

Sadie's Story

by Ann Gilson

little ball of black and white fur slowly unfolded itself, and Sadie reluctantly opened her eyes to an unfamiliar world. Bewildering recollections swiftly filled her mind – the strangers who came yesterday with their "carriers," and the confusion as she and Sammie were separated from the other kittens. Then the moving, the unloading, the new food and bed and the oblivion of sleep.

She instinctively sought the

comfort of Mama, her dear refuge for all of her short life. But Mama, dear soft sweet-smelling Mama, wasn't there. Fear and grief overcame her and she lay huddled with her eyes shut.

But then Sammie, her dearest companion among her siblings, was beside her, pressing close and warm, and she relaxed. Then there was another cat, not Mama, but an adult who also came close and licked her kindly, and the fear eased



Sadie (left) and Sam (right)

and she opened her eyes again to see the room, the home, and the companions she would live happily with for the next 13 years.

The old couple who cared for them and loved them grew older during those years, too. The little old lady died, but the old gentleman continued to care for the trio he always called "my wife's cats," as well as he was able to.

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Peninsula Friends of Animals

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From the Editor's Desk

This issue of *Pet Tidings* is dedicated to the ideals of Peninsula Friends of Animals. Every cat is deserving of a long and happy life. Every cat is deserving of the loving environment of a perfect forever home. Every cat has the right to competent medical care throughout their lives, especially as they become older and require more care at a greater expense.

Some kitties are lucky enough to find that perfect home at an early age, and are able to live their entire lives surrounded by safety and love. But so many more experience a good deal of change and uncertainty before finding their forever home, as described in the stories we have shared in this issue.

Without PFOA, without Safe Haven, without the wonderful staff and dedicated volunteers there, it would have been a very short story with a very sad ending for Pippin and Priscilla, Sadie and Sam, Callie and Silver. With their help and yours, there will be many other stories with similar happy endings in the years to come, especially for those cats with special needs or who are "different" or "difficult," for whom there is little other hope.

- Marilyn Ash, Editor



Mews from the Board

Become a monthly donor of Peninsula Friends of Animals. Having never been much of a salesman, one of the toughest things for me to do in my role as Board President is to encourage individuals like yourselves to support us monetarily. As a non-profit organization, PFOA relies entirely on the generosity of our supporters to achieve our goals. Last year fully 42% of our funds came from only thirteen

individuals. While the generosity of these people cannot be overstated it is evident that our future sustainability as an animal rescue organization could benefit from a larger support base.

That is why, difficult as it is for me to write this, it is my hope that by doing so I can convince many of you to join a select group of donors in becoming a monthly donor to Peninsula Friends of Animals. It is easy to do. Just locate the envelope in the center of this issue of Pet Tidings, check the box that says "I would like to simplify my support with an automatic monthly donation," and then search your hearts and decide what it is worth to you to have PFOA in your community and begin to support us regularly.

With your generous support, we can together continue to reduce companion pet

overpopulation in a humane fashion through our spay/ neuter programs, and keep providing homeless, abandoned or abused animals with the shelter and care they need until they can be adopted into good, permanent homes. On behalf of the PFOA Board of Directors and all of our rescue animals, thank you!

> - Kevin Rose, President of the Board











Left to right: Sadie, Sam, Callie and Silver

Chance or... fate?

---Continued from Page 1

Eventually, in the fall of 2016, he could no longer, at 90, care for them or himself, and had to move into "assisted living."

First, he needed to find a good home for the three now-elderly cats. He looked and looked, trying his best, but no one wanted them, sweet and pretty as they were. They were "too old" and "too many," it seemed. The cats sensed the stress and worry, and they ate less and became more reclusive.

Finally he heard of PFOA and called us, but we were full and had a waiting list! They would be hard to place, too, as all three were a bonded trio, not just a bonded pair.

Time was running out, so on his last day in his old home he put them in those same carriers and headed – well, he wasn't sure where – maybe the vet's – he somehow felt compelled to let Fate decide. Maybe, even yet, his prayers would be answered.

As he drove by the entrance to Safe Haven, it almost seemed as if Fate *did* decide, and his feet touched the brake and his hands turned the wheel to go in.

By chance, Fate (or something) had brought one of the PFOA Board members (one of whose old cats was very ill) to the shelter that day. When she heard the old gentleman's story she agreed to take the cats as soon as she could if room could be found for them at Safe Haven temporarily, and if they were not adopted by someone else in the meantime.

Somehow, space *was* found, and the old gentleman, his promise to his late wife fulfilled, his heart and mind finally at peace, drove home alone.

Bewildered and afraid among so many other cats and people, in totally unfamiliar territory, Sadie, Sam and Callie huddled together and sought safety under blankets, behind couches, and in any spot where they could shut out this frightening new world.

The staff and volunteers were kind and quiet and gentle with them. Soft beds, good food and loving hands were accepted, but nothing but contact with each other provided them with any peace and freedom from fear.

Three months later there was space for one cat at their promised home and Callie, the older cat, moved there. Sadie and Sam clung more closely to each other, though they were not quite as shy now. Kindly, Fate soon intervened once more and sent a bigger, younger, affectionate cat to the shelter, who somehow became their "protector" and took Callie's place.

Callie missed them and refused to eat at first, but within a month she was she was eating well and no longer hid under things. Callie was 16 herself, and radical change is not easy at any age.

Many months went by and Sadie and Sam and their new buddy, Silver, had their ups and downs. Then, within a two week period, there were two open spaces at their promised new home. Sam and Sadie finally got in the carriers for the last time to make their last move, and rejoined Callie in their last home!

Was that the end of their story? Not exactly. Once again they hid and refused to eat, but only for a few weeks. Somehow they began to sense that this was really home. Soon they were everywhere, including the kitchen cabinets, the owner's bed, and a small cat-safe yard. They made friends with the little old three-legged dog, warily. They gained weight and their coats began to shine. They even played, sometimes, sort of.

But what about Silver, the cat who had befriended them at Safe Haven? Well, she wasn't doing as well. She missed them. She had been a feral kitten years ago and did not make emotional connections easily. Her life was sadly diminished by their absence, as they had bonded strongly.

So? Well, you guessed it! Silver came to rejoin Sadie and Sam a few weeks ago. She's not shy, and didn't hide or quit eating, but other cats in one house was a new challenge for her. She's a smart cat, though, and quickly learned the house rules ("no picking on anyone, no rough play, be nice"), and already fits in happily. It's as if all the cats had spent all their lives together, and no one is ever afraid or lonely now.

Third Time's A Charm

By Marilyn Ash

Pippin and Priscilla were hiding. The sign on the door of their playroom showed there were two tortie sisters in residence. But visitors to B3, one of the adult cat rooms at Safe Haven. were sure that was an error. There were no cats in B3!

However, very observant individuals could see two small lumps under a blanket stretched across a long couch – one lump at each end. The lumps didn't move. They didn't make a sound. Not so much as an ear twitch. Lifting one end of the blanket very slowly, very carefully, one could see a small, dark little cat

curled up as tight as possible, eyes squeezed shut. The other end covered the second little cat. They seemed to think that if they couldn't see anyone, then no one could see them.

Pippin and Priscilla had always been very shy. Originally brought to Safe Haven as bonded older kittens, they quickly found a home together. Their adoptive mom was a quiet person who dearly loved her kitties. Because she rarely socialized, their mom was the only person with whom Pippin and Priscilla associated. Constantly together, the two sisters became totally dependent on each other and on the only human in their lives.

Three years after they were adopted, their mom had to move where she could not take Pippin and Priscilla. The girls lost their quiet, safe, comfortable home. Returning to Safe Haven, they were thrust into a totally new environment with many other cats and people around constantly. This did not feel quiet and safe. The sisters were far outside their comfort zone. And so, they hid - for months. They started out under the blanket. Gradually, as they adjusted to their new environment, they moved from under the blanket to a hidey hole in a cat tree.

When there are so many outgoing, friendly, affectionate cats to choose from, a timid, shy cat who hides from visitors has a hard time being adopted. It's even worse when the cat doesn't like other cats, dogs or children. When there are two of them, and they must be adopted together, it is much more difficult to find the right home. It took quite a while, but in mid-2014 they found what they hoped would be their forever home.

Everyone at Safe Haven was overjoyed when Pippin and Priscilla were adopted again. They all hoped that this would be the ideal family and the perfect environment. Unfortunately, this did not end up being the much-desired forever home for the girls.



from their microchips. Shelter personnel picked them up immediately and brought them home to Safe Haven.

This time the girls were a little less shy, a little more outgoing. They had always been fond of the outdoors, and Safe Haven provided the perfect environment – a fully enclosed, safe patio where they could stretch out on sunny days and watch the birds on the other side of the wire. They also had roommates - two 12 year-old brothers who were also bonded and waiting for their forever home together. While not close buddies, the sisters and brothers got along well, and Pippin and Priscilla learned that some cats are quite tolerable.

This time around, the sisters had a shorter wait. In mid-2017, a couple from Forks came to Safe Haven and took Pippin and Priscilla home. It is a wonderful environment for the girls, providing a safe outdoor area as well as everything a self-respecting cat could ask for in a home. On cold nights, there is a wood stove to keep them warm. Pippin sits in front of the fire and watches the flames. Priscilla is more interested in curling up to sleep.

They love to sit in the living room window and watch the birds. In the summer they bring in moths and turn them loose – it takes their parents quite a while to find them! They have also brought bugs in to their parents, and one day they even brought in a dog. The neighbor's dog had managed to get under the fence, came over to play and followed the girls inside. When the girls realized that the dog was in the house, they chased it back outside.

Best of all, there is a nice long couch in the living room. Pippin and Priscilla have taken it over and like to curl up there often - one on each end. They are happy girls, with no more need to hide. And no blankets required! �

Meet a Volunteer: Nancy Dolansky



Yes, it's a real live panda!

By Marilyn Ash

Meet Nancy, the PFOA Video Volunteer. She is the author-filmmaker of all the cat videos featured on our website, Facebook page, Petfinder and many other online adoption sites. At least once a week, Nancy can be found, iPhone in hand, capturing the individual purrsonality of one or more of our newest rescue kitties.

In a prior life, Nancy had done volunteer work at a shelter in Florida, videotaping the animals as a means to promote adoptions. She always felt that "the world was moving that way and people needed to see the kitties in motion." When she and her husband, John, moved to Sequim, she knew she wanted to continue that work, and looked for a no-kill shelter in the area. She had heard of PFOA, and met Diane Lopez, former President of the

acquired an Apple computer after moving to Sequim, and started using some of the newer technology. She attended a Best Friends conference on photographing animals. Although she says she had no skills, anyone who views her videos would beg to differ. She begins by making friends with the new kitties,

Board, at a local function. During

her three years on

the board. Nancy

developed a great

deal of respect for

the "compassion,

people" at PFOA.

Nancy had

dedication and

fun group of

encouraging them to express their personalities. The trickiest part, according to Nancy, is to "get the cat to stay away from you and do something cute." She does all of her own editing. voice-overs, and selects the music background.

Her heart has always been with black animals. They are the trickiest to photograph, and it is most important to be able to show them in motion, and to encourage their behavior and "cuteness" to come across. She believes that a good video especially helps the black cats to be adopted.

For fun, when she's not at PFOA playing with the kitties, Nancy enjoys hiking, bicycling and travel. This

winter, Nancy and John "chased the Northern Lights" in Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, only 250 miles below the Arctic Circle. They rented goosedown clothing, and were perfectly warm. However, at minus 30 degrees Celsius, any part that was exposed (like eyelashes) immediately froze. She reports that the Northern Lights were absolutely stunning, with streaks of green, yellow and red through the night sky. "And the dogsledding was exhilarating!"



When asked about her own kitties, Nancy's face lit up. She has three rescues, almost all black, of course. Peet looks like a black panther (although not nearly as large). Molly is a petite little Tuxedo. 12 year-old Peet and Molly are quite the travelers, and have been cross-country with Nancy and John six times. And Lenny is a very large, very black youngster, just over three years old, who can stand flat-footed in the kitchen and reach just about anything on the counter. A woman who loves black animals couldn't ask for anything better! 💠

Our dedicated volunteers are involved in almost every aspect of shelter business. They socialize and groom the cats and kittens, sweep floors, clean litter boxes, assist in our business office, transport animals needing veterinary services, pick up supplies, staff booths at festivals, provide a variety of services for fundraising activities, and maintain shelter grounds. In 2017, our volunteers donated almost 12,500 hours of service to Peninsula Friends of Animals. Considering that the shelter was closed almost four months as a precaution due to the ringworm incident,

this is quite an accomplishment.

One of our most important and consistent fundraisers is our world famous potholders. The manufacturing of our hand-made potholders is a labor of love, organized and staffed by volunteers. In 2017, our potholder team raised over \$26,000 in sales of potholders and microwave bowls at the numerous events during the year. 100% of these monies are used for the care of our rescues.

We wish to recognize and thank the many individuals who contribute their time and talent "for the kitties."

Safe Haven ADOPTABLES! BLACK AND MEDIE BEAUTIES

Looking for a white cat? Perhaps a black cat? Can't make up your mind? No problem! We have some of each available for adoption!

Max is a gorgeous black cat who closely resembles a miniature panther—just check out that photo! Our two white kitties are sisters, and that's where the similarity ends. Blay is a longhair with green eyes; Quinn is a shorthair with one blue eye and one green eye. Although the girls have spent their entire five years together, they are ready for some individual time and can be adopted separately.

And for those undecided readers, we have two combinations: Minnie is a tuxedo, mostly black with some white, and Cookie is a cow cat, mostly white with some black.



MAX is a wonderful, all-black senior kitty who looks and acts like a young adult. He came to us with IBD, which is now under control with a change in diet and some meds. He is very affectionate, talkative, and purts and kneads his paws when he is getting his much-desired attention.





BLAY is a beautiful all-white medium hair girl. She was originally adopted from us as a kitten in 2012, and went home with her sister, Quinn, and her mama, Luci. Her person recently lost her home, and could not find a rental that allowed cats. She was forced to return them to us. Her person tells us that Blay is a real sweetie – she loves everyone. She is curious and loves attention. She has no problem meeting new people, and even does well with dogs.

QUINN is Blay's sister – she was also adopted from PFOA as a kitten in 2012. She is an all-white shorthair with the most amazing eyes – one is blue and one is green. She is slightly shy until she gets to know you, and then she's a total love bug. She enjoys nothing more than to get attention and find a comfy place on someone's lap. She is ready for her very own forever home.





MINNIE is just adorable—black and white and fluffy and girly-girly! Returned to us after a few years in a home with an older couple, Minnie came back to us after health issues necessitated their giving her up. She is regaining her normal poise and happy ways, and we hope that you will be willing to give this sweet girl another chance at a forever home. If you can provide the loving, gentle care that Minnie yearns for, you will be rewarded with a lifelong friend.

Please call PFOA at **360-452-0414** and press "2" to inquire about any of these featured pets. Leave a message if you get voice mail; a staff member will return your call. Or go online to see many others at *www.safehavenPFOA.org*

Ask PFOA: What Is a Forever Home?



by Sasha Sterling

The phrase "forever home" is frequently found in the pages of animal shelter and animal welfare literature, both online and offline. But what does it really mean? It's tempting to assume it simply means that a prospective adopter will keep and care for the animal for the rest of its life and not abandon it or

return it to the shelter. Yes, that's part of the commitment involved with having a pet – in this case a cat. But that alone is not enough to define a forever home, the roots and breadth of which go much deeper.

Many responsibilities come with adopting a cat. The human partner must supply her (or his) basic needs for safety, food and water, a litter box, toys, places to sharpen her claws, comfy sleep spots, love and attention, and veterinary services when necessary. But who really adopts a cat just to take on more responsibility?

The making of a forever home starts with longing. A human being longs for the unconditional love brought by a pet, and to bring into the home the beauty and grace personified by a cat. And then there's the desire to get closer to a bit of wildness without having to venture into the wilderness; or to close the species gap by gaining an understanding of the feline nature.

What does the cat long for? Science has only recently conceded that cats, as well as many other animal species, have minds and emotions. And from their emotions come desires. When visitors look into the eyes of shelter cats, many, if not most of the animals seem to be saying, "Adopt me. Take me home."

Although we can't know exactly what a cat is thinking and feeling, people who have spent years living with cats have observed that they crave long-term companionship with one person or a small family, to have a predictable routine, and to be loved and respected as individuals with their own particular needs and wants. Perhaps a bond begins to form when the cat senses that, with this new person, some of her wants, as well as her needs, will be satisfied.

While much cat-related literature suggests that a forever home is all about responsibility on the human end, ultimately, it's about the mutual joy that comes from building a relationship – and that is a two-way street. It takes time to craft a forever home – time for human and pet to learn to "read" each other's gestures, voices, styles of movement, and daily rhythms. Little by little, the relationship takes shape – a shape that will be different with every human-cat partnership. If all goes well, the longing that started the process on both sides will be fulfilled in countless ways every day.

A forever home is not a point on a map or a measure of years, but a place in the heart; and as everyone who has ever loved a cat knows, that place has no boundaries in time and space. \clubsuit





🖄 Dear Rosie and Tony,

My name is Ming, and I was rescued from the streets by Mom and Dad about eight years ago.

My canine sister, Jamie, died earlier this year. Mom, Dad and I have had a terrible time with it. But Dad came home a few weeks ago with a new German Shepherd sister. They named her "Jersey," supposedly short for "New Jersey," but I don't know who the old Jersey was? Anyway, she has these really big paws and doesn't know how to use her legs yet. She walks like a drunken sailor but she'll grow out of it soon enough. It is hilarious to watch her walk!

Could you ask Tippy if it's okay for me to just reach out and knock her over a few times as she staggers past my chair? I just think it would be hysterical but only because she's not sick or anything. I would never do it if she had anything wrong with her.

Please hurry with your answer! She's growing up fast!

Anxiously, Ming

Rosie and Tony reply together: Dear Ming,

We are sorry to hear about Jamie. It is never easy when a loved one crosses the Rainbow Bridge. But it seems you have a little sister that you can love, and that's always good.

We checked with Tippy and he said, "Please thank Ming for asking my advice. I honestly don't think it's mean. Jersey will grow out of it and it doesn't sound like Ming is being mean or bullying her. As long as it's all in fun, then it's part of what sisters and brothers do to each other."

So, he says it's all good. But we would like to remind you that Jersey will quickly grow into those big paws...and German Shepherds have good memories! Good luck and keep us posted!

Rosie & Tony

"Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals"



Thank you for caring! - Johnjoseph Pajor

Thanks for all you do! - Michael Snyder

I like your cageless, no-kill rescue mission, and your spay and neuter program. - Tom Hess

Thank you for the opportunity to be a forever home to the most incredible cats, Max & Jack. They bring me such joy and have settled in nicely. Thank you for all you do. - Deby King

You and your staff are amazing and deserve everything for the work you do! We are honored to be a small part of PFOA! – Kelley, Harbinger Winery



Just wanted to touch base and share this picture from Brownlee's first morning with us. He seems to be getting a little more comfortable and confident each day. – Erika Starks



Well, this fellow [Leonardo] seems to be living large and enjoying life in his new home. He is pretty relaxed for the first night! – **Desiree Isaksson**



Thought you might like to see how our boy [TJ] is doing these days. He's a sweetheart...a real big baby! Happy New Year!

- Cindy Craig and Chris Svehaug

P.S. Sent a contribution today and signed up to get our cat food through Amazon so you get the benefit! Letting all of our friends know, too!



Dear Beautiful People,

Thank you for all your good work! I adopted my delightful companion Niles from you all in March of 2016, and we are so happy together. We are so grateful for the work that you do, we wish we could send you millions & millions. Alas, we have not so much and can spare only a little. We send you this little bit with heaps of loving gratitude. Indeed, without your good work we would not be together sharing our great love every day. Love on your heads! Most sincerely, **Miles & Rene**



"Dear Peninsula Friends of Animals"



Dear Friends at PFOA, The quilters in my Block of the Month class are huge PFOA fans! Our quilting friends, and Kattcher and I, are sending a check to help wherever needed.

The latest entertainment here is the Leaping Fly-Kattcher! Kattcher wants you to know that her extra toes really come in handy when chasing flies! (And she catches them, almost always.)

What a sweet, affectionate girl she is!

Blessings and love to all the furry ones, and also to all the helpers, volunteers and contributors – your work and your facility are truly amazing and so very much appreciated.

We both send our love, Lauretta & Kattcher



I thought you might like to see Dimples now... He is a big handsome boy! – **Kimmie Pruitt**



Hi, the girls [Pippin and Priscilla] are just fine. They both like being brushed. They use Eunice's old, tattered scratching post. Ken thought we should get a new one that looked better. I don't think they care how it looks and neither do I since they use it instead of the furniture. – **Kathy Cunningham**





Dear Everyone at PFOA,

Has it really been seven months since Phil and I adopted Finn and Floyd? How fast time passes when each day brings new adventures for them and for us.

At last they have stopped demanding breakfast at 3 a.m.! Because they are food grazers, we feed them each one ounce of wet food four times a day, and they have dry food to crunch on all the time. Floyd does not recognize treats as something to eat but Finn appreciates

the reward for good behavior (and sometimes just for being cute).

Finn jumps onto Phil's back and then runs into the living room so Phil will play feather on a stick in the tunnel game. If Floyd comes into the room, Finn will go sulk in a corner while Floyd plays with us. They do, however, entertain themselves very

well by chasing one another and rolling around clutched in each other's paws. They don't cuddle and purr for long periods of time, but when they do it is so very sweet.

Thank you for taking such good care of them before we adopted them. We will never, ever let them down. With affection, **Susan Pressman and Phil Merlin**



I adopted Milo 10 years ago from PFOA, and he gives me joy each and every day. Looking forward to adopting another kitty in 2018. Thank you for all you do! Merry Christmas.

– Barbara Maison



We hope you all are well and are enjoying each day. We also hope the "ringworm scourge" is in the past and all your kitties are doing well. You at PFOA perform a very valuable service to our community! Thank you and BEST WISHES.

 Loretta and Dick Rosalie & Simba

Look who's been adopted!



Finnegan



Nathan



Slivee



Luci



Thomasina



Jack



Charlotte



Radar



Willow



Daisy



Noah



Bradley



Whitney



Pippin



Nikki



Bunny



Max



Molly



Ozzie



Priscilla



Squeeky



---Continued from Page 1

Henry



Leonardo



Gracie



Jinxie





Fatty McCatty



Socks

Billy



ΤJ



Nigel



Мо



Sadie





Clyde



Willie



See

some adoptable pets on Page 6 and online at www.safehavenpfoa.org























■ In memory of my sweet **Casey**. So sweet and shy I fell in love with her the minute I met her. I know she is happy at the bridge with her momma Carmen who she had missed so since her passing last year. From **Linda Harer**

- In memory of my pets. From Betty Wood Barnard
- In memory of Lucy. From Cheryl Halverson

Pomeranian. From Susan Hurst

■ In memory of Sammy. From Barbara Gatien

■ In memory of my cats Chai & Sophie. From Jean Tyson

O'Gorman

In memory of Martha St. Claire's beloved cat, Muggsy Hubbard,

faithful companion through thick and thin for 19 years. From Nancy



The memorial wall at Safe Haven. Memorial tiles honoring a beloved pet are available for purchase. They form the frame of the Rainbow Bridge mural. It's a wonderful place to visit and honor the animals who wait for us.

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SPONSORS!



Compassionate Care for your Companions.



Published by Peninsula Friends of Animals

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OUR MISSION

To prevent the birth of unwanted cats and dogs through progressive spay/neuter and educational programs; and to place as many homeless, neglected, and abused animals as possible into good, safe, permanent homes.

Find us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/ pfoasafehaven



Dates to remember:

■ The PFOA Board meets at Safe Haven from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month. The public is welcome to attend. Members who are interested are encouraged to come and observe.

■ Safe Haven shelter is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 to 4, closed Sunday and Monday. Call (360) 452-0414 and press "2" to make an appointment; appointments required.

■ Sequim Prairie Grange Spaghetti Feed, February 16, 5-7 pm

Catnip 'n Sip, April 7, 12-3pm

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| This donation is In honor of In memory of Name: |
| Please notify of this donation: Name: |
| Address: City State Zip: |
| I am renewing or prepaying my/our membership at \$25.00 per person per year. I am enclosing \$ per person for years. Member name(s): |
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