgeable in answering their questions.

The volunteer training session was held on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Remington Apartment complex located at 25501 Crown Valley Parkway, Ladera Ranch, Ca 92694.

For more information about this campaign, contact Barb at [gregandbarb@cox.net](mailto:gregandbarb@cox.net).

**Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other**

OCPA now has a new [Myspace.com page](#) (thanks to Tracey Turner). Check it often for the latest details on local OCPA demonstrations and other animal-related events.

***Vegan Outreach/Club Day, Patriot's Day at Beckman High School – Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in Irvine***

On Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, Beckman's Reaching Out For Animal Rights Club will serve food from Veggie Grill to students between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. at Beckman High School, 3588 Bryan, Irvine, CA 92602; phone: (714) 734-2900.

***Justice 4 Karley Court Appearance – Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in Riverside***

The L.A. County assistant fire chief has been charged with animal cruelty in the beating death of his neighbor's six-month-old puppy, Karley.

The judge scheduled a Felony Settlement Conference on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. 31 at The Riverside County Courthouse 4100 Main St., Riverside, 92501.

This is Glynn Johnson's next court appearance. Please join us at the courthouse to support Justice 4 Karley (<http://www.justice4karley.com>). Email Dina if you'd like to carpool from Orange County at [dinakourda@yahoo.com](mailto:dinakourda@yahoo.com).

***March on Mall Anti-Fur Demo – Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. in Costa Mesa***

Join OCPA in our campaign to bring awareness about the atrocities of the fur trade on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. for our March on the Mall at South Coast Plaza to protest stores that sell fur.

Meet on the sidewalk at the corner of Sunflower and Plaza Drive in Costa Mesa near the Sunflower entrance to Nordstrom at South Coast Plaza.

We will have tee shirts for you to wear as we walk in groups around the mall. You can also bring or create your own anti-fur shirt. We will start with a march on the sidewalk outside of the mall and then walk into the stores that still sell fur, such as Nordstrom, Saks and Bloomingdales (without our signs, just our tee shirts).

For more information, contact Robyn at [animalprotectionlb@yahoo.com](mailto:animalprotectionlb@yahoo.com).

***Friends of Lake Forest Animals Meeting – Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in Lake Forest***

Along with RUFF, SCASC, and a dozen more groups, FOLFA is holding a countywide meeting to discuss promoting animal welfare in Orange County. The meeting will be held at the El Toro Library on Raymond Way from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1st. If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Melora at 951-255-8171.

### ***Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at That's Amore in Cerritos***

On Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, OCPA will dine at the new Italian (mostly vegan), fully vegetarian restaurant, That's Amore, in Cerritos, for dinner at 6:30 p.m.

That's Amore, 13349 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703; phone: 562-926-2112; located off the 91 Freeway on Artesia Blvd. Take the Carminita Blvd. exit and head north about 1-1/2 miles to Artesia. Continue through the intersection of Carminita and Artesia and turn left into the Farmer's Market shopping center. That's Amore will be on your right.

We hope to see you there! Everyone – vegetarian, vegan, or otherwise – is invited to join us for this vegan restaurant gathering. Email Julie if you'd like to carpool to this event: [julimeskell@cox.net](mailto:julimeskell@cox.net). And stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

### ***Walk/Vigil for Karley – Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Huntington Beach***

On Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, OCPA is holding a walk and a special vigil for Karley be starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Huntington Beach Dog Beach.

Please feel free to bring your dog and walk for Justice 4 Karley. Check [OCA's myspace.com](http://www.ocpa.org) page for further details on the exact location to meet.

### ***Great American Meatout – Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at Various Locations***

On (or around) March 20 — the first day of spring — thousands of caring people in all 50 U.S. states and two dozen other countries get active to host educational Meatout events. Activities include colorful festivals, lectures, public dinners, feed-ins, cooking demos, food samplings, leafleting, information tables and more.

The occasion is Meatout, the world's largest and oldest annual grassroots diet education campaign. **This year is the 25th annual observance!** Every spring, thousands of caring Meatout supporters educate their communities and ask their friends, families, and neighbors to pledge to "kick the meat habit (at least for a day) and explore a wholesome, compassionate diet of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains."

For more information on local events – or to register your own event and receive supplies – visit <http://www.meatout.org/>.

### ***Genesis Awards – Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at xxx in Hollywood***

Celebrating animals. Celebrating the media. The Genesis Awards is a star-studded ceremony attracting representatives from the news and entertainment media, social business and humane communities. The annual event honors those in the media who spotlight animal issues, and is taped to be aired at a later date as a national TV special.

The Genesis Awards will be held this year on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. in Beverly Hills. For more information, visit <http://www.humanesociety.org/genesisawards>.

### ***HSUS Animal Care Expo 2009 – April 6-9<sup>th</sup> at Bally's in Las Vegas***

HSUS's Animal Care Expo 2009 will be held between April 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at Bally's in Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information about this event, visit: <http://www.animalsheltering.org/expo/>.

### ***World Week for Animals in Laboratories – April 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> at Various Locations***

As the world falls into recession, we have an amazing opportunity to call into question the millions of taxpayer dollars spent on futile animal experiments. It is time for each and every one of us to do what we can to bring this controversial issue back into the public eye. Visit <http://www.wwail.org/> for more information on how you can get involved to help the animals during World Week for Animals in Laboratories, April 18<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>.



**Conference on Animals and Religion Featuring Karen Dawn – Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in Orange**

Join animal advocates and others at the Conference on Animals and Religion, Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Chapman University in Orange.

The conference will include an opening interreligious ceremony; keynote speaker, Jay McDaniel, prominent eco-theologian; workshops; exhibits; a bookstore with book signings; delicious vegan banquet with keynote speaker, Karen Dawn, author of *Thanking the Monkey: Rethinking the Way We Treat Animals*.

For more information, visit: <http://www.chapman.edu/chapel/animalconference/>.

**OCPA Write-In – Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Irvine**

OCPA will hold a write-in for the animals on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30 p.m. in Irvine at the Goddess Temple of Orange County in Irvine, 17905 Sky Park Circle, Suite A, Irvine, CA 92614.

This fun event will feature a vegan potluck buffet, beverages, silent auction, speaker, raffle and offer pre-written letters available on a CD addressing approximately one dozen critical animal-related action items (covering local, national and international issues).

Save the date and look for more information in next month's newsletter and/or on OCPA's website at <http://ocpausa.org>.

**Veggie Pride Parade – Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in NYC**

The First Veggie Pride Parade in America took place in Greenwich Village, New York City, in May 2008. A repeat performance is scheduled for May 17, 2009.

Just as last year, the parade will launch in Manhattan's Olde Meat District (where 9th Ave., Gansevoort St., Greenwich St., and Little West 12th St. intersect) at 12 Noon. Line-up will begin at 11 a.m. and culminate in Union Square Park (northern end) where a festival of music, speakers and exhibitors will take place. And again, just as last year, parade participants will wear costumes and carry sign boards announcing their pride in their vegetarian lifestyle. Local restaurants and veggie and veg-friendly groups will represent themselves with banners.

For more information about this event, visit: <http://www.veggieprideparade.org/>.

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## **Thank you for everything you do for the animals!**

Orange County People for Animals is a Southern California-based 501(c)3 non-profit animal advocacy organization founded in 1988 to help create a compassionate, healthy and peaceful planet for all living beings.

For more information about OCPA, visit our web site at <http://ocpausa.org>. To become an OCPA member or to make a donation using a secure online form, visit <http://ocpausa.org/join.htm>, e-mail [donations@ocpausa.org](mailto:donations@ocpausa.org) or [subscription@ocpausa.org](mailto:subscription@ocpausa.org) for additional information.

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