

CALIFORNIA POTBELLED PIG ASSOCIATION, Inc.



CPPA eNEWS

SEPTEMBER 2013

Hot Air Boar-lloon



Photo by Joe Myeress.
Available to purchase at
[http://
fineartamerica.com/
featured/pig-flying-
balloon-joe-
myeress.html](http://fineartamerica.com/featured/pig-flying-balloon-joe-myeress.html)

Do you have friends or relatives who are travel snobs? You know, well-meaning folks who just can't resist saying, "If you don't tour Venice in an antique gondola with a Pavarotti-trained gondolier, you might as well stay home," or, "What do you mean you ordered a burger and fries at *Der Haus uf Wafflestein*?" Well, now you can tell them something they don't know: That the best way to see pretty much anything is while floating in a hot air balloon shaped like a winged pig wearing sunglasses the size of mobile homes. And you can show them this picture as scientific proof. How badly do you want to be in that basket *right now*?

CPPA spreads to Asia! Meet Punim, Thimble, and Big Belly



CPPA recently got a letter from a young lady named Punim, who lives in Thailand and has two pet pigs, Thimble and Big Belly. She was quite informed already, and over two days of communication, we managed to solve all the additional questions she had. She is now the first CPPA member on the Asian continent.

That means CPPA now has members in North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

So come on, pig lovers in Australia and Antarctica! What's keeping you?



CPPA Flea Market sells completely out of fleas*

CPPA participated in a multi-day Flea Market/ garage sale fundraiser in late August, and thanks to the efforts of several die-hard volunteers, we raised nearly \$850 for pigs in need. Big shout-outs go to everyone who helped with donations, set-up, take-down, transportation . . . you name it, someone volunteered to do it. Thank you, thank you, thank you all!



* Just kidding. Please do not offer to provide us with additional fleas to sell.

Beat the HEAT with a homemade arbor

We go to a lot of trouble to keep our piggies cool in the summer. We build sheds, we install sprinklers, mud holes, swimming pools, and misters, we even make lemonade (which, granted, is for us rather than the pigs, but give us a break, it's hot out here!) The point is, a recent newsletter from our friends at [SCAMPP](#) showed us a great new way to create a shady shelter for our potbellied partners.

From SCAMPP's Kerry:
 "Jerry, Peggy Wimberly's husband, used hog panels to create an arched shade area! He took the panel, stood it up lengthwise, secured the short side edge with rebar, bent the tall end over, and secured that with rebar. This created an arch that he then covered with shade cloth. Then they grew grape vines over it to give even more shade."



Video Break: Peggy Sue's "Tail of Hope"



Warning: This is yet another story of a "teacup" pig who grew into a 200-lb potbelly. But at least it has a happy ending, thanks to our friend Marlies from [Pig Harmony](#) and an adopted mommy with a very big heart.

[The video](#) also serves as a warning that no matter how much you love your pig, you need to give them a healthy diet. Peggy Sue definitely needs to mix in a salad or three, but we bet her new mommy will see to that (and the general consensus in the comments seems to be that her very chubby kitty co-star might actually have been pregnant at the time of filming).

Letter from Marcie: Instead of a “Kiss a Pig” event, perhaps you would allow me to suggest something else for you to kiss?

I have wanted to write this article for a long time, but today I got another call. “Hi, the children at our school have raised X amount of money for X organization” or “the children at our school have read X amount of books this school year. And as a reward for the children doing this, we promised them that the Principal would kiss a pig.”

Now maybe you don't have a problem with these “Kiss A Pig” punishment/reward events like I do, but let me explain my reasoning for not approving of them.

What are you teaching the kids when a Principal, the highest ranked person at a school, has to kiss a pig? It teaches them that pigs are filthy, nasty, disgusting creatures, and as a reward for the student's achievements, they are making an adult kiss a bad, dirty creature.

Pigs are not bad, dirty creatures. Their mouths are cleaner than those of dogs and cats, who spend a good deal of time licking areas that most of us would not want to kiss.

I have received so many calls regarding renting, borrowing, giving a donation to have a pig come to a school for a “Kiss a Pig” humiliation and in each case I try to explain that this is teaching children that pigs are bad animals. Not the intelligent wonderful creatures that they actually are. I try to provide alternatives. Throw a pie tin of shaving cream. Use a dunking tank. Sometimes the parent or teacher calling me listens, some placate me then hang up and try to find a pig elsewhere and others just say “yeah whatever” and hang up on me. But unfortunately, as long as these schools can get a human to bring in a pig, they will continue to teach our youth that pigs are bad and dirty.

And what about the one child in the school that has a pet pig at home, or has a family member that has a pet pig? Or the children who are being raised as vegetarians or vegans, being taught to respect and honor all animals? What is a “Kiss a Pig” event teaching them?

A Principal kissing a pig is supposed to be a bad/humiliating event for the Principal. I look at it the other way around. Bringing a pig into an area with 500, 1000 screaming children for the Principal to kiss, that isn't humiliation for the Principal, that is terrifying for the pig. If nothing else think of the animal and please end this event, for the pig's sake.

I'd kiss a pig any day!



Cute attack: Piglets born in sanctuary

Talk about fortunate! A Spanish sanctuary called Mino Valley recently rescued a pair of potbellies, named [Luther and Rosa](#), who were scrounging for scraps in a small mountain village after their owner neglected them. And the rescue happened just in time, because the rescuers quickly realized Rosa was pregnant. So the sanctuary is now [seven lucky piglets](#) more blessed.



You can read a bit about Luther, Rosa, and the piglets at the links above, and hear the story as told by Mino Valley's president and co-founder [here](#). If you're the type whose curiosity outweighs your "gross, is that afterbirth?" factor, you can even [see a video](#) that shows one of the babies being born. It's pretty amazing when you think about what you're watching.

The sanctuary is currently looking for sponsors for the piglets. The bad news is, their website seems to take only euros. But the good news is, we suspect those piglets are going to have no trouble finding sponsors, and there are plenty of equally-deserving sanctuaries and pigs in need that you can support with donations right here in North America.



Video Break: BeeBee the Miracle Piglet



[This video](#) starts off tough to watch. It's a rescued runt piglet (of the full-sized, non-miniature variety) lying on the ground, so weak that she struggles to breathe, let alone stand and feed. But the ending image, of that same piglet lying down in much healthier, happier circumstances after enormous amounts of TLC, will make your heart soar.

Don't miss the 2013 CPPA Hog-i-Day party!

Stamp a noseprint on your calendar! CPPA's annual Hog-I-Day party/gift exchange/zany hoedown will take place on 11/23/13 at Marcie and Chris' home in Pleasant Hill, CA. It's a potluck, so bring something yummy and come hungry. We'll start at 5:00PM and go until the last person leaves (not counting overnight guests). We will have a pig ornament exchange as well, so start collecting—or for you crafty types, hand making—those pig ornaments now.

Please RSVP by 11/1/13 to info@cpga4pigs.org. You will receive more information after the RSVP date. It's always a great time to visit with pig friends, and of course Mason (and his partner in crime Alyx, the dog) are looking forward to seeing all of you also.



If you can make this Angry Birds ornament (free pattern at [DIY Geekery](#)), there's a good chance you can make a couple bucks from CPPAer Richard Sears. Just sayin'.

Treat Box!

The holidays are coming!
Shop for yourself while you still can.

Halloween is coming. What better disguise for your canine companion than in a [piggy costume](#)? Amazon even has multiple styles from which to choose. But just like dogs, they come in several sizes, so order carefully.



At \$6 for a 3oz bar from the manufacturer's website, [Fat Pig chocolate](#) is pricey. But according to that same website, Fat Pig is also "totally organic and available in just one flavor: delicious. It has none of the bitter aftertaste of regular milk chocolate nor is it cloyingly sweet: it's just pure, creamy excess." We don't really know about all that, but we can testify that if you hold the wrapper up to your face, it gives you a pig nose.



The good news is, the “Porco” line of dinnerware from Vietri is both charming and all-encompassing. You can find everything from salt and pepper shakers to serving plates to pasta bowls to coffee mugs. Be warned, this is quality stuff and it’s priced accordingly. But you can buy it one piece at a time and it’s available from several different sources, from Vietri to Amazon to www.mytableware.com to www.thebowlcompany.com. Or just hit Google or Bing with a search for “Vietri Porco”.





Let's bring it back down to Earth, shall we? Last November, we showed off a too-cute [canister set](#) for your kitchen (see below). Now, take a look at these matching [measuring cups](#), which nest inside one another almost like Russian dolls. We've heard they make everything you bake taste better.



The [Boston Warehouse Pink Pig Scrubby Holder](#) is not a new product. In fact, many of us already have one. But that doesn't make it any less adorable (or functional) for those of us who haven't yet adopted one, and for less than \$9 on Amazon, the price is fair.

Ever drop a fork down the sink? How about a bamboo skewer? Or a cherry pit or a chicken bone or an elephant or any one of the hundreds of other items that can mess up your day if it gets into your pipes? That's where this Piggy Wiggy strainer (\$4.49 at [Amazon](#)) comes in. Sure, you may already have a sink strainer. But does it make you smile like this one does? We didn't think so.





For those of us who tend to “cook” more with our microwave than the stovetop comes this functional and adorable [plate cover](#), which will both help your food stay moist and succulent and keep it from splattering all over your microwave. They're not huge (nine inches in diameter), but they sure are fun.

Similarly, the clever little device on the right is one of those things you're not sure you need until you have it, then you wonder how you survived without it. It too is a microwave plate cover. But you can also put it over a pot to help reduce splatter and help things cook more evenly. Or lay it over a glass, steel, or melamine container to create a steamer. Or use it to grip the lid of a stuck jar. And because it's made from silicone, it's equally at home in the fridge, freezer, microwave, stove top, or dishwasher. Comes in 8.5 inch, 6.9-inch, or [coffee cup](#) sizes and various colors, including [white](#), [black](#), [pink](#), and orange, though none seem to be in strong supply. If [Amazon](#) sells out, check www.fab.com or the manufacturer's website <http://marna.sg/>.

