

## Seniors enjoy visits from animal friends



ROSE WEBER

They steal hearts. Their warm, furry little bodies nestle in arms and laps, invoke memories of long-ago pets. And that is what makes their visits to the seniors magic.

"The animals are so sweet. It's hard to put them back in the shelter," said Martha Schaefer-Fowler of Troy.

One of the volunteers in the Pet Therapy program of the Michigan Humane Society, Schaefer-Fowler visits area nursing homes, senior centers and day care centers, accompanying the puppies and kittens from the shelter.

"We had a wonderful time this month. We went to St. Anne's and Bedford Village in Southfield and they were very, very pleased to have the pets. We took two seven-week-old Labrador puppies and a kitten to visit," she said.

A friend told Schaefer-Fowler about the program and invited her to go along the first time. "I like animals and people so it seemed a good project for me," she said.

Four or five volunteers select puppies and kittens from the animals at the shelter, to take visiting. Young puppies and kittens are best because they like to be cuddled and sit in laps.

Most of the senior residents enjoy the animals' visits which usually take place in the reception area or common room of the centers. Sometimes the volunteers will carry the pets down the halls and look into each room, inviting the seniors to pet the animals.

"If they have had animals of their own in the past, they really miss them. And this is an opportunity to hold and pet an animal for a little while," Schaefer-Fowler said.

"The volunteers have to be flexible during the visits. Sometimes the residents want to hold the animals on their laps. Sometimes they want to pet them while we hold them. Sometimes they just want to look at them," she said.

The volunteers usually meet at the shelter at 3600 Auburn Road in Auburn Hills, select the animals and pick up their clean-up kit, water dish, towels, and the cage for the kittens.

"This time there were three lab puppies and we only needed two. I hated to leave the third pup behind but when we got back he was gone. He had been adopted while we were away," she said.

Linda Anderson is the Pot Therapy Volunteer Chairperson for the shelter. She reactivated a 15-year-old program about three years ago with a fresh program.

"It's been a really successful program. I just opened the phone book and called two nursing homes that first month, and the program was instant hit with the seniors. There were also a lot of people out there waiting for a program like this to start," Anderson said.

Regular visits are made to 16 area nursing homes, hospitals, and senior and day care centers such as the Older Persons Center in Rochester Hills and Sheltering Arms in Birmingham. Visits are made on both weekdays and weekends.

Volunteer applicants are given an orientation tour of the Humane Society's North Shelter to become familiar with both the place and the society's philosophy of service and a training session. New volunteers always go with a veteran volunteer for the first visit. The animals are screened. In addition to the usual inoculations and tests, they are evaluated for temperament to make certain the visit will be as pleasant as possible for the seniors.

Anderson publishes a schedule of requests from senior centers each month and the volunteers select the dates most convenient for them.

"The scheduling is one of the things I like about the program," said Schaefer-Fowler. "I am pretty busy with a variety of activities even though I am retired and I can fit in a couple of pet visits when it's convenient for me."

The program has been very successful, Anderson believes, because the visits bring back pleasant memories for the seniors.

"It means a lot to them to see and hold the animals and the program is not only beneficial to the seniors but to the animals as well," Anderson said.

Rose Weber is a freelance writer covering items of interest to and about seniors. You may leave a message for her, from a touch-tone phone, by calling 953-2047, Ext. 1887, or write the Observer & Enterprise, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

## Some have talent but lack desire

### THE BRIDGE CROWD



WOODY BOYD

One of the Ben Hur of 20th century bridge was the legendary Howard Schenken. A great deal of lore was related to his play, and our libraries are full of his sage assertions.

One remark he uttered some 40 years ago is, "A major tragedy of our game is the hundreds of players who have the talent to become very good, but they don't do it. It is the training, the discipline and the necessity that is lacking, and few have the real desire to tackle that."

I have a modern-day case in point that will support Schenken's dictum. I cite as evidence my distant second cousin, loosely patched together Lester from Feather Blue Heaven, Utah. A decade ago he went bananas over bridge. Today he is unquestionably the bioluminescent club's most able and ardent player, yet this proficiency is far below his natural potential. In my opinion, there are two reasons for this. What time he can spare from the adornment of his person he devotes to the neglect of his game, and there is little that motivates him to be more than the master of his urban sandy hamlet.

Today's hand seemed to me to be excellent subject matter for cousin Lester to comment on, so I sent it to him with just one question. Would you rather declare or defend this six-slam mystery?

E	S	W	N
—	2♥	—	2NT
—	3♥	—	6♥
Passed Out			
♠ A 6 5 3 ♥ K 4 ♦ A Q J ♣ A J 7 2			
♠ Q J 10 9 4 ♥ 9 8 7 5 ♦ — ♣ K 4			
♠ — ♥ — ♦ — ♣ —			
♠ — ♥ — ♦ — ♣ —			
♠ — ♥ — ♦ — ♣ —			

A few days later, a lengthy reply arrived which stated in the most earnest terms that he would declare and win 12 tricks easily against any defense. To me that seemed reasonable until he portrayed his play.

"I'd win the spade in dummy and run five hearts, eliminating West's supply. East would have to find five discards for the hearts and pitch two more spades and three clubs, protecting the queen. I'd take the diamond finesse, which East would win, and be forced to return a minor. I'd win in dummy and play any remaining high minors. Then I'd ruff a club and claim."

Of course, only the best from Feather Blue Heaven could be so steeped in sapheadedly addled-mindedness. And in time I intended to tell him. What if on declarer's first six tricks East pitched two spades, three clubs and a diamond, then when East was the diamond king, he returned his last spade? South would be forced to ruff with his last trump, play to dummy's remaining high diamonds, but could never get back to his hand. Another Rembrandt defense would be to duck the first three dummy diamond plays. Declarer would then have to use his last trump to continue diamonds from his hand, which East would then win, and play a club to dummy's ace locking him there!

Just as I was concluding my contemplation of Lester's less-than-expert technique, he was calling long distance with a mind change. "I'll defend, and against proper defense there's absolutely no way declarer can make!" he declared.

"Oh!" I said. "Are you sure?" He was willing to bet the last sandy pebble in the Sahara so I said, "Try this! Win dummy's three aces and play five trumps, pitching the queen, jack of diamonds! Then play the diamond 10. You've now preserved your last trump to ruff East's return after winning his diamond king."

As you can imagine, there was a long pause and then a polite, "Goodbye, Uncle Woody." As Schenken said, "It's the training, discipline and the necessity that is lacking and few have the desire to tackle that."

The Michigan Bridge Association announces double elimination knockout teams. For entry information call Beverly Bluth at 960-8155.

Woody Boyd teaches local bridge classes and is a life master. He lives in Bloomfield Township. To leave a message for Boyd, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1853.

## FASHION CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, JAN. 22

**Designer Salon**  
Bill Blum Spring '93 Collection with special representative, in Designer Salon, second floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 23

**Bridal Show**  
Hudson's hosts Bridal Show and Registry Fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Southfield Pavilion and Hudson's Northland. Tickets are \$12.50 per person. For more information, call 443-6332.

### MONDAY, JAN. 25

**Yves Saint Laurent**

Yves Saint Laurent Trunk Show with representative, informal modeling 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Couture, level three, at Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

### Eva Chun

Eva Chun Spring '93 Collection, with special representative, through Tuesday, Jan. 26, in Designer Salon, second floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 26

### Calvin Klein

Calvin Klein Spring '93 Collection, with special representative,

in Designer Sportswear, second floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

### Couture designer

American couture designer Mary McFadden makes personal appearance to present her Spring '93 Collection in formal showing to benefit Michigan Opera Theatre, during evening program at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy. Patron tickets \$100 per person, benefactors \$150. For tickets and additional information, call MOT at 874-7850.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27

**Mary McFadden**

Mary McFadden Spring '93 Collection, with special personal appearance from Mary McFadden 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Designer Salon, second floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue, at the Somerset Collection in Troy. Collection on view through Friday, Jan. 29.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 28

### Louis Feraud

Louis Feraud Set Spring '93 Collection, with special representative, in Designer Sportswear, second floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

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