

GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA Partners

Winter 2013 volume 28 number 1

GDA Couples — It's More Than Puppy Love

Many of GDA's graduates are married, but not many of them are married to someone who has also graduated from the school. Couples Pam and Ken Metz and Donni and Tom Mitchell found love outside of GDA, but they all share a love for the school and their guide dogs.



Ken and Pam Metz with guides Cari and Kingston

Meet the Metz...

These days, when Ken and Pam Metz hear bells, it's not wedding bells — although the happily married couple will soon celebrate their ninth anniversary — now it's the bells they hear that each of their guide dogs wears to let them know where they are in the house. Different pitch bells help the Metz discern which dog is where, as both Pam and Ken have no vision at all.

Ken Metz has been totally blind since birth as a result of too much oxygen in the incubator. Pam was sighted until a rare optic disorder took all of her vision when she was 42 years old. Before she lost her vision, Pam worked for nearly 26 years as an LVN in elderly care. Ken worked at the Junior Blind of America, where the couple met. Both are now retired.

When Pam lost her vision, she enrolled in the Davidson Program for Independence at the Junior Blind of America, where Ken was the Director of Adult Residential Training. The two didn't start dating until after Pam graduated. One year later, they were married in a Hawaiian-themed wedding complete with a matching shirt for Ken, a Mumu for Pam and sashes with a pocket for the rings for each of the dogs.

Their "ring bearers" have since retired, and Pam and Ken have graduated with new guide dogs in recent years. Three years ago, Pam graduated from GDA with Kingston, whose mellow personality and leisurely pace suit Pam perfectly. Ken trained with his new guide Cari, who Pam affectionately refers to as a "Little Miss Busy."

GDA Couples continued on page 2 »

Vet's Corner

Good Dog Health Can Come with Good Grooming



GDA Kennel Technician Xochitl Sanchez

Keeping your pet well groomed not only makes a dog look and smell beautiful, regular grooming can also help to keep your dog healthy and more comfortable. Regular grooming will allow dog owners to check their pets over for skin lesions, as well as fleas and ticks. You may also be able to spot potential health problems before they become serious or even life-threatening, including skin conditions, tooth decay, ear infections and overgrown nails. Preventive care only takes a few minutes a week and can help save much distress and money in the long run.

Vet's Corner continued on page 3 »

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.

"It's funny watching the two dogs together. Their personalities are so different," said Pam. "Kingston is content to lie down and nap until it's time to work. He groans, and Cari purrs. Cari needs more attention. She will playfully get on my lap and put her front paws on my chest. When I say 'get down' she gets right off," added Ken. "Their personalities complement our own. GDA does a great job of pairing its guide dog teams."

With five children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild between them from previous marriages, the parental role that needs to be taken with the dogs come easy to Pam and Ken. "When it comes time for feeding, they have been taught to come in from just one of the two ways to enter the kitchen. If they sneak in the other way, they don't get fed until they do it correctly. That's the rule," explained Pam.

When it comes to the couple's meals, they enjoy cooking just about everything. No cooking techniques are off limits. "Because I was sighted I can control the knife better," explained Pam. "I won't use the deep fryer for my fried chicken though. Ken can come up with recipes off the top of his head. His specialty is spaghetti sauce, and he likes to barbeque."

Even though they are both retired, they each have offices in the house where they keep busy with work as advocates for guide dog users. Pam serves as vice president of Guide Dog Users of California, and Ken does a lot of work with the California Council for the Blind. His work has helped to pass legislation that makes guide dog laws in California the strongest in the country.

Ken and Pam found the perfect match when they found each other. GDA is responsible for the perfect matching of Ken to Cari and Pam to Kingston, which they are grateful for every day.



Donni and Tom Mitchell with guides Moby and Elton.

their first meeting and shortly after that the couple found themselves regularly having lunch together.

"We talked a lot over lunch and during breaks from our jobs. She was volunteering at the state library, which was in the same building as the Center for the Blind, where we both took classes and I taught a class to students who were blind

and had either social or learning disabilities," said Tom, adding, "We found that we had similar interests and our relationship evolved from there. It became a love match."

Four years after they were married, it was time for Donni to get a new guide dog. Even though she'd had guide dogs before, this was her first time at GDA.

"Everyone was doing Christmas things, and I wasn't feeling very 'Christmassy' while Donni was away at GDA. I was working at the time, so that helped to keep me busy during the three weeks she was away" said Tom, who hadn't had a guide for many years and in that next year would be going to get his first guide from GDA.

Tom, Donni, and her new guide Moby had settled in to life as a family of three, when it came time for Tom to be gone for the three weeks of class. Having recently been through training herself, Donni knew how caring and attentive the trainers and staff at the school were and how amazing the dogs are.

"It was very lonely. I was happy to hear he was doing well but Moby missed him," said Donni. "During the first 10 days, anytime someone would come to the house Moby would think it was Tom and would look for him to come through the door." As he made his way home from the school with his new dog Elton, Tom was afraid that Moby might think, "Who is this interloper coming into my house?" But he didn't need to worry.

"The two dogs get along great," said Tom. "It didn't take too long for them to start playing together. As soon as you get the harnesses and leashes ready to be put on, they stop play time and are ready to work." Both dogs are yellow Labrador retrievers and people always ask if they are brothers when the couple is out. They look so similar that early on even Donni and Tom couldn't tell them apart.

"One night we took them out to relieve and I thought, 'Why is this dog walking so strangely?'" said Donni. "And I thought, 'Why does he keep looking back?'" said Tom. Wondering why the dogs felt so different in their harness to each of them and why they weren't responding to their names, the couple figured out they had swapped dogs. Now they tell the two apart by ear size, Elton has larger ears. Knowing which is which is especially important when it comes feeding time.

"Feeding the dogs gets to be interesting. They eat different dog food. You have to stay with them so you know that they are not changing bowls," explained Donni. "They are trained to sit and wait for their bowls to be set down. Someone has to be by the bowl when the each dog is being fed."

When it comes time for Tom and Donni to eat, it's the dogs that are by them. Tom's dog Elton has found his place under Tom's chair. Moby prefers to be on the side of Donni's chair.

Tom will be in his mid-70s when it comes time to retire Elton. He thinks that Elton may be his last guide dog, but Donni says, "...you never know." One thing is for sure, Donni will return to GDA for her next guide dog and the one after that. Should Tom decide that he's not ready to hang up the harness, he will, too. Donni added, "I tell everyone, if you're serious about getting a guide dog, go to GDA." 🐾

- **Brushing:** Regular brushing serves several purposes, including removing excess hair, eliminating dirt and spreading natural oils that add softness and shine to your dog's coat. Shorter-haired dogs can get by with only being brushed once a week. Long-haired dogs' coats need more attention.

- Daily brushing: Will help to prevent mats which can be very uncomfortable, as well as contribute to a number of skin problems, including skin infections and hot spots. They can be a hiding place for parasites such as fleas and ticks.

- Dogs with long hair around the eyes may need to have it trimmed to prevent hairs from poking the eye, not only can this be irritating, but it can cause corneal ulcerations. A professional groomer should be consulted for trimming hair around the face.

- **Nails:** Keep your dog's nails trimmed. Overgrown nails are more prone to breaking or tearing, which can be very uncomfortable. Chronically overgrown nails can also contribute to arthritis development.

- **Teeth:** It is recommended to brush teeth routinely to prevent tartar buildup, which can lead to gingivitis and periodontal disease. Only use toothpaste that is specifically for dogs. Regular dental checkups at your vet are also necessary.

- **Ears:** Always be on the lookout for the early warning signs of an ear infection. If your dog constantly shakes his head, has sore or red ears, or if the ears smell bad or have a discharge, take him to the veterinarian.

Regular grooming relaxes the dog that is used to it, and it becomes a special time you can both share. A coat free of mats, burrs and tangles and skin free of fleas and ticks are as comfortable to your dog as fresh, clean clothes are to you. It makes you feel good, and the effect is the same for your pet.

GDA Staff Continues to Extend Its Thanks to Volunteers and Breeders

Our Fall 2012 *Parade of Partners* issue was GDA's annual "thank you" to all of those who help support the school throughout the year. For the *Parade* issue, we asked the staff at GDA to express — in their own words — the gratitude they feel toward our donors, sponsors, raisers and breeder families. The staff enthusiastically responded. We had such a tremendous response, we simply could not include all of them in the last issue. In this issue, the *Parade* continues with the remainder of the heartfelt words expressed by our staff members.

I wanted to extend my sincere appreciation and thank you for all the hard work and dedication puppy raisers put into the training of their puppy.

— Yvonne Martin, Canine Development Manager

Countless hours of obedience classes, tears of joy and heartache, and chewed shoes; a big thank you to our puppy raisers for your sacrifices and contributions to the school.

— Patty Elizondo, Licensed Trainer

It takes a very special person to take a puppy into your home, raise it, train it, love it and then give it back. We are blessed with hundreds, and we could never do what we do without them.

— Dixie Gadapee, Kennel Manager

Puppy raisers are utterly selfless and self-effacing.

— Tami Johnson, Veterinary Department/ Adoptions

Thank you to all of our volunteers and puppy socializers for your wonderful help.

— Jan Stevens, Nursery Department

Guide Dogs of America represents those values we all hold sacred — freedom, independence and an equal opportunity to succeed in life. These are all qualities a guide dog provides. We are only able to offer loving well-trained guide dogs, thanks to the selfless acts of thousands of individuals, corporations and foundations and, for this, we are most grateful.

— Daryl Lasky, Development Coordinator

I feel blessed to have met so many wonderful people over the years who have contributed a lot of time and money to support the school.

— Brooke Patterson, Kennel Tech

I have been at GDA since 1985. I am totally in awe of our donor and volunteers. They are so loyal and generous. Our graduates are independent, thanks to the partnership of GDA and wonderful people who care. Thank you.

— Pat Siehr, Office Manager

Thank you for your generosity and commitment; volunteers such as you are an incredible asset to our organization, and it is greatly appreciated.

— Larry Borbon, Kennel Tech

In today's world, we are all so busy looking for those little scraps of time for ourselves. When people are willing to sacrifice their time and money to support others, it reminds me daily of the adage, "It is better to give than to receive."

— Mindy Romero, Licensed Trainer

Kindness is the language the blind can see. Thank you for giving.

— Linda Hawes, Licensed Trainer

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." — Mother Teresa. Thank you! We appreciate every bit of time that you give to help GDA in its mission.

— Chandra Conway, Volunteer Coordinator

With every step that I take with my guide dog Carter, I am constantly reminded of the unselfishness that comes from the hearts of so many. The willingness to give a part of themselves to those who are visually impaired touches me so deeply and personally.

— Lorri Bernson, Media and Community Liaison

GDA Las Vegas Charity Weekend



More than 1,000 GDA supporters convened in Las Vegas for the 32nd-annual Charity Weekend. This much-anticipated event is the largest fundraiser for the school and helps support its mission to provide guide dogs, at no cost, to those without sight.

"Every year, I think there's no way this event can get any better and, each year, it does. There are so many people to thank for making this weekend possible," said GDA President Dale Hartford.

"To our sponsors, your generous support of the weekend's activities helped make it incredibly successful. And, to all of those in attendance, on behalf of everyone at GDA, I would like to express our appreciation for your support. To all of our

dedicated volunteers, I extend my sincere thanks for the time each of you committed, before and at the event. With deep gratitude, I want to thank all of you for the contributions you have made to the school by being a part of this very special weekend and for all that you do throughout the year."

The weekend kicked off Thursday, Nov. 15 with the 12th-annual Hawgs for Dogs motorcycle ride and the inaugural USA Skeet & Trap Shoot event, which was held at the Clark County Shooting Park. The following morning, more than 200 golfers participated in the 32nd-annual Golf Tournament at Revere Golf Course.

Throughout the weekend of events, graduates, puppy raisers and puppies-in-training greeted all those who had gathered and thanked them for their participation.

The fundraising weekend culminated at Caesars Palace Hotel with the 32nd-annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet. At the banquet, three outstanding members of our GDA family were recognized for their support of Guide Dogs of America and were presented with the prestigious "Gift of Sight" Award.



Gift of Sight Honorees



Rich Michalski

Rich Michalski was a welder at General Electric in Milwaukee, WI, when he was initiated into IAM&AW Local Lodge 1916. Since joining the union in 1968, Michalski has held several positions in his local lodge, including Steward, Chairman of the Bargaining Committee and President. In 2006, Michalski joined the ranks of the IAM's Executive Board as the General Vice President in charge of IAM&AW Headquarters. Prior to the establishment of the Aerospace Territory, he oversaw organizing and contract negotiations for the IAM&AW Aerospace Department, as well as the IAM Woodworking Department. Michalski has also been an exceptional supporter for Guide Dogs of America. In addition to being on the Board of Directors at GDA, Michalski promotes the organization at every opportunity. He was the driving force behind getting General Electric to donate a digital X-ray machine to our veterinary clinic.



Tom Wroblewski

After receiving a two-year degree in machine shop practices, Tom Wroblewski was initiated into the IAM&AW in 1975 after he was "hired on the spot" by Boeing in Seattle, WA. Still with Boeing, but in a new position as Quality Control Inspector in the machine shop, Wroblewski transferred his membership to District Lodge 751, Local F. After serving in various appointed and elected local lodge positions, including Local F President, Wroblewski was elected as a full-time Business Representative and has participated in every Boeing negotiation since 1992. In 2004, he was appointed District 751 Grievance Coordinator. In March 2007, he was elected President and Directing Business Representative of District 751 — the position he holds today.

Under Wroblewski's leadership, District 751 has been able to continually increase its contribution to Guide Dogs of America by implementing innovative events throughout the region that include motorcycle rides, fun runs, bowling tournaments, golf tournaments, poker tournaments, horseshoe tournaments, car shows, car races, raffles and monthly payroll deductions.



Captain Lambert A. Kreimer

Honored posthumously was Captain Lambert A. Kreimer, the first trainer for what is now Guide Dogs of America. Kreimer brought more experience to the position than any other person could have at that time, as he is credited as having trained the world's first guide dog in 1916, at an army field hospital near Soissons, France. Born in Germany in 1894, he immigrated to the United States in 1928 and later became a U.S. citizen. Kreimer was decorated by the U.S. Army for his service in World War II.

Remembering Helen Morton



Helen Morton, a longtime friend of Guide Dogs of America, passed away January 16, 2013. Helen, along with her husband Tom, who passed away 11 years ago, supported GDA for more than 25 years. In that time, the couple's commitment and their generosity made it possible for countless GDA graduates to receive guide dogs. After Tom passed, the Morton family and The Morton Foundation made it possible for GDA to construct a beautiful new graduation area. The new pavilion was dedicated in Tom and Helen's honor and stands

as a reminder of their family's many generous contributions. Helen will be greatly missed by many friends of GDA as well as our staff.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to Guide Dogs of America or to The Morton Foundation (100 Pringle Ave. Ste. 410, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or via phone at 925-287-9201).

Donor Profile — Watkins Estate Donates \$50,000 to Guide Dogs Of America

The estate of Helen Watkins, wife of former IAM&AW General Vice President George Watkins, has made another generous donation to the IAM&AW, this time to Guide Dogs of America (GDA). The Watkins' Living Trust has donated \$50,000 to the school.

The couple created their Living Trust to support and help further the causes of the organizations in which they believed. Both Helen and George were civic-minded and believed in long term goals and judicious spending of monies. The Watkins felt each non-profit organization included in the Trust had merit and affirmed their beliefs. They had been married for 61 years when George passed away in 1993. Helen passed away in June 2012.

In their trust, the Watkins requested that an organization in receipt of one of their gifts acknowledge it in some form of communication within the organization. In their words, "To encourage others to make commitments/arrangements in their estate planning."

"We are deeply grateful to the Watkins for their support of GDA, their belief in our mission and helping to make it possible for us to continue to change the lives of the blind or visually-impaired," said GDA President Dale Hartford.

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

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.

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.

Nursery

Bath rugs - 24" x 36" (can be larger). Any color. (Example: "The Big One" from Kohl's.) Quantity needed: 12

Blankets (SKU #90137) - \$9.99. Anna's Linens; value fleece blanket, 100% polyester. Twin-full size. Any color. Quantity needed: 12

Drymate Whelp Box Liner (Item: 25135-601) - \$24.99. Size: 48" x 50". each; 2 or more \$22.99 each. Color: Green or Tan. Quantity needed: 12. www.revivalanimalhealth.com.

Puppy Water Bowl - \$14.99. Bergan Sporty-Pet travel food and water. www.Amazon.com. Quantity needed: 24.

Vet Department/Recovery Room Wish

All items available from www.petedge.com

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

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

PowerMax 2-Speed Clippers (Item: OS19582) - \$99.95. Quantity needed: 2

Deluxe Thermostatic Crate Fan Blue (Item: ZW11034) - \$15.99. Quantity needed: 3

Cooling System (for crate fan) (Item: ZW11038) - \$7.99. Quantity needed: 3

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

Galileo Bones Wolf (Item: TF172) - \$6.49. Quantity needed: 4

Big Chews Beef Bone (Item: TF525) - \$12.29. Quantity needed: 4

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

Vittle Vaults 40-lb. Original Container (Item: ZT136) - \$36.99. Quantity needed: 2

2013 Events at GDA

Graduations — Sunday, April 21; Sunday, July 7; Sunday, Oct. 20; Saturday, Dec. 21

Ride for Guides — Sunday, May 19

Riders registering before May 10 will receive a discount and a bonus — a raffle ticket for the 2013 Harley-Davidson Road Glide that we will be raffling off toward the end of this year. All motorcycles welcome. For registration forms or sponsorship opportunities, please call Lorri Bernson at (818) 833-6431. Register online or download the registration forms from our website at www.guidedogsofamerica.org and clicking on the "Events Calendar."

Open House — Saturday, June 8

Save the date and join us for a great day of fun and festivities. More details to come soon on our website and our Facebook page. Admission to the Open House is free, and there is food available for purchase. Gates open at 11 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Events begin at 11 a.m. and end at around 3 p.m. We ask that you leave your personal pets at home.

Kennel Department

The following items are available from www.petedge.com

Jolly Balls (Item: ZW317) - Quantity needed: 10. (Also available at most pet stores)

Kong (Item: KC150) - \$7.45. Size: Large (4½").

Dental Dinosaurs (Item: F22101) - \$4.59. One size.

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

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

Guardian Gear Retractable Leads (Item: ZA194) - \$14.99. Quantity needed: 5

The following items are available from J & J Dog Supply (www.jjdog.com)

Free Standing Training Mirror (Item: MR100) - \$210. Quantity needed: 1

Open Agility Training Tunnels (Item: TTO53) - \$219.99. Size: 15 feet. Color: Yellow. Quantity needed: 1

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

The following item is available from Harbor Freight (www.harborfreight.com)

Remote Control Stunt Car (Item: 66151) - \$11.99. Quantity needed: 1

Student Dorms

The following items are available on Amazon.com.

Verilux Original Natural Spectrum Desk Lamp - \$50 (approximate). Color: graphite preferred. Quantity needed: 20.

Verilux Original Natural Spectrum Deluxe Floor Lamp - \$80 (approximate). Color: graphite preferred. Quantity needed: 10.

Books on CD (new and used): All genres

In Memory

With sadness we note the passing of GDA family member:

Valient Sirna – Classes #235, #256, #281, in-home, #355.5

We also note with sadness the passing of the following guide dogs:

Andy – Class #344

Janna – Class #354

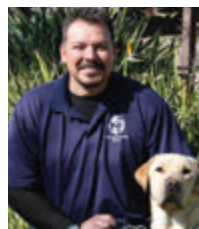
Flite – Class #345

Keegan – Class #353

Foxy – Class #323

Malibu – Breeder

Trainer Dave Ponce Promoted



Licensed Guide Dog Instructor Dave Ponce has been promoted to Training Department Manager. Ponce served a three-year apprenticeship at GDA before earning his license from the State Guide Dog Board in 2008. During the past four years, Ponce has trained numerous guide dog teams and will continue to do so in his new position. He will have

the added responsibility for the overall management of the Training Department, including overseeing the licensed instructors and apprentices as well as the training and matching of dozens of guide dogs throughout the year. He will report to Chuck Jordon, Director of Programs. Join us in congratulating Ponce on his well-deserved promotion.

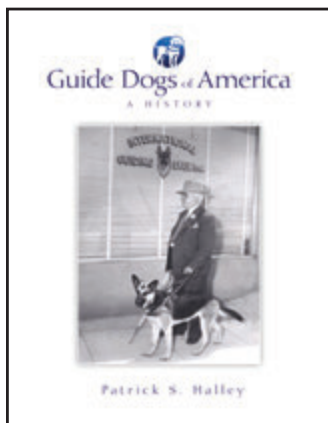
2013 GDA Lapel Pin – Commemorating GDA's 65th Anniversary



Celebrate GDA's 65th anniversary with our 2013 commemorative pin. Made in the U.S.A., the metal pin is "antiqued silver" and features the GDA logo

framed with eagle wings; a banner below the logo reads "1948-2013." Pin measures 1" X 1 1/2". Price: \$8.

New Guide Dogs of America History Book



Author Patrick S. Halley spent nearly a year researching and writing the book, *Guide Dogs of America – A History*. The result is a 200-page, photo-rich story about the school, including new historical information. The book recounts the heroic efforts of GDA founder Joseph W. Jones, Sr.,

who — when denied a guide dog because he was deemed "too old" at age 57 — started his own guide dog school. Also detailed in the book are GDA's program and how the school produces successful guide dogs, as well as how the support from donors, puppy raisers, volunteers and the IAM&AW make it all possible.

Hardcover and paperback versions of the book are available and can be purchased at GDA or by calling the school at (818) 362-5834 or by emailing us at Partners@guidedogsofamerica.org. See order form for pricing.

We recently received this note from Daniel Jones, grandson of GDA's Founder Joseph Jones and wanted to share his kind words about the "The Guide Dogs of America — A History." We hope that his heartfelt thoughts will inspire you to learn more about the school and its history.

"My name is Daniel Jones, I am the grandson of Joseph Jones. I received a copy Patrick Halley's book about GDA for Christmas. It has a lot of family history that I never knew of before. I would like to thank Mr. Halley for writing this book that means so much to me.

Back in the 1980s I was a puppy raiser for GDA and I know first-hand the impact this organization has had on so many people."



2013 Quilt Raffle

"Love Comes in All Sizes" is the quilt that has been donated to GDA for this year's quilt raffle. And we "love" the talented and creative women of the Santa Clarita Valley Quilt Guild who crafted and donated this beautiful quilt. The quilt, which measures

100"x108" (approx.), features a pooch in every panel. This size will work for a double or queen-sized bed.

Purchase tickets (see order form) and mail it to GDA postmarked by November 30, 2013. Tickets are \$2 each or six for \$10. The drawing will be held at the GDA December puppy raiser meeting on December 14, 2013. Winner does not need to be present.

2013 GDA Bike Raffle

This year, the GDA motorcycle raffle is for a 2013 Harley-Davidson Road Glide. The winning ticket will be drawn on November 16 at the Guide Dogs of America's Annual Banquet in Las Vegas. (Winner need not be present to win.) More details and photos will appear in the next newsletter.

"A Day with the Trainers" — The Experience of a Lifetime

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," 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 a dog 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 in one day near our campus.

Purchase tickets using order form or at GDA before or on June 8 (Open House). Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. Winner will be notified on June 14. Training day date to be announced after the drawing.

WINTER 2013 Order Form

Questions? Call (818) 833-6429. *All Shipping & Handling is included*

Mail this entire form with your payment.

Merchandise

<input type="checkbox"/> 2013 GDA Lapel Pin — \$8 per pin	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> New GDA History Book, Hardback — \$62.50; each additional, \$50	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> New GDA History Book, Paperback — \$52.50; each additional, \$40	\$

Raffle Tickets

<input type="checkbox"/> 2013 Quilt Raffle — \$2 per ticket or \$10 for 6	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> 2013 GDA Bike Raffle — \$5 per ticket or \$20 for 5	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> 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: Winter Merchandise Order Form, 13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342 **Or use the enclosed envelope.**

Congratulations Graduates

Class #375



Graduates (Puppy Raiser in parentheses):

left to right: Michael Few & Cole (Nicole DeLelio), Beverly Hammett & Mazie (Dena Chovanec), Mark Hanohano & Coby (David & Deborah Prough), Jason Hollis & Theodore (Audrey Rohrer), Connie Jacomini & Tawny (Alizon & Gavrielle Harris), Veatrice McLucas & Lucas (Mike & Jill Deschamps), Dick Schmidt & Grady (Tina Nilsson), Bob Sheff & Scooter (Ray & Terry Crawford), Ryan Strickland & Huntley (Steve & Judi Hoppes)

Instructors: left to right: Patty Elizondo, Steve Burkman, Mindy Romero



**GUIDE DOGS
OF AMERICA**

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A Good-bye Wag of the Tail

After more than 27 years of service to Guide Dogs of America, Pat Siehr, GDA's office manager, retired this past December. In its tribute to her, GDA staff shared these thoughts about their beloved colleague and friend: Pat is more than a co-worker, she has been a member of our family. She has been there through our marriages, birth of our children, graduations, and having our children get married and start families. Please join us in wishing her a long and happy retirement. She will be missed.

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.