



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



Internationally traveling mutts

A guest spot by 'Tips' pal Ila

Ila has been an animal advocate since I met her in high school in 1965! Today, she is an international artist and author. Here is a peek into her and her husband, Franck's, hearts.

"Living in Tahiti, I was astonished to find a purebred German shepherd abandoned and starving on the roadside," said Ila.

The Polynesian island's dogs have been isolated for centuries from the rest of the world, resulting in a breed of dog that is small and slender with a nondescript color and a ratter's temperament.

Ila gently helped the weak female dog into her car, spontaneously naming it Misha. It took weeks for the dog to regain her strength.

"What was more curious," said Ila, "was that after Misha returned to health, she produced eight black sable and pinto puppies. Our pet hen, Babalu, and rooster, Kubilai, stood by her all day in apparent appreciation of the event, as she lay giving birth resembling a little manger scene.

It soon became obvious that one of the pups, Cesar, was an unusual dog who possessed a great sensitivity and spirit. He and Franck were inseparable. Cesar grew into the biggest dog on the island! He was so handsome and gracious, that he was known all over the island.

Each evening Franck and his dogs went for a swim off our beach and they played uproariously. Sometimes, Franck would play a trick on them by pretending to have drowned. Only one dog responded to 'the emergency.' When Cesar saw his beloved friend looking dead in the water, he lost no time in saving his life! He ran to the water edge, swam to Franck, grabbed him by the hair and hauled him to the beach. Cesar did this whenever Franck tested him, which wasn't often.

Cesar's behavior demonstrated his insight that humans need to breathe indicating that dogs, love, think and respond.

I was busy rehabilitating seabirds and roosters that had been used

in rooster fights and was amused that when Franck was traveling on business, Cesar went to considerable effort to become my closest buddy. This unusual dog tried convincing me that he loved the birds as much as I did.

When we moved to France in 2009, only the three youngest females were still alive. We lived in Paris, then they accompanied us to our mountain home in Canada two years later. Our dogs have swum in warm Tahitian waters, the cold Cascade mountain rivers and the Mediterranean.

One of our female pups, Petite Loup, named for her wolfish look, was dog-napped at three months of age. The captors kept her tied up with a rope around her abdomen, for their future meal.

After living in captivity for two weeks, Petite Loup escaped and found her way home. She had a deeply infected injury around her belly from the rope and her struggle to break free. It had to be kept bandaged for weeks before it healed, and for the rest of her life she refused to stay in a shelter where rain was pounding on the roof -- a clue to the torment that she had lived.

In Tahiti, Petite Loup had been my only companion on the long excursions, far up a variety of uninhabited valleys, that I took to find places to release the birds. We had to remain undetected by everyone, including sharp-eyed marijuana farmers, who would be very interested in finding such gorgeous fighting birds in the wild. Petite Loup could tell, from a glance at me, if it was the moment to bark or hide. When we moved to France, she was a town dog, walking at my side and politely socializing in the village square. On our return to Canada, she was able to come with me on hikes until she became too old last year.

The dogs led free and happy lives for many years, then one by one, they passed away. When the alpha male, Wolf, died of old age, the birds noticed immediately. We found him lying on the lawn in a

circle of chickens, all standing perfectly still in homage, gazing at him, just as they had stood waiting and watching the night he was born."

TIPS

"When you, too, have many dogs," said Ila, "they can be difficult to control at meal time. What worked for us, was to put each dog's bowl down in the same place, and in the same order, each time. They will learn the routine, and the insecure ones relax, while the more aggressive ones will stop looking for an opportunity to steal food from the others. Staying with them as they eat, not only reassures them, but gives you valuable feedback into each one's state of health over time." Ila's website: <http://ilafranceporcher.wixsite.com/author>

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Play Continued from A1

Lastly in December, the theater will end its season with Seussical the musical. The musical is an adaptation of a classic Dr. Seuss story "Horton Hears a Who." The original music is by Stephen Flaherty and the lyrics are written by Lynn Ahrens, both of whom wrote the Seussical book.

Cottage Theatre executive director Susan Goes says to expect much of the same colorful and entertaining effort that the theatre is well known for.

"Our only real challenge is that we would love to have more

people audition," she said, "because of the limited auditions we sometimes have to make compromises for certain roles."

While busy with the upcoming production, Goes was also pleased to announce that the Cottage Theatre has been selected as one of six theatres nationally to participate in a world premier in 2018.

The American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) selected Cottage Grove to be a part of the world premiere of a specific play submitted by playwrights. The theatre will work

directly with the playwright once a play has been selected. Other participating theatres come from Minnesota, Indiana, Nebraska, Wyoming and New Mexico.

Lorane Country News

A dispatch from Lorane by Lil Thompson

While the snow and ice seemed to cancel several events in our school district, they have been rescheduled.

This is Homecoming Week at Crow Middle/High School through Thursday. Classes will be dressing up. Basketball games are Thursday, January 19 with JV at 3:30 and 5 pm. Varsity games are 6 and 7:30 pm.

The Drama performance has been rescheduled to Wednesday, January 25 at 7 pm. Then on Thursday, January 26, come enjoy the Winter concert at 7 pm in the Applegate Elementary Gym.

Just a reminder that senior baby pictures are due by January 20. For further information, con-

tact the school.

Rural Art Center will continue the Ukulele Lesson Club on Thursdays at Crow Middle/High School music room from

3:30 - 4:15 pm and 4:15-5:30 pm for beginners. All ages are welcome.

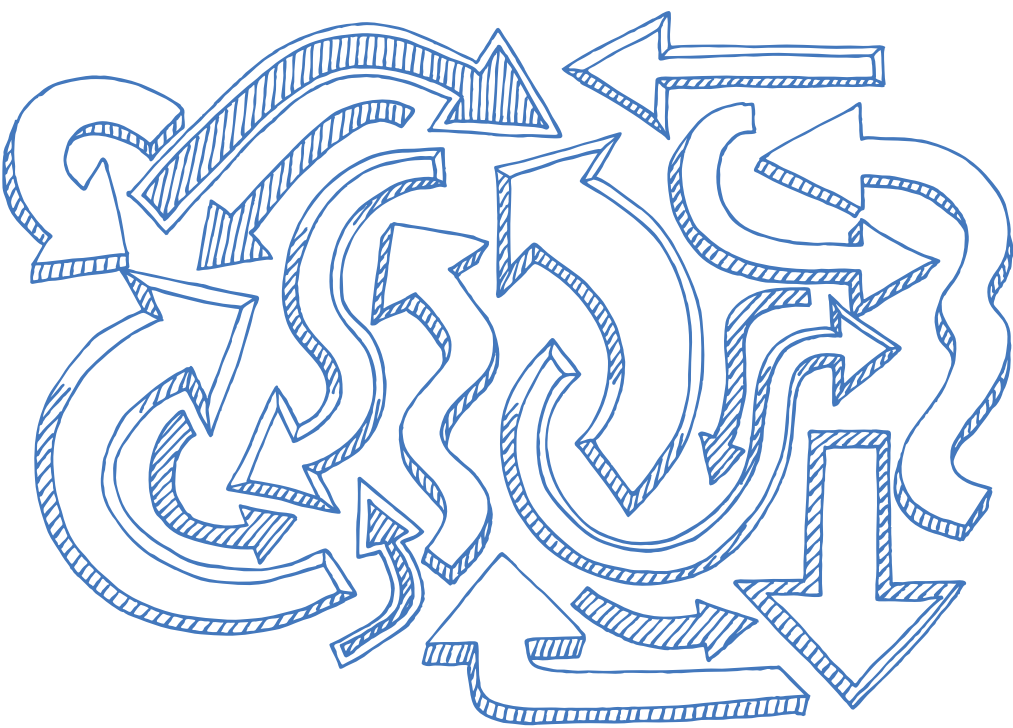
Lorane Grange meets this Thursday, January 19, at their new time of 7:00 pm.

Several items are on the agenda including the Spaghetti dinner and Bingo planned for January 28 starting at 5:30 pm.

Come enjoy a movie at Lorane Christian Church on January 21 at 5:30 pm. You will enjoy the film, "Miracle From Heaven". Everyone is welcome to come see the film at the church.

WHEN PUBLIC NOTICES REACH THE PUBLIC, EVERYONE BENEFITS.

Some officials want to move notices from newspapers to government-run websites, where they may not be easily found.



2 OUT OF 3

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