



# The Little Guild of St. Francis

## *Newsletter*

November 2009

### **Separation Anxiety**

Diane Monroe

Often, the first thing that someone asks when viewing our pets, the dogs in particular, is where did they come from and how did we get them? Most often the circumstances which led them to us were divorce, moving, the death of the owner, financial difficulties or in extreme cases, pets seized by the state authorities.

The financial times of today are difficult for many pet owners. The cost of pet food has skyrocketed never mind the veterinary costs; add an expensive life saving medication to that and you are forced into making choices. Pets in some instances have become the largest expense in our everyday budget. If you are a multiple pet family, these can be hard times.

The heartache of facing the fact that we can no longer afford to keep our pets in the manner to which they've become accustomed is devastating. It's one thing to give up movies and going out to dinner but when pet costs soar, responsible pet owners don't have the luxury of not keeping up with anti-seizure medication or skin problem supplements. This is a dilemma.

We've all said "How could someone give up this dog?" not really knowing the heartache on the other side. And yes of course on some sides, there are no heartaches attached, which no self respecting animal lover could ever fathom. On the whole, separation anxiety - Ours - is great. Imagine giving up your pets because you simply can't afford them any longer or where you're moving to doesn't allow them. We've said "No way". We're seeing "Way".

The Little Guild has rescued many of these dogs and cats and we've become, in some instances, the only 'true home' to our worst luck cases and simply 'another' home to those whose owners have fallen on hard times. And those of you who have adopted pets from the The Little Guild have done the all important job of giving them their forever home.

Some years seem to hit everyone hard in the emotional realm of life. This year feels like one of them. Let's focus on having The Little Guild be there for these heartbreaking decisions and the positives for those kind people adopting. Our thanks to all of you who help us do this.

**Please send your name and email address to [director@littleguild.org](mailto:director@littleguild.org) so we may keep you updated on events by email. Put "Email Contact" in subject line.**

**ANNUAL APPEAL ISSUE**

**OFFICERS**

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**PIETER LEFFERTS, GENEROUS DONOR**  
**Artist donates 30% of sales to The Little Guild**

**Pieter Lefferts** is not only a renowned artist and musician but is also a **generous benefactor**. **Pieter is donating 30% of all proceeds** from the sale of his pastels being shown at the **John Harney Associates office located at 7 Academy Street in Salisbury, CT**. The exhibition and sale is on view until the end of March, 2010 and we urge everyone to go and see it and, hopefully, make a purchase which benefits the organisation that you all so generously support as well as recognises the generosity of Pieter to The Little Guild.

Pieter Lefferts' work is a reflection of his inner self (as is his music) be it a painting in moonlight at his camp in a remote part of the Adirondacks, a painting of his guitar and slide (a signed Gibson Les Paul using a pick given to him by B.B.King) or a painting of a local scene in the Northwest corner. As Pieter says "music and art share the same vocabulary, that of colour and that is why my music reflects my art and my art my music. For me one does not exist without the other."

Pieter works in oil, acrylics and pastels and takes commissions as well as teaches art. Most important, however, is that all of his work, painting as well as music, reflect his sensitivity to his subject, his feelings and to his environment. This is reflected most strongly in his paintings made at his camp in the Adirondacks which can be reached only after rowing across two lakes with a mile portage between lakes!

Pieter is indeed a man of many talents, having served as the road manager for the Gerry Mulligan Quartet, the late great baritone sax player and having toured the world with him. It was at one of these concerts that he met B.B. King who gave him his pick that he cherishes and which is shown with his guitar in the pastel which is on show at the Harney Gallery in Salisbury.

The animals at The Little Guild thank Pieter for his thoughtfulness and appreciate that he is providing them an opportunity for them to move on to better and permanent homes with his donation.

John Harney Associates is located on 7 Academy Street in Salisbury, across from the Town Hall and their phone number is 860 435 4600.

**PHOTO OF PIETER WITH HIS PASTEL "EIGHT TO THE BAR."**



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## People and Pet Mail



*“Dear Gentle People of Saint Francis”,*

*On April 29, we adopted our handsome orange tiger cat, Webster (known by you as Bart).*

*He certainly made himself at home: He believes he is the third dog of the family, but uses his youthful exuberance to ‘rule the roost.’*

*Whatever project I’m involved with, he is there to assist – sewing, knitting. One can only hazard a guess at his reaction and assisting technique when I sit down at the*

*spinning wheel come fall and winter. The name Webster means – Weaver.*

*Playtime is racing thru the house, upstairs and down, leaping over dogs or up to windowsills, light as a thistle, but landing with a thump – like a herd of thundering elephants or perhaps a ‘heffelump’ from Winnie the Pooh?*

*He delights in watching birds and frogs in the wee pond, in the kitchen garden, from his vantage point on his screened in porch.*

*His days are full of bubbles and bounce and when the dogs settle for the night, so does Webster and we hear not a peep until daylight.*

*He’s made a place in our home, but most importantly in our hearts and he’s decided most definitely he’ll stay.*

*We thank you ever so much for the part you have played in bringing him to us – and enclose a little bit to help with the kind work that you do.”*

*Sincerely,  
Susan & Peter  
Brenna & Pandora, the dogs  
and Webster*

*“PS – He’s not met our outside woolies for he’s not allowed to venture forth – but he is interested in the smells of a llama and 3 alpacas when I return from spending time with them!” ☺*

## Volunteers Luncheon

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, the volunteers of the Little Benefit Shop were treated to a luncheon held at the Wandering Moose in West Cornwall. In attendance were Diane Marandino, Pam Wissell, Jason Wynn, Lucy Kling and Judith Schwerin. Board members in attendance were President Khurshed Bhungara, Barbara Curtiss, Marcia Schultz and Diane Monroe along with Executive Director Jim Lussier.

The informal luncheon was our “Thank You” to our wonderful volunteers for their loyalty and dedication given to the thrift shop. The Benefit shop closed its doors last November after a long run of 30 years. The sale of the building which housed the shop forced us to close its doors.

Our long time shop manager Liz Locke was remembered and thanked by Khurshed as were all of the volunteers with encouragement that we hope to open another thrift shop in the future and will call on them to hopefully serve us again in that endeavor. Jim made reference to the types of volunteers that “Are willing to roll up their sleeves” and that our volunteers are precisely of that caliber.

The icing on the cake of this luncheon was that Diane Marandino came into the luncheon bringing a box of her homemade jewelry that she will donate for sale at the Little Guild’s front desk with all profits going to The Little Guild. Three pairs of earrings were sold at the luncheon before they even left the restaurant! Thank you again, Diane for your heartfelt loyalty to our shelter



## **ANNUAL APPEAL LETTER**

### **THE LITTLE GUILD OF ST. FRANCIS**

Dear Friends

Once again we appeal to your generosity to allow The Little Guild to serve its most precious clients, the cats and dogs whom you adopt.

Our communities have many people helping others, from the police officers to the emergency room nurses. Like them, the staff at our animal shelter works to prevent suffering and save lives. At The Little Guild of St. Francis we help the stranded, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless, making our community better for everyone.

Lost and abandoned dogs and cats in our area arrive at our shelter each week. Your contributions allow us to see to their health needs and we give them good food and a comfortable place to rest. We help ease their fears and rebuild their confidence with kindness and attention. Then we find them loving homes so they will never again be unwelcome strays wandering alone through our communities.

While your donations allow us to provide this important service to animals, the shelter also provides a service to the people in our communities. When you are ready to share your life and home with a pet, we are here to help you find the right dog or cat. By turning to The Little Guild, you can fill that empty place in your home with a pet that has been spayed or neutered, treated for health problems, inoculated and evaluated. Our staff knows each animal and can help you decide what may be the most suitable match for you. Whenever an animal leaves our shelter with its new owner, there is joy on both ends of the leash. Our reward is to know that, thanks to you, we have been the vital link in meeting the needs of the animals and people in our community.

Of course this service requires funds. We maintain a safe and comfortable facility. Our staff is trained to best help both the animals and you, and the animals are given all needed care and medical treatment while with us. As a private nonprofit organization, we must depend on the generosity of good neighbors like you to help support the services we provide. Please be a part of our work by making any contribution you can. And when you want a dog or cat to share your life, you know The Little Guild of St. Francis will be there to help you.



## In Memory of People

*Michael Adajian  
Lillian Angelini  
Elizabeth Angus  
Douglas Arenz  
Jane Bancroft  
Victoria Barrow  
Carol Baumann  
Lester BeBault  
Adeline Burke  
Antonio Centofanti  
Andy Chase  
Martin DiCorpo*

*Wahnetta M. Dustin  
James Eisenhaure  
Harold Fairchild  
Robert Geiger  
Joe Gogolya  
Heather Gunther  
Frank Hester  
Olga Kacerguis  
Elizabeth Locke  
John Jack Morgan  
Lorraine Pinky Muckle  
Marilou Scopina*

*Riley Shopey  
Susan Smith  
Joan D. Svez  
Helen Tennant  
Joan Villanova  
Peggy Wakefield  
Quinn Walton  
Ruth Werner  
Gregory Woolfeuden  
Jessica Young*

## In Memory of Pets

*Bonnie  
Cassie  
Brock  
Ghost  
Lincoln  
Willie Jr.  
Chibi  
Cody  
Chester  
Cuffy  
Cuvier  
Demascus  
Diogenes  
Theresa IV  
Lucy*

*Zoe  
Kenya  
Edward  
Hugs  
Jake  
Jasmine  
Lilly & Wheeler  
Lion  
Max  
Midnight  
Darwin  
Latoya  
Molly  
Miss Molly  
Mr. Willie*

*Ben  
Calvin  
Katie  
Neba  
Otter  
Poppy  
Romeo  
Samantha  
Shelby & Sondra  
Shortcake  
Silver  
Snickel  
Mia  
Holly Hobrob  
Dusty  
Colby  
Spot*



Photo by John Emmons

### Pooch Party at Noble Horizons

On Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, three of Moth's puppies attended the Pooch Party at Noble Horizons. Volunteer Diane Monroe packed 11 week old pups Fern, Squirrel and Mouse into a crate and drove them to Noble Horizons, an adult community, in Salisbury CT. for a fun packed 2 hours. The pups were contained in a large ex-pen and were a magnet for everyone - young and old, who attended. It was a challenge to explain to the groups of children that the pups were brought to be admired, not handled. Since there were lots of dogs and owners mingling around before entering in various games, the pups were there to be our ambassadors before being put up for adoption the following week. Their wrestling, leaf eating, body bumping shenanigans brought smiles to everyone. At the end of the 2 hours, they all cuddled up into one puppy puddle in the sun and had to be awakened to be put back in their crate for their ride back home to the Guild.

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## Our Dream of No More Homeless Pets

**Caring for animals is expensive. Without your donations, the shelter and the work we do is at risk. Please indicate your annual commitment!**

YES, I want to be part of the work of The Little Guild. Here is my contribution.

\$45 Member

\$100 Caregiver

\$180 Supporter

\$240 Champion  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd prefer to send a monthly membership donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Send me a monthly reminder.

Many companies offer a matching gift program that doubles the value of your gift to The Little Guild. Please ask your Human Resources representative for a form, complete it, and send it along with your gift today. Thank You!

Donations are tax-deductible under section 501 (c)(3) of IRS code. Notification of your donation will be mailed to you.

Please Mail to:

The Little Guild of Saint Francis

P.O. Box 59, West Cornwall, Connecticut 06796

(860) 672-6346 • FAX (860) 672-0213 • [www.littleguild.org](http://www.littleguild.org)

## Invited Guests

The Kent Firemen's Carnival was the place where some fun loving people and their dogs had a crack at running an agility course and having a good time. A group of fifth and sixth grade girls were working with the Kent Volunteer Firemen to put on a dog show. Lee Sohl from Kent was the official running the ring where she gave helpful instruction to the group of people who turned out to see what they and their dogs could do. The Little Guild's member Jo Ann Alvarez put in a good word for us and we were invited to attend the event with our shelter dog 'Girl', a pitbull mix who enjoyed her time out greeting anybody who'd offer her a friendly pat on the head or tummy. While Girl didn't participate in the classes, she and board member handler for the day Barbara Curtiss, made the rounds around the carnival grounds

which proved that Girl was an exceptional ambassador for our shelter. Jo Ann headed up the agility course with instruction for first time 'runners' allowing them a practice run through before she set the timers off! The dogs and their people all had a wonderful time at this first time carnival event. How nice for Girl to be included as a special guest. She wore her 'Adopt Me' coat proudly.



**Visit our animals for adoption at [www.littleguild.org](http://www.littleguild.org)**

**The Little Guild of Saint Francis  
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