



GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

Partners



Spring 2014 volume 29 number 2

GDA Breaks Ground on Phil and Macki Singer Visitor and Education Center

New building will serve GDA and the community



From left: Neil Kaplanis, Kaplanis Architecture; Neal Harper, Interscape Construction; Stephen Russell, Interscape Construction; Casey Scott, Scott Wealth Management; Congressman Tony Cardenas; Macki Singer; Dale Hartford, GDA, President; Gary Allen, IAM&AW, General Vice President; Jennifer Luce, Luce et Studio Architects, Inc.; Lee Pearson, Bill Engler, Dick Floyd and Hugh Hazlewood, GDA Building Committee

A groundbreaking ceremony on the site of the future Phil and Macki Singer Visitor Education Center was held at GDA on Sunday, April 13. The 15,900-square-foot indoor/outdoor facility will allow the school to grow its community outreach and build upon its services for blind and visually impaired men and women across the United States and Canada. The new center is made possible by a significant and generous gift that was dedicated to the school when Phil Singer passed away in 2004. In addition to the gift for the construction of the center, Macki Singer has pledged to raise an additional amount that will fund the interior space.

"When I approached Macki Singer two years ago with the idea for the new center, she didn't even blink. She readily agreed because she and her late husband, Phil Singer, so deeply believe in GDA's mission," said GDA President Dale Hartford. "With their extremely generous donation, we are building a center that will allow us to expand our education program, increase community outreach and modernize our facility."

Guide Dogs Of America Breaks Ground continued on page 2 >

We've Been 'Fetching Facts'... GDA By The Numbers

How much? How many? How often?

From conception to graduation, Guide Dogs of America puppies and dogs are cared for and trained by our dedicated staff in the Nursery, Puppy Department, Kennel, Vet Department and Training Department. While the seven-week-old puppies-in-training leave the school with volunteer puppy raisers for 14 to 16 months, they are still under the care and guidance of GDA. During that time, the puppy raisers bring their puppies to the school for vaccinations and vet visits, monthly obedience classes and kennel stays.

Maintaining the health of our breeding dogs, newborn puppies, puppies-in-training and dogs in for formal training is our number one priority. This takes a lot of hands (48) and eight paws...our two resident kennel cats that provide great "distraction training" for the dogs. But that's just the beginning.

To tell the story by the numbers, we dug a little deeper and did some "fact fetching" to find out just how much, how many and how often. Our departments have put together interesting and fun facts for this look at GDA by the numbers.

Fetching Facts continued on page 3 >



Rendering of Phil and Macki Singer Visitor and Education Center

In her remarks, Macki Singer explained that it was her husband who first learned about GDA and initiated the couple's support of the school. With this donation, she is fulfilling his request to leave a monetary legacy to the school.

"In 1994, my husband, Phil, saw a documentary and followed up with GDA. We have been donating to the school ever since," said Mrs. Singer. "I am so inspired by all of the dedicated people at GDA, the puppy raisers, and the many people in my life who make me want to leave the world a better place. This building is something that is helping me to do that, and I hope that it will serve to inspire others to do the same. Let's all get inspired."

More than 300 people attended the ceremony, including several GDA graduates, IAM&AW representatives, the building committee and members of the architecture and construction firms.

Also in attendance was Congressman Tony Cardenas, representing California's 29th District. Cardenas, who coincidentally lived next door to the school with his parents and 10 siblings in his youth, addressed the audience and said, "I remember GDA as being a great neighbor when I was growing up and now I see they are a great neighbor to the community, the nation and the world." He also thanked Mrs. Singer in his remarks for "passing on the ideal that giving back is what makes this a great country."



From left: Macki Singer, GDA President Dale Hartford and IAM&AW General Vice President Gary Allen looking at the architect's drawings of the new building.

The center was designed by award-winning architect Jennifer Luce, founder and principal of Luce et Studio Architects, Inc., and will be built by Interscape Construction, Inc. Expected completion date for the facility is mid-2015.



Under the guidance of the architect and construction firms, GDA will endeavor to earn LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Silver Certification for the project. LEED is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. 🐾

GDA'S Wish List

For those of you who would like to help keep our puppies and dogs happy and healthy, below is a list of specific needs that we have compiled from some of our departments. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are appreciated. The complete Wish List can be found on the GDA website (www.guidedogsofamerica.org).

Puppy Department

The following item is available from J & J Dog Supply (www.jjdog.com):

Pair of Steel Tunnel Cradles and Straps (Item: AG160)
- \$139. Quantity needed: 4

The following items are available from www.petedge.com:

MidWest Double Door Crates (Item: MW636)
- \$61.89 each. Size: medium/large. Quantity needed: 10

Slicker Brushes (Item: OF150)
- \$3.35 each. Quantity needed: 10 dozen

Rubber Curry Brushes (Item: TP8600)
- \$4.49 each. Quantity needed: 10 dozen

8-cup Stainless Steel Bowls (Item: ZW150)
- \$1.89 each. Quantity needed: 10 dozen

6-inch Sterilized Bones (Item: RR227)
- \$2.79 each. Quantity needed: 20 dozen

Stuffed Animals — Bunny, Elephant, Koala, Lamb (Item: ZW292)
- \$2.49 each. 20 dozen, assorted

Vet Department/Recovery Room Wish

All items available from www.petedge.com:

Oster Minimax Trimmers (Item: OS78049)
- \$39.99. Quantity needed: 1 unit

Narrow Replacement Blade (Item: OS76813)
- \$14.99. Quantity needed: 1 unit

Kong Cloud Inflatable Collars (Item: KC810)
- \$10-\$20. All sizes. Quantity needed: 2 each

Greenies Pill Pockets Canine Chicken Capsule (Item: ZT955)
- \$7.49. Quantity needed: 5 bags

Kennel Department

The following items are available from www.petedge.com:

Dental Dinosaurs (Item: F22101)
- \$4.59. One size. Quantity needed: 10 dozen

Nylabone Wishbone (Item: TF192)
- \$5.99. Size: 6" (Wolf). Quantity needed: 10 dozen

Big Chews-Beef Bone (Item: TF525)
- \$12.29. Size: 7". Quantity needed: 10 dozen

Training Department

The following items are available from www.petedge.com:

Undercoat Rake — Short Pins (Item: TP250)
- \$8.69. Quantity needed: 4 dozen

Zoom Groom — any color (Item: KC202)
- \$5.49. Quantity needed: 4 dozen

8-cup Stainless Steel Bowls (Item: ZW150)
- \$1.89. Quantity needed: 10 dozen

Please note: Before filling out any of our wishes, please call Lorri Bernson at (818) 833-6431. All items should be sent to her attention at GDA.

GDA By The Numbers

Nursery

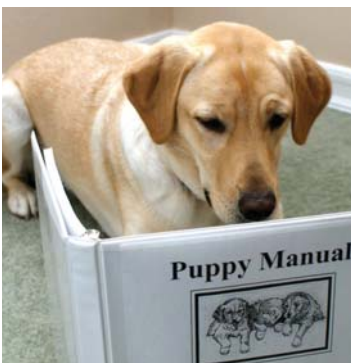
- **2** staff members
- **33** brood bitches currently in the program



- **14** stud dogs currently in the program
- **33** litters born each year
- **800** loads of laundry each month

Puppy Department

- **3** staff members
- **300** puppies-in-training per year
- **4** names submitted by each puppy raiser for approval by Puppy Department
- **147** pages in the Puppy Raiser Manual



- **150** average number of puppies-in-training attending monthly obedience classes at GDA

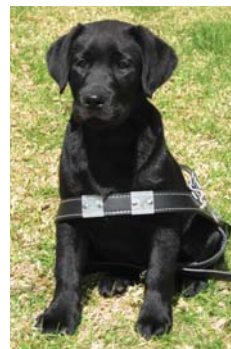
Kennel

- **7** staff members
- **72** kennel runs
- **26** average number of puppies-in-training boarding for one or more nights in any given month
- **4,200** pounds of food per month
- **43** loads of laundry per month
- **135** loads of dishes per month
- **2** kennel cats
- **800** baths per month
- **5** hours spent cleaning the kennels per day
- **125** gallons of shampoo per month



Training Department

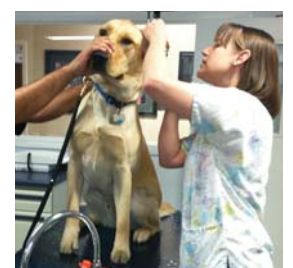
- **9** staff (trainers)
- **150** miles a trainer walks per month



- **53** dogs in formal training in any given month (average)
- **40** lectures students listen to while in class
- **4** pairs of shoes trainer goes through per year

Veterinary Department

- **2** staff members
- **55** annual vaccinations per month
- **17** spays/neuters per month



Puppy Corner

Puppy Playtime — How to Choose the Right Toy



Playtime is an important opportunity for your dog to get exercise, mental stimulation and bonding time with you. For dogs, toys are not a luxury, but a necessity. When choosing toys, take into consideration the dog's age, size and chewing tendencies to make certain he has the appropriate kind of toys essential for enjoyment and safety.

Provide your dog with a variety of toy types — for instance, toys for chewing, toys for fetch or tug, toys to play with you, and puzzle toys for mental exercise. Always supervise your dog when giving new toys. If your dog starts shredding or destroying a toy, take it away. Decide which toys your dog can play with unsupervised, which ones he can handle for short periods of time, and which ones require supervision.

Consider the following when buying toys and engaging in puppy playtime with your dog:

Sizing it up. Toys should be appropriate for your dog's size. A dog toy that is too small might cause a large breed dog to swallow it and choke, whereas a toy that is designed for a large breed will be too difficult for a small dog to play with.

To squeak or not to squeak? Dogs love squeaky toys. Some dogs will be entertained just hearing (and making) the noise; others may not be happy until they find the squeak source. If swallowed, the plastic squeaker could choke your dog or cause an intestinal blockage. Squeaky toys are best enjoyed together. After playtime, put the toy up until next time.

A broken toy is not a toy. In fact, as soon as you notice a toy that is broken, cracked or pulling apart it should be thrown away. Avoid or alter any toys that aren't "dog-proof" by removing ribbons, strings, eyes or other parts that could be chewed and/or ingested.

Stimulation station. Puzzle balls are designed for mental stimulation, as well as physical activity. Rubber toys with holes in both ends and can be stuffed with yummy, healthy goodies, keeping your dog safely occupied. Filling the toy with water and freezing it will provide relief for teething puppies and, in the summer, it becomes a cooling pup-cicle.

Change is good. Your dog needs more than one type of toy, but not all at once. Rotating your dog's toys will provide variety and keep him interested.

The only thing your dog loves more than his toys is spending time with you. Make sure to play often with your dog; it enriches his life and deepens the bond that the two of you have.

Raise A Glass To Our 2nd-Annual Wine, Scotch & Cigar Event

Cheers and thanks to all who supported us!



More than 90 people sipped and savored their way through the 2nd-Annual Guide Dogs of America Wine, Scotch & Cigar event, which raised more than \$13,000 for the school. One of the highlights of the event was GDA graduate Tom Olzak. With his guide dog Wrigley by his side, Olzak shared his personal stories and expressed his appreciation to all.



Scotch Master Rick Edwards

At the event, attendees were treated to a scotch tasting led by Scotch Master Rick Edwards, a cigar rolling demonstration by Naranja Cigar Events and musical entertainment provided by John Davis on his bagpipes.

Cheers and thanks to all those who so generously supported GDA by their attendance and sponsorship.

Donor Spotlight

A Lifelong Love of Dogs; A Lifetime Gift to GDA



Thea Smith's interest in guide dogs started in Melbourne, Australia, which has a very large program. She would often see guide dog teams working together and marveled at their partnership. When she moved to the United States and later married, she received a holiday card from Guide Dogs of America. The card caught her eye and her interest.

The lifelong dog lover and her husband began making donations to the school 30 years ago. When her husband passed away, Mrs. Smith formalized her commitment to GDA and became a Partner in Trust, ensuring that her already decades-long support of the school would continue well into the future.

Mrs. Smith treasures her eyesight and wanted to help someone enhance their life. She has generously designated a gift to GDA in her will that will improve the lives of future GDA grads.

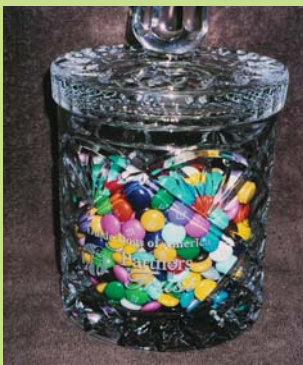
"Back home in Australia, I had seen, first-hand, the difference that a guide dog makes in the life of a blind person. I witnessed the trust and confidence a person has to put in their dog," said Mrs. Smith. "It is remarkable. To be able to support the school and make a difference in the life of a blind person... the whole thing touches my heart."

Her attraction to and interest in guide dogs was the initial connection Mrs. Smith felt when she received that first holiday card. However, it was learning about Guide Dogs of America and its program that convinced her that the school would receive her continued support.

"I like what the school is doing. It is a wonderful program," said Mrs. Smith. "You're just my favorite. That's just it. I keep everything that GDA has sent me on the mantle. It reminds me every day of the work the school does."

For information about becoming a Partner in Trust, please contact Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6432.

Partners in Trust



Make your gift to Guide Dogs of America last a lifetime and beyond. The Partners in Trust Society was established by GDA as a way to recognize and honor the generosity of those who have included the school in their planned giving. Providing life income gifts and bequests lets your gift continue working beyond your lifetime to help others achieve their goals with increased mobility and independence through a partnership with a loyal and loving guide dog. Charitable organizations are not subject to gift or estate taxes so your gift continues to support the causes close to your heart, like Guide Dogs of America, without being diminished by the IRS.

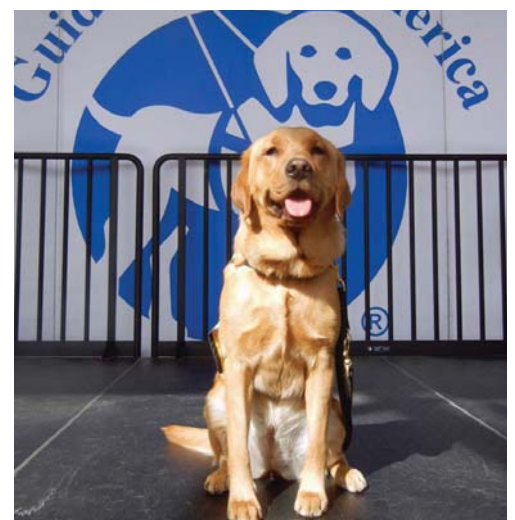
You will receive our special "Partners In Trust" crystal jar as a way of thanking you that you can display proudly, knowing the difference you are making in the lives of others through supporting Guide Dogs of America. Please call Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6432 for more information.

Give Monthly, Give Mobility

Guide Dogs of America prides itself in giving the gift of guide dogs at no charge to blind and visually impaired individuals in the U.S. and Canada. With your monthly donation, you can help us reach our goal of supplying the gift of mobility to at least 50 people each year. GDA receives no government funding and relies solely on donations from companies, organizations and individuals such as you. Your monthly gift will go toward the breeding, raising and training of our dogs along with the instruction that each blind recipient needs in order to comprise a successful team. This method of payment ensures reliable, consistent income for our organization and because the donation is made electronically, it is more cost effective for the school.

By giving monthly, you are giving mobility to those who need it. Please visit our website guidedogsofamerica.org/1/how-to-help/recurring-donations/

If you have any questions, please call (818) 362-5834.



Adjusting To Home Life With A New Guide Dog

It's not just the graduates that go through a period of adjustment when they return home with their new guide dog. Life changes for their families and friends, too.

When the graduate comes home with his or her new dog, there are certain rules that need to be followed in order to build the bond that the team established while in class. Adjusting to life after 28 days of class is different for every one of our graduates and for their families. Here, we share the responses from several of our graduates to the question: What was the biggest adjustment for your family when you and your guide dog came home from training?

My family and friends struggled with trusting that Pontero would take care of me and alert me of obstacles that lay ahead, whether curbs, fire hydrants, steps, bus benches or parking meters. They wanted to stop and tell me about each one, but soon realized that Pontero was already on top of it and navigating me around each one.

— Terri Kruger

At my house, the biggest adjustment was for Roxy, my retired guide. Now she and my new guide dog, Huck, are great friends. She is always waiting for him when we get home. Somehow, I think Huck can tell her what he has done and where he's been.

— Darla Rogers

It took a few days of adjustment for my retired guide dog, Merlin, to realize that Farley, my new guide, had his job to do now. After a few days, it was a loving and inspiring relationship with Merlin teaching Farley the home rules, where the dog treats were stored and, of course, the location of the doggy door.

— Dr. Bill Dailey

The biggest adjustment was for our daughter not to pet or play with my guide dog for a while when we came home from training. As an animal lover she had a hard time with not being able to play and not feed snacks to him.

— Kiyoo Molkentine

My family was so excited for me to have a guide dog. The kids were also just as excited to have a pet in the house... when he was off-duty, of course. But it was hard for the girls to not talk to or play with him that first month at home so I could continue to bond with him. It was a challenge for them, but now he fits right into our family.

— Liz Whitlock

When I graduated with my first guide dog, which was a 25-inch tall German Shepherd, my father turned to my mother and said, "I think we're going to need a bigger car."

— Bill Mlynarski

The biggest adjustment for me and my family when I came home with my first guide dog was that I was in charge of my dog, and if I said that my family couldn't pet my guide at a certain time, my wishes were followed. I was 17, and this made me feel quite a bit older to be allowed to do what I needed with my dog.

— Hayley Edick

The biggest adjustment was helping my family understand that although Gypsy is a part of our family she is not the center of attention. That can at times be a bit challenging to explain to an 8- and 10-year-old especially when this is the first dog we have had in our home. But when presented in the right way, an understanding of our partnership began to make a little more sense and the children became very aware of the importance of a well-behaved guide.

— Deon Upshaw

For us, as empty-nesters and seniors, we felt like we had when we came home from the hospital with a newborn. We tried religiously to keep the same schedule we had in training. I set alarms on my cell phone for everything. Then we wondered when there was time to pull weeds or cook dinner; or find time for each other. Fortunately, in time, we found a rhythm and mellowed just as all new parents do.

— Donna Matthews

Sometimes, my family would wonder why I couldn't leave my dog at home because they could be there to guide me. I carefully explained the purpose of a guide dog, and the dog went with me.

— Robert Acosta

When I came home with my first guide, Proxy, the biggest adjustments for my family were trusting that he would be able to guide me safely and that they had to keep a "hands off" policy with him (even though he was so adorable!). Even with my second guide, it took my family some time to see how our guides provide safe and independent mobility.

— Greg Steinmetz

2014 Raffles

To purchase raffle tickets, use the order form on this page or call GDA at 818-833-6429.

Quilt Raffle



This year's quilt, "Whirlpool Party," was crafted and donated by the Orange County Quilters Guild. The quilt, which measures 52" x 52", features 36 hand-stitched blocks and includes several blocks with intricate embroidered canine designs.

Purchase tickets using the order form on this page and mail it to GDA postmarked by Dec. 3, 2014. Tickets are \$2 each or six for \$10. Drawing to be held on Dec. 13, 2014 at the GDA December puppy raiser holiday party. Winner does not need to be present.

"A Day With The Trainers"

This extremely popular annual raffle prize takes you behind the scenes of GDA, where you will observe the trainers working with our incredible dogs. Two lucky people will spend "A Day with the Trainers," by accompanying them on training routes; observing daily training exercises; and, after being blindfolded by a trainer, taking harness in hand and being led on a route with one of our dogs to experience how it feels to walk with a guide dog. Winners must be at least 18 years of age and able to walk 4 to 5 miles (broken up) in one day near our campus.

Use the order form included in the newsletter or purchase tickets at GDA on or before June 14. Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. Winners will be notified on June 20. Training day date to be announced after the drawing.

Bike Raffle



This year, the GDA motorcycle raffle is for a 2014 Harley-Davidson. The winning ticket will be drawn on Nov. 22 at Guide Dogs of America's Annual Banquet in Las Vegas. (Winner need not

be present to win.) Visit the GDA website (www.guidedogsofamerica.org) for additional details and photos. Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20.

SPRING 2014 Raffles Order Form

Questions? Call (818) 833-6429.

Mail this entire form with your payment.

Raffle Tickets

- 2014 Quilt Raffle — \$2 per ticket or \$10 for 6 \$ _____
- 2014 GDA Bike Raffle — \$5 per ticket or \$20 for 5 \$ _____
- A Day with the Trainers — \$5 per ticket or \$20 for 5 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Credit Card (check one) Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____

Signature: _____ CVC: _____
required for credit card purchase 3-4 digit code

Check (make your check payable to **Guide Dogs of America**)

Mail to: Guide Dogs of America ATTN: Spring Raffles Order Form, 13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342 **Or use the enclosed envelope.**

Online Bidding For Great Goods To Benefit GDA

Bidding on items in GDA's ever-popular annual Silent Auction is now easier than ever with our new bigger and better online auction. Log onto GDA's Bidding for Good auction (www.biddingforgood.com/guidedogsofamerica) from your computer, smartphone or tablet and let the bidding begin. Choose from an array of items including travel, sporting events, dining and many other fun activities and items. The site will be open for bids from June 5 to 15 only.

Reminder: This year there will be no Open House due to anticipated construction.

In Memory

With sadness, we note the passing of the following guide dogs:

Bruce – Class 349

Utah – Class 333.5

Cleat – Class 344

Partners newsletter

Published by: Guide Dogs of America
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ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT NO. 2181

34th Annual William W Winpisinger Charity Banquet

Saturday, November 22nd, 2014 At

Bally's Las Vegas

In the Grand Ball Room
Cocktails start at 5:15PM

Dinner starts promptly at 6:30PM



Motorcycle Ride And Sporting Clay Event on
Thursday, November 20th
Golf Tournament at Revere Golf Club
on Friday, November 21st, 2014



1948—2014



Save The Date

Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date for the 34th-annual Las Vegas Charity weekend Nov. 20-22. The weekend will kick-off on Thurs., Nov. 20 with the annual Hawgs for Dogs motorcycle ride and annual sporting clay event. Friday morning, foursomes will tee off at Revere Golf Club for the annual golf tournament. The weekend will conclude on Saturday evening with the 34th-annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet at Bally's Hotel & Casino. All details will be included in the invitations mailed early this summer and posted on the GDA website.

Mission Statement

Guide Dogs of America is dedicated to its mission to provide guide dogs and instruction in their use, free of charge, to blind and visually impaired men and women from the United States and Canada so that they may continue to pursue their goals with increased mobility and independence.

Congratulations Graduates

Class #383



Graduates (Puppy Raiser in parentheses):

Left to right: Kevin Flaherty and Gandalf (*Greg and Fiona Hahn*), Teresa Blevins and Asia (*Rob and Joanna Kim*), Vicky Sokolik and Francie (*Edmund and Ann-Marie Biden*), Patricia Lockett and Velo (*Tom and Judy Reilly*), Veronica Elsea and Titus (*Linda Barber*), Andy Leach and Brie (*Joe and Missy Stayton*), Melva Burkhart and Haden (*Cherry Teter*), Theresa Marchetti and Coral (*John and Diana Smitherman*), Wendy Sparrow and Honon (*Mary Deets*), James Jay and Archie (*Audrey Rohrer*)

Instructors (left to right): Steve Burkman, Melinda Romero, Sean Chiles

In-Home Graduates (not pictured): Dolores (Deedee) Mann and Gysler (*Steve and Judi Hoppes*), Tonya Ledbetter and Breda (*The Rohlfing Family*)

Instructor: Linda Hawes