



GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

Partners

VOLUME 18
NUMBER 1
SPRING 2003

TO WIN
A Day with the Trainers
Make Sure to Buy A "WAD" of Tickets



Trainers for a Day
Winners:
Susan Renwick (left) and
Lori Montigel



The "real" trainers, Jessica
Alfenito (left) and
Yvonne Martin

Susan Renwick had never won anything before last year's Open House raffle for A Day With The Trainers. But the idea of spending a day seeing how the puppies she has raised for GDA get trained was so exciting to her that she bought quite a few tickets. She won't say just how many. "Let's just say it was a 'wad'" Susan insists.

It must have been a good size wad, or else Susan was simply destined to win because her name was picked not once, but twice. Since Susan couldn't win twice, another ticket was pulled, which made Lori Montigel a winner, too.

Susan has previously raised three black lab puppies for GDA and is now sharing her home with a fourth, Emmet. She admits to having a thing for black labs, as proven by a house full of black lab knick knacks.

Like all Puppy Raisers, Susan has a hard time giving up her puppies, but she says the satisfaction of knowing that they will help people who are blind outweighs her loss. Still, she wanted to see, firsthand, how her puppies are treated, and how they get turned into guide dogs. That's why she wanted so much to win A Day With The Trainers.

By the end of their special day in October, Susan and Lori had a new appreciation for what GDA does and the incredible talents and dedication of the dogs.

"I always wondered about the puppies I've raised. Are they happy? Are they getting the extra love I gave them? The answer is an absolute YES! The dogs have a blast!

"The trainers told me, 'You can't make the dogs do this job. They have to want to.' The love and patience the trainers give to our pups is amazing. In a romping mix of 18 black and yellow labs that I couldn't tell apart, the trainers knew each dog by sight.

"On the day we were there, we took five pups to be given their final blindfold test, where a trainer in a blindfold walks with the dog on city streets. We drove to Santa Monica and parked the vans in a shady spot. As the dogs were taken on their training, Lori and I walked about 15 feet behind with Bob Wendler, Director of Training. Each dog walked both sides of Wilshire Boulevard and crossed the street. Along the way, the pups were given lots of love and praise.

"One pup was clearly nervous about crossing Wilshire and needed a little reassurance at each curb. Bob told us that didn't mean the dog wouldn't be a great guide dog, but that he wouldn't match it with someone who lived in a major city.

"When another dog was making the route, a car came speeding down an alley. The pup made a halt so fast that we all had to cheer. It gives me goosebumps just to remember.

"When the trainers offered me a chance to walk blindfolded with a dog, I jumped at it. I was

continued on page 2



amazed at how confident I felt moving with the dog. At one point, one of the trainers told me that I was about to be pulled to the left because the dog was going to clear a bush. The pull was so gradual I was barely aware of it. When we came to a curb, the dog stopped so solidly that I halted without hesitation.

"I find it hard to find the words to describe this experience. I felt so confident, trusting and secure. Our pups are capable of amazing things.

"At the end of the day, we went back to GDA, where the hardworking puppies

were given time to play on agility equipment and in pools of water. We and they had so much fun that we couldn't even get the group together for a picture.

"Lori and I walked away from this day with a full heart, sore feet, and a greater appreciation of the Love and Patience our trainers give to these dogs day after day.

"It made me even prouder to be a part of the GDA family!"

Because this first Day With the Trainers was so successful, we are repeating it again this year. Be sure to enter the special raffle at our Open House on June 7 (see page 6). And if you want to win, Susan's advice is to buy a "wad" of tickets. "It was worth it a hundred times over!" 🐾

PARTNERS NEWSLETTER



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Mothers and Daughters Team for GDA



The San Fernando Chapter of the National Charity League, an organization of mothers and daughters, held its 37th annual Charity Ball last November. Fourteen

young women (pictured above) were honored for their philanthropic commitment to their community. The mothers and daughters, for the past 16 years, have generously raised funds and volunteered hours of their time for the benefit of GDA.

Congratulations to this year's National Charity League debutantes and their proud mothers. We appreciate your support of GDA! 🐾

Congratulations and thank you to the National Charity League, San Fernando Chapter, 2002 Debutantes!

Seeing The Eyes Of Our Seeing-Eye Dogs

Special Thanks to Dr. daSilva!

To guide their partners, our dogs must have good vision. For nearly nine years, Dr. Jeannette daSilva, a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist in Camarillo, CA, has been providing extensive eye exams for all GDA's dogs at no cost. This procedure normally costs \$40 per dog, so over the years, Dr. daSilva's generous donation of her time, staff, and facilities has been worth thousands of dollars to GDA. We want to express our enormous gratitude to Dr. daSilva for her expertise and generosity! 🐾



Partners In Trust Forever

The following **Partners in Trust Society** members recently informed us that they have named GDA as a beneficiary in their will or insurance policy. We are very grateful to them for their thoughtful generosity:

- Bradley M. Bittan
- Donald Borwick
- Doris & LeRoy Christensen
- Dorothy & Vincent Cipolla
- Donald Dailey
- Susan DeAntonio
- Ms. Marion Egly
- Cheryl Hovanick
- Alice Leighty
- Rick Petersen
- Sandy Podall
- Barry Stone
- Jean and Robert Svoboda

For more information about the Partners in Trust Society and including GDA in your will, please call Rhonda Bissell at (818) 362-5834, ext. 229.

WISH LIST

We're wishing and hoping that some of our friends will be able to donate:

- * **NEW FULL SIZE REFRIGERATOR with an ice maker**
- * **THOMAS GUIDE street map guides for San Diego, Ventura, Orange County, and San Bernadino**
- * **STERILIZED BONES, small to large size, flavored and plain**
- * **LITTLE TYKES STEP 2 BIG SPLASH CENTER swimming pool, need 4-8**
- * **PRIVACY TARPS**
- * **SHADE COVERS (Billet Barn)**
- * **DIGITAL CAMERA and 128mg card**
- * **PORTABLE GENERATOR to keep heaters operating in puppy nursery in an emergency**
- * **STORAGE SHED (Tuff Shed)**
- * **LABRADOR WALL CLOCK**
- * **TOY BOX FOR PUPPY TOYS**
- * **THERAPET PIPE DREAMS PET BED large size**
- * **4-TRACK TAPE PLAYERS for the student dorm**
- * **ELECTRIC SLICER for dorm kitchen**
- * **SMALL ENTERTAINMENT CENTER for dorm lobby**
- * **NEW BLANKETS for the kennel**
- * **LAMINATOR for the puppy department**
- * **DOG TOYS especially Jolly Balls with holes, rawhides**

SPECIAL WISH LIST FROM OUR VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

- * **SURGICAL PACKS (5 needed)**
- * **ORTHOPEDIC BEDS for recovery/surgery**
- * **HEATED SURGICAL TABLE**
- * **CENTRIFUGE**
- * **VETERINARY THERMOMETER**
- * **OTOSCOPE**
- * **XRAY PROCESSOR**

Guide Dog Calendar

Your GDA dog could be featured in our 2004 Guide Dog Calendar. Just send us your favorite photo of your GDA dog (GDA puppies, working guide dogs, working teams, or retired dogs). The best photos tend to be dark dogs on light backgrounds, or light dogs on dark backgrounds. Photos must be in very sharp focus.

The deadline to turn in pictures is April 10, 2003.

Please be sure to write the name of any dogs, puppies, and people in the photo and mail it to GDA, Attention: Photo Contest, 13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342. Call Rachel at (818) 362-5834,

ext. 225 for more information. All photos become property of GDA and cannot be returned, so be sure to keep your favorite print and send us a duplicate. Please, prints from negatives only, no digital or scanned photos. If your dog was featured in the 2003 calendar, your photo for 2004 will be considered for the collage only. 🐾



Meeting A Puppy in Training

Because it's so important that our future guide-dogs-to-be are exposed to many different situations, we encourage Puppy Raisers to take their pups with them wherever they go. So while you're out and about, you might see a GDA dog wearing a yellow puppy-in-training jacket. It's always fun to see the little guys at the mall or the bank or the supermarket, and it's important for the pups to learn how to greet people when they're on the job, so feel free to say hello. But please remember a few rules:

- Always ask the Puppy Raiser before approaching the dog, and don't interrupt if the Puppy Raiser is in the process of training.
- One of the most important rules our puppies have to learn is to remain calm when greeting new friends. This means sitting or lying down with all four paws on the floor. No jumping, licking, or nipping.
- Please don't feed a GDA puppy. Diet and feeding times are strictly monitored to maintain good health and reliable relieving schedules.

By following these few rules, you can avoid interference, and you just might help in training a future guide dog. Thanks!



Become A Walking Billboard For Your Favorite Breed And Help GDA



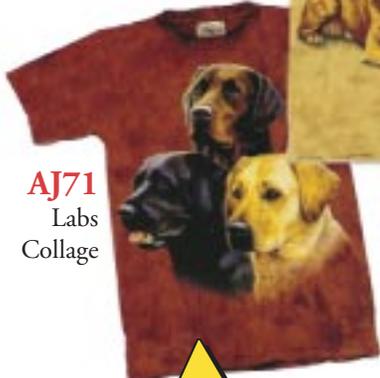
AJ68
Golden Retriever



AJ86
Yellow Labs minimal-shrinkage cotton.



MJ61
Golden Puppy



AJ71
Labs Collage



AJ72
German Shepherds

Be sure to indicate the correct item, quantity, and size of shirt(s) desired. Shirts are available only in the color shown. Due to individual hand-dyeing, there may be slight variations in color and size. Adult sizes up to XL - \$20. Sizes XXL and XXXL - \$22. Children's sizes - \$13. 🐾

BREED TEE-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone (____) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Do Not Mail Your Order to GDA.

Make checks payable to Teri Chang and mail them to her at:
 19360 Rinaldi St, #229
 Northridge, CA 91326

100%
of the proceeds go to GDA, thanks to this all-volunteer effort.



AJ85
Black Labs



AJ84
Chocolate Labs



WW30
Midnight Black Lab (Adult Sizes Only)

SIZE	COST	MJ61 Golden Puppy	AJ68 Golden Retriever	AJ86 Yellow Labs	AJ71 Labs Collage	AJ72 German Shepherds	AJ85 Black Labs	AJ84 Chocolate Labs	WW30 Midnight Black Lab	SUBTOTAL
Child Small	\$13.00									
Child Medium	\$13.00									
Child Large	\$13.00									
Child X-Large	\$13.00									
Adult Medium	\$20.00									
Adult Large	\$20.00									
Adult X-large	\$20.00									
Adult XX-Large	\$22.00									
Adult XXX-Large	\$22.00									

* If ordering more than two shirts, please call Teri or Cherry at 818-362-5834, ext. 309 for special shipping rate.

Pick-up at GDA **Yes** **No**

Shipping (add \$5 for one or two shirts)*

TOTAL





Graduation Day



Class #336

Front row, graduates and guide dogs from left to right: Gene O'Hearn and **Nickel**, Hector De Leon and **Schooner**, Paul Leung and **Amber**, Susie Halverson and **Joy**, Juan Pena and **Doron**, Debbie Kalfin and **Mojo**, Bill Schley and **Benny**, Ralph Botello and **Dusty**, Santiago Martinez and **Fenix**, Mark Hanohano and **Houston**. Instructors (back row) left to right: Steve Burkman, Kris Schmidt, Bob Wendler.

Puppy Raisers:

- Nickel**—The Schlitt Family
- Schooner**—Kathy & Jerry Zechmeister
- Amber**—The Sander Family
- Joy**—The Vaughan Family
- Doron**—The Muir Family
- Mojo**—The Grondahl Family
- Benny**—John Barletta
- Dusty**—Ann Close & Liz Caporelli
- Fenix**—Erika Sparks
- Houston**—Brett Loutensock



Class #337

Front row, graduates and guide dogs from left to right: Larry Barbee and **Presley**, Twyla Cruz and **Lucas**, Norma Reyes and **Vickie**, Carmen Woodyear and **Cheyenne**, Ed Elliott and **Erin** (refresher). Instructors (back row) left to right: Yvonne Martin, Jessica Alfenito.

- Puppy Raisers:** **Presley**—Jeanette & Blaine Humbert;
- Lucas**—Elin & Burt Pittler; **Vickie**—Laurie King;
- Cheyenne**—Sherry, Jim & Amy Miller



In-home Graduates (not pictured)

Bob Acosta and **Arlo** (puppy raiser—Kathy Tallant & Art Richardson); Christy Crespin and **Fila** (puppy raiser—The Snyder Family); Bob Humbert and **Haven** (puppy raiser—The Coyle Family)

Go Wild



At Our Annual Open House

Whether you want to see guide dogs in action up close, share good food and fun with other GDA supporters, or just get some great deals in our Silent Auction, you won't want to miss our **ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**, June 7th from 11 AM to 4 PM at the GDA campus in Sylmar, CA. Our theme this year is Safari, so if you've got a pith helmet and a Crocodile Hunter get-up, or just want to wear a pair of shorts and pretend, come and join us. And bring the family.

There will be guide dog demonstrations, our famous Puppy Trial competition, a great silent auction, craft displays, pet-related merchandise booths, great barbecue food, raffles, and more. And entry is free for all.

If you have items to donate for our Silent Auction, or if you want to volunteer to help out, please call Cherry Teter at 818-342-4952. 🐾



TAKING A PAWS FOR THANKS

In addition to the many friends who make regular contributions by mail or payroll deduction, GDA is grateful to those who conduct special events or donate goods or services to help us carry out our work.

Shopping at Albertson's for GDA

When friends who have listed GDA as their designated charity use their Albertson's Grocery Store card, GDA receives a percentage as a donation, totaling \$8,595 so far! The program is capped at \$1,800 per quarter and we are now reaching that amount easily each quarter. If you would like an Albertson's card please contact Rachel Utiger at 818-362-5834, ext. 225 or online at www.guidedogsofamerica.org. Our sincere thanks to Albertson's and to all our friends across the country who use their grocery shopping to help breed, train, and provide guide dogs for people who are blind.



A Gift from PetsMart for Our Puppy Raisers

To help limit out of pocket expenses for our Puppy Raisers, we planned to give them \$25 Gift Cards to spend on leashes, food, etc., at PetsMart. When the wonderful people at PetsMart heard about this program, they graciously offered to donate the cards. Our great thanks to the people at PetsMart and to all our Puppy Raisers. What a team!

We're All Ears...

and our dogs certainly have clean ones thanks to the Auri-Flush ear cleaning systems donated to GDA by our friends Walter and Jacqueline Walker and Cherry Teter.

Thanks to all who donate, volunteer or raise money for GDA. We are so grateful for your dedication and hard work!! 🐾

Your Chance To Join The Winners

When ticket #6558 was drawn last October, a wonderful quilt created and donated to GDA by the Orange County Quilt Guild found a new home with raffle winners Mr. & Mrs. Frieband of Oak Park, Calif.

If you want to enter this year's quilt raffle, watch for information this summer. But if you've got that raffle itch, and can't wait, we have two more for you.

Take a chance on this beautiful Cross-Stitched Portrait of beautiful GDA dogs, hand-made and donated by Kathie Stegemann. Tickets are \$2 each or \$6 for ten.



Take a chance on spending **A Day With The Trainers** and help us train a guide dog. The winner must be in the southern California area and be able to work with the trainers and dogs in the streets around the greater Los Angeles area. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five.

Send your check (made payable to GDA) for your raffle tickets to the address below. Make sure you specify the raffle you're entering and include your name, address and telephone number.

Rachel Utiger, Guide Dogs of America, 13445 Glenoaks Boulevard, Sylmar, CA 91342

A Star Is Born And Trained

Two years ago, Animal Planet's show **That's My Baby** filmed one of GDA's litters being born. The pups were all instant celebrities, but one stood out from the rest. According to his Puppy Raiser, Sheila Harvey, yellow lab Vaughn was a perfect puppy. When he came back to GDA at 17 months, he aced all his guide dog training. In fact, he was so good, our trainers selected him to join our stud dogs. He truly was born to be a star! 🐾



IN MEMORY

We note with sadness the passing of two members of the GDA family:

- Graduate Ray Cohen - Class #295
- Guide Dog "Taylor" - Class #296
- Guide Dog Zeus - Class #303
- Graduate Betty Pfeifer - Class #320



A Winning Bet In Las Vegas

To have a good time in Las Vegas, you couldn't have picked a surer bet than our Annual Winpisinger Charity Banquet and Golf Tournament in

November. Nearly 1,000 guests spent a wonderful evening of fine dining and companionship. We also had a great day on the links with our Annual Golf Tournament. There were some great shots, and some not so great, but everyone had a

good time and the competition was both friendly and fierce. The weekend also included a roaring Hawgs for Dogs Run that ended in Las Vegas. To top it all off, we broke our fundraising record set in 2001. Our sincere thanks to all who helped us hit the jackpot with this fabulous event!



Gift of Sight Award Winners



Jay Bormann, GDA President (far left) and Tom Buffenbarger, IAM International President (far right) congratulate the "Gift of Sight" award winners, Dan Sass (second from left) and Jeffrey Bleustein (second from right).

As always, a highlight of our Las Vegas weekend is the awarding of our "Gift of Sight" awards. This year's winners were Jeffrey L. Bleustein and Dan Sass.

Jeffrey L. Bleustein

Since the first Hawgs for Dogs Run over 13 years ago, the connection between GDA and Harley-Davidson has been one of mutual affection. And half of Harley-Davidson's employees are members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the union that created GDA more than 50 years ago. So it's fitting that one of this year's "Gift of Sight" award winners is **Jeffrey L. Bleustein**, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Harley-Davidson, Inc., headquartered in Milwaukee, WI. Under Jeffrey's leadership, Harley-Davidson has not only revived and strengthened the mystique of the famed motorcycle, but also made major technological innovations that have brought the Harley tradi-

Annual Vegas Golf Tournament

Jay Bormann, GDA President (second from right) is joined by some fellow golfers and GDA supporters for an afternoon of camaraderie and friendly competition on the links to raise funds for GDA.



tion into the 21st Century. Jeffrey also serves on the boards of directors for numerous Milwaukee area charities.

Dan Sass

This year's other "Gift of Sight" award winner, **Dan Sass**, first started on his road towards GDA when he became a warehouseman for Kaiser Jeep in 1971 and joined Local Lodge 1432 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in Portland, OR. Over the next 20 years, Dan held nearly every elected office in his local lodge and in District Lodge 24. For more than a dozen years, Dan has managed a very successful Annual Golf Tournament to raise money for GDA. Dan says it's rewarding to help provide companionship and mobility to people who are blind, and he considers it a privilege to have the opportunity to get to know some of our graduates and their dogs. 🐾

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

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Las Vegas Hawgs for Dogs Run



To coincide with the annual GDA event in Las Vegas, Mark Browne, President of the GDA Nevada Chapter organized the very successful 3rd Annual Hawgs for Dogs Run. Sixty-one Harleys rode through the streets of Vegas (and beyond) to raise funds for GDA.

The Puppy Corner



This winter brought three new litters to the GDA family. Congratulations to their parents, to the puppy breeding staff, and to the Puppy Raisers who'll soon be taking these beautiful babies home.



GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

13445 Glenoaks Blvd.
Sylmar, CA 91342

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Number of Breed	Date of Puppies	Birth
Black Labrador	9	10/19/02
Black Labrador	4	11/5/02
Black/Yellow Labrador	11	11/18/02

If you'd like to be a Puppy Raiser to one of these future guide dogs and live on the west coast, please call Louise Henderson at (818) 362-5834, ext. 234. 🐾

Address Service Requested

Staying Up-To-Date With What's Happening At GDA

For the most accurate, up-to-date information on upcoming events at GDA, including puppy raiser meetings, fundraising events, and graduations, you'll find our calendar on the internet at www.guidedogsofamerica.org/calendar.html 🐾

The Kids Are Gone But The Pups Remain

Dave and Sharon Majewski started raising puppies for GDA 20 years ago so they'd have dogs in the house for their kids, but wouldn't get left with a dog when the kids were grown. Well, 24 puppies later, the kids are grown and have kids of their own, but the puppies remain. In fact, Sharon and Dave have become so expert at raising GDA puppies that they lead not one but two Puppy Raiser groups for GDA. Their Sightseers group has recruited Puppy Raisers from Vancouver, WA and Portland, OR and currently is raising 10 puppies for GDA. Their Sea-Tac Guide Dog group, centered on Seattle, WA, has another 7 future guide dogs.

In addition to GDA puppies, Sharon and Dave share their home with dogs Neeka, Blaise, and Brolin. We want to express our special thanks to Sharon and Dave for all they've done for GDA. 🐾

The puppy raisers of the Sea-Tac Group from Seattle, WA enjoy an outing with their future guide dogs.



"The Sightseers" of Vancouver, WA and Portland, OR with their GDA puppies-in-training.

