

Season's Greetings from the Wild Cat Education & Conservation Fund

2019 has continued the tradition of being a very busy and productive year for WCE&CF.

WCE&CF made financial donations to the field conservation groups we support, including Cheetah Conservation Fund, Cheetah Conservation Botswana, the Snow Leopard Conservancy, the Mountain Lion Foundation, the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation and Cheetah Outreach.

Our ambassador cats and the ambassador animals from the Monterey Zoo were a hit at our "Purrfect Pawty", 17th annual fundraiser held at the Pomeroy Center in San Francisco.

Our generous supporters made the evening a success by becoming "Program Partners".

Their donations help us bring our outreach assembly to schools that cannot afford to pay the entire amount for a presentation.

In July, we held our sixteenth open house/fundraiser at the compound. Our guests spent the day visiting with the cats, enjoying great wines generously poured by Peterson Family Winery, and Barbara's buffet luncheon. Tafari ran against Themba in our seventh "cheetah challenge" and proved even cheetah cubs run fast. Our wonderful donors made contributions to the care of our 16 ambassador cats and to the repair/upkeep of the compound and cats' enclosures.

Tafari made several Bay Area appearances for the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Please go to www.cheetah.org to learn more about CCF.

Bhutan wowed the guests at the Snow Leopard Conservancy's annual fundraiser in February. Please go to www.snowleopardconservancy.org to learn how this amazing organization is working to save snow leopards.

We hosted an event for the Small Wild Cat Conservation Foundation at the compound in October. At the end of Dr. Sanderson's talk Chachi, Bandhu and Guarani did a presentation for the guests, representing their small wild cousins. Please go to www.smallwildcats.org to learn more about SWCCF.

We did a variety of fun outreach programs in addition to our school assemblies. They included the wildlife day for Santa Clara Audubon Society, Sonoma State Associated Students, Westwind Barn Earthday celebration, Academy of Art life drawing class, and Sonoma State kids' camp, to name a few.

The private tours of the WCE&CF compound are continuing for a fifth year. Several options are available (tour, cheetah run, lunch, overnight stay in our guest house). Please check out the "private tours" page at www.wildcatfund.org. **A private tour makes a great holiday gift.**

For the first time in our 35 years of housing wild cats, we had to evacuate on October 26th due to the threat from the Kinkaid fire. Everything went smoothly and the cats returned home on the 28th, glad to be back in their enclosures.

Tafari, a six-week-old male cheetah joined our family in January. He has already become a crowd favorite at our outreach presentations.

Sadly, we lost Umfazi (leopard) and Nakuru (serval) at 23 years of age and Kalispel (Canada lynx) at 19 years.

Please reserve two dates on next year's calendar. Saturday evening, **March 7th**, will be our annual fundraiser, once again held at the Pomeroy Center in San Francisco. You will have the opportunity to enjoy a delicious buffet dinner, meet some of our ambassador cats and support wildcat conservation.

On Saturday, **July 11th** we will hold our annual open house, luncheon and cheetah run at our compound.

We strongly believe that without a big emphasis on education, conservation in the wild cannot be successful. This is the important part ambassador cats play in helping to ensure the future of these wonderful creatures. Without your support, we cannot reach all the people who need to hear what is happening to wildcat populations worldwide.

We cannot thank our wonderful donors enough. Please think of us this holiday season.

Making a tax-deductible contribution in someone's name is a perfect holiday gift.

Information on how to donate can be found at www.wildcatfund.org on the "donations" page.

We wish you a good and prosperous 2020 – Barbara, Rob, the WCE&CF Board and the cats.