



What's quacking: Beanie Babies by the bushel make Susan's baskets popular with lucky recipients of all ages and genders.

Babies from page C3

said. "At Easter, I held some Beanie Babies for a woman from Troy who said she was finally able to get her grandkids what they wanted."

"This is for people who don't have time to stand in a line. This is a godsend for single men who have to buy gifts and the ones who don't have wives or girlfriends to do it for them."

One wall of the basement is devoted to the Beanie Babies. Crates stacked on their side four high contain everything from cows to elephants to lambs. Other crates contain Beanie Baby accessories, including the newest thing, tutus.

Along another wall crates display a collection of children's toys and clothing for infants. Battenburg lace, strings of pearl beads and ribbon flowers decorate, onesies, booties and knit caps, bunnings and

snowsuits. She also offers jewelry, afghans, monogramming and gift certificates.

The popularity of Susan B. Ashlee Co. has forced Susan to hire someone to help her. It's also made her a popular mother at her sons' elementary school, where she is pointed out as "the Beanie Baby mom."

"It's not like I purchase these things and just sell them," Susan said. "All the food I've eaten and the other things I sell I would have in my home. And you don't have to spend a lot; the gifts can fit into any budget."

More information about Susan B. Ashlee Co. is available by calling (313) 422-8700, or by writing to P.O. Box 51743, Livonia 48151.

Look in the eyes to pick a pup



This coming January, my wife and I want to get a puppy. We have two children ages 6 and 10. How do we pick a puppy that wants to please us?

First of all, whether you want a purebred or a mix breed pup, or need to go to the library and get a book on all breeds. Take your time and go through to find the breeds that suit your yard, home and time spent with your puppy who will grow up to be an adult dog you still wish to keep. Please don't treat the puppy as a disposable pet if you decide its not what you wanted.

It's so important to read on all the breeds. This way, when you see a puppy either a purebred or mix, you will know what you are getting, such as size, hair length.

When you see a litter of pups you might like, watch the pups. You are watching for a puppy who is watching you. This pup's eyes follow you. Look the pup in the eyes to see if the pup is still watching you. A puppy that is interested in your response is so important. He or she will be a people pleaser and much easier to train. Plus, will make a good neighbor.

A Dog's Plea (anonymous) Treat me kindly, my beloved friend, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I might like your

hands between blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me learn.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when the sound of your footsteps fall upon my waiting ear. Please take me inside when it is cold and wet, for I am a domesticated animal, no longer accustomed to the bitter elements. I ask you no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the fireplace. Keep my dish filled with water, for I cannot tell you when I suffer from thirst.

Feed me healthy food that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life. And, my friend, when I am very old and no longer enjoy good health, hearing and sight, do not make heroic efforts to keep me going. I am not having any fun. Please see to it that my life is taken gently. I shall leave this earth knowing with the last breath I draw that my fate was always safest in your hands.

Bev Cornell, a retired veterinary aide and a wildlife rehabilitator licensed by the state, along with her dog, Bristol, will answer your pet questions in care of: Ash Bristol, Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI, 48335.

Botsford Hospital hosts classes starting next week

Botsford General Hospital's community calendar includes:

Jan. 7 - Pathways to Farmington: "Breastfeeding Beyond the First Six Weeks." Lactation consultant Elaine Webber, RN, will speak. This monthly support group meets the first Wednesday of each month for a chance to network with

peers and ask questions. Free, 12:30-2 p.m. Holy Cross Episcopal Church is at 46200 10 Mile Rd. in Novi. Call 477-6100.

Jan. 7 - Introductory Tai Chi. Learn the ancient Chinese martial art, a unique form of stress management that combines breathing techniques with body relaxation. Meets eight con-

secutive Wednesdays through Feb. 24, 7-8 p.m. Fee is \$70; sign-up required. Call 473-5600.

Jan. 8 - Healthy Cooking Demos: "The Lean Italian Way." Love Italian food but wary about those calories? Here's the session for you. 7 p.m. \$6 fee and pre-registration required. Call 477-6100.

Rainbow Awards breakfast Jan. 15

The third annual Rainbow Recognition Awards Breakfast will be at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, 1998 at the William Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

Awards will be presented by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council to individuals for making significant contributions to multicultural under-

standing and advocacy.

Keynote speaker is Dr. Frederick Sampson, pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit.

Tickets are \$10 each. Make checks payable to the City of Farmington Hills and send them to Irene Kernicky, 26633 Power Road, Farmington Hills, Mich. 48334. For reservations, call the Rev. Suzanne Paul at 477-8548.

Chat room from page C3

and waited the five minutes it took her to maneuver them out the door, down the driveway and into the van. I took in the sky, the weather, condition of the front yard. Shea reminds me I don't need to move so fast, that errands can wait. So often I feel as though I am traveling in the fast lane while stuck in neutral. I seem to need these constant reminders.

Later, I walked with her on the path behind our house, initially beside her on her tricycle. Distracted by thoughts, I heard that familiar voice calling, "Mom, wait! You're going too fast!" Twenty feet ahead, I slowed down, realizing she had the right idea. To constantly subject myself to a frenetic pace, there are many things I miss. We observed the newest ant hill, collected the prettiest fall leaf offerings, noted an awesome stone here and there. Only when I slow down.

After lunch we played a while

then settled down to read. Groaning inwardly at her selections - the same ones we have read a hundred times - feigning interest, forcing expression in my voice. Having to replicate Mickey and Minnie's voices takes some effort, but Shea likes it only that way. I choose to feel the warmth of a little head nestled just inside the crook of my left shoulder, soft shiny hair on a small head rapt in attention. I think about her brothers and the special reading time I shared with each of them before. I decide I will read her second selection, not so much because that is her desire, but more aptly, because I love this warm, nurturing moment with my last little child.

Even as I attempt to create a loving environment for her, I am enveloped in comfort and tenderness by my child. It is a symbiosis of sorts: both of us needing warmth and security, both discovering our unique potential

■ She has the right idea about so many things, the need to slow down, to re-prioritize, to look at life from a little child's perspective; to be imaginative, silly, downright ridiculous.

within. There is the familiar pain and love, inextricably interwoven, with the recognition in a very short passage of time she will no longer sit on my lap. I dismiss those thoughts and concentrate instead on the positive vibes between us. How I love this child, this special "slow down" time!

I watch her eyes begin to droop and spill her into her bed. She asks if I can lie with her and play - of course - Mickey and Minnie for a few minutes. I oblige. Then she asks me to tell her a "pink" story; yesterday I had to rack my brains to invent a "purple" one. I tell her my mouth is tired and after I rest it a bit, maybe. Content with that as any 3 year old can be, she

whispers a few words to another stuffed friend then drifts off. I breathe in her essence, her youth.

My house is still a mess and there will always be errands. But the special time I can spend alone with Shea casts a different light on life. She has the right idea about so many things, the need to slow down, to re-prioritize, to look at life from a little child's perspective; to be imaginative, silly, downright ridiculous. To take time out for things that truly matter, not the least of which is composing a "green story" for tomorrow's nap.

Kathie O'Donohue is a mother of five children living in Farmington Hills.

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