



VOLUME 17  
NUMBER 3  
FALL 2002

## GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

# Partners

### A Puppy Sponsorship Becomes A "Little Prayer"

When the Litton Management Club in Agoura Hills, Calif. sponsored a guide dog nearly seven years ago, it touched off a remarkable series of events that has changed the lives of at least two people.

GDA encourages individuals, companies and groups to sponsor dogs. With a gift of \$3,000, the sponsorship covers the cost of breeding, veterinary care, training equipment, and other necessary supplies for the care and growth of a guide-dog-to-be. We give sponsors photographs and quarterly updates.

When Litton employee Wally Berman was given the privilege of naming the dog Litton sponsored in 1995, he chose the name "Litany" because it was close to Litton and it's a type of prayer.

After training, Litany, a female yellow lab, was matched with Rebecca Albarran. *"The day I received her was an answer to my prayers since I was dealing with my own emotional feelings of losing my vision. I always called her 'my little prayer.'"*

At her graduation, Rebecca had hoped to meet the people at Litton who sponsored her new friend and ask them how the name of the dog had been chosen. She was disappointed no representatives were able to attend as she also wanted to tell them what a perfect name they had picked, since Litany was the answer to her prayers.



Lorri Bernson with Nigel

Meanwhile, Litany was changing Rebecca's life. Rebecca was still blind, but with Litany at her side, the young woman felt she could build a new life. Sadly, their time together was brief. Litany had to retire when her confidence was shaken after an aggressive dog incident. Before Rebecca received another guide dog from GDA, she wanted to find a good home for her beloved companion and partner.

She asked her aunt and uncle, both dog lovers, if they would give Litany, Rebecca's little prayer, a place to live out her golden years. They instantly agreed. When Rebecca explained about Litany's name, her uncle informed her that he had once worked for the Litton Corporation. They were both thrilled about the connection.



Rebecca Albarran with Lilly

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Rebecca adores her second guide dog, Lilly, but Litany will always hold first place in her heart. That's why part of her email address is "litany." One day, while on a chat list for GDA students and alumni, she received a message from a GDA student, Lorri Bernson:

*"I noticed your e-mail address contains the word 'litany' and I was wondering if you have a guide dog by the name of Litany. The only reason I ask is that my dad worked for the Litton Company and they sponsored a dog. My dad named the dog Litany because it meant a type of prayer and it was close to the Litton name. It's a small world and you never know, so I thought I'd ask."*

When Rebecca received the message she could scarcely catch her breath. All she could say was "I cannot believe this, oh my goodness, I cannot believe this." She wrote back to Lorri and they soon discovered that it was, in fact, Lorri's father who had given Litany such an apt name.

At the time he had named the dog, he was unaware that some day his daughter, Lorri, would face vision loss and also need an answer to her prayers. When Lorri told him about Rebecca, he was pleased. He had always wondered who received Litany and how it all worked out. Rebecca was able to tell him how much the little prayer meant to her.

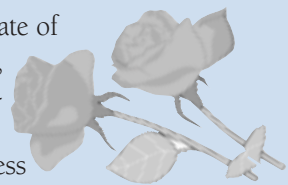
Today, Lorri has her own guide dog, Nigel, and she and Rebecca have become best friends. They still marvel at the remarkable connections in the story of Litany, a guide dog that was a prayer.

This wonderful story is also a great example of the kind of good that can come from a sponsorship of a guide dog. When Rebecca's uncle and Lorri's father compared notes, they realized they had both worked at Litton Corporation in the early 60's. They shared pride that their employer had started such a joyful chain of events by making a special donation to sponsor a guide dog.

If you would like to sponsor a guide dog, call us at (818) 362-5834, ext. 226 for more information. Who knows whose prayers you might answer? 🐾

## IN MEMORY

Gloria Nelson, a graduate of GDA Classes 260, 295, and our in-home training program, recently passed away. We express our condolences to her family. 🐾



## 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](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org/calendar.html).

## PARTNERS NEWSLETTER

Published by:



GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

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## He Gave the Gift of Sight

Last year, we gave one of our 2001 Gift of Sight awards to Tom Morton.

Now, we sadly note his passing. Tom died on June 29th after a battle against cancer. He is survived by his wife Helen, eight children, 16 grandchildren, and a great-grandson. For many years, Tom and Helen have supported GDA very generously through the Morton Foundation. They have also given loving homes to several GDA dogs.

Tom was an animal lover and a people lover, and GDA was very fortunate to find itself on his short list of organizations that satisfied both of his charitable interests. Our condolences go out to his wonderful family. He will be missed. 🐾



# GDA Goes Hollywood

Thanks to all the wonderful people who worked to create a special day and all those who joined us for the festivities, our Annual Open House was a box office smash with many of our guests dressed as their favorite stars. As a special highlight, we had more than 20 graduates return to the school to enjoy the company and camaraderie of GDA's staff, volunteers and friends.

Our puppies-in-training stole the show when they put on an excellent demonstration of their intelligence and dedication in the obstacle course competition. For side acts, we had training demonstrations, tables of pet merchandise, crafts, and raffles.

Thanks again to all who worked so hard to make this great day happen. And to all who visited us to make it fun. 🐾



## They Won the Day!

Lori Montigel and Susan Renwick were the lucky winners of our "Spend the Day With a Trainer" raffle at the Open House. The raffle helped raise funds for new play equipment for our dog runs. Lori and Susan recently got to spend the day with trainers Jessica Alfenito and Yvonne Martin. At the end of an interesting and exhausting day, the lucky winners relaxed and spent time with the dogs and their new play equipment. Thanks to all who bought raffle tickets! 🐾



**Twenty-one GDA graduates joined us for this photo at the Open House.** *Back row (standing):* Suzanne Allee and Violet, Anita Miller and Brevin, BIG DOG, Lorri Bernson and Nigel, Randy Brooks and Odyssey, Don Kanallakan and Kojak, Allan Kelman and Corbin. *Middle row (seated):* John Albarran and Gabrielle, Mary Yoshisato and Decker, Steve Flerman and Einstein, Cindy Flerman and Kismet, Sharon Hutton and Kodak, Anita van der Linden and Vesper, Lynn Stockstill and Toby, Kelly Bailey and Fischer, Nan Bearden and Fame. *Front row (seated on grass):* Rebecca Albarran and Lilly, Amber McLain and Dolly, Liz Daniels and Pirate, Hayley Burman and Manu, Deborah Rogosin and Gina, Maddie Gorham and Hattie.





## Thank You for Our Future

You don't have to be wealthy to include GDA in your Will or Trust. Any amount is greatly appreciated, and will help ensure the future of GDA. We thank all those who have already included GDA in their future:

- Helen Barnes
- Sondra and Otto Bennett
- Brooks Family Trust
- Carole Crean and Edward Shipuleski
- Michelle E. Chapman
- Lorne DeBeau
- Conrad Dratwa
- Judge Charles M. Hughes

- Ms. M. Johnson
- Ms. Leslie Chauncey Latimer and Mr. Kenneth G. White
- Sonya Most
- Kathy A. Phillips
- Ms. Susan Stancoff
- Amy Thaler
- Ruth and Alex Zapassoff

Partners  
in Trust  
Society  
Members

If you have GDA named in your Will or Trust and would like to be included the next time we publish this list, please notify Rhonda Bissell at (818) 362-5834, ext. 229. 🐾

## A Will or a Living Trust? You (& Your Lawyer) Decide

Another excellent option for continuing to support GDA is a Living Trust. To create a Living Trust, you place significant assets in a legal trust, typically with yourself and/or your spouse as trustee. You also assign someone, either your spouse, or a trusted friend or relative, to serve as trustee in the event you die or are incapacitated.

There are several significant advantages of a trust over a will for many people. You continue to benefit from your assets during your lifetime, and the Living Trust allows passage of your assets to your beneficiaries without probate court, and the legal fees and delays associated with probate. A Will is a public document, while a trust is not, so a

Living Trust affords more privacy. A Living Trust may also give you more flexibility in avoiding taxes now and when your assets are disbursed. Yet a trust has the same ability as a Will to ensure that your assets are given to the people and organizations about which you care most.

Please contact your attorney to see if a Living Trust makes sense for you. And whether you decide on a Will or a Living Trust, please consider including GDA to continue your commitment to help breed, raise, and train guide dogs for blind men and women. 🐾

## You know what your dog means to you...

### now imagine what this dog will mean to a blind person.

Guide Dogs of America breeds, raises and trains extraordinary guide dogs and gives them, free-of-charge, to blind individuals who want the independence and loyal companionship a guide dog provides.

You can be sure your contribution is well-spent - our overhead is only 8.2%.

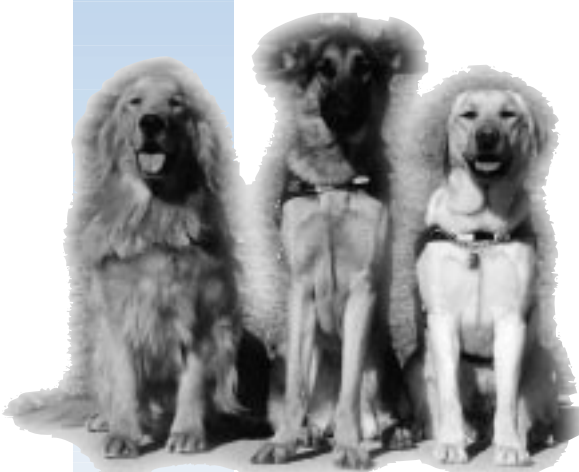


GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA  
(818) 362-5834  
[www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org)

Special thanks to IAM members.



Please designate #1807  
on your CFC pledge card.



## Using Your Generosity Efficiently

We greatly appreciate all those who give so generously through individual donations, payroll deductions, or the many fundraisers organized for GDA. That's why we strive to use your donations as efficiently as possible. We're proud that less than 9 cents of every dollar donated goes to administration and fundraising. This is well below the national average for similar charitable organizations. All the rest goes to breed, raise, and train some of the world's best guide dogs. 🐾

Special thanks to our friends who can contribute to GDA through the Combined Federal Campaign. Please remember GDA, our CFC# is 1807, as you complete your pledge card.

# GRADUATE GUIDE LINES

Welcome to Graduate Guide Lines, featuring news and information about GDA graduates and their dogs, who are out and about realizing their dreams of independence.

**Lorri Bernson** (featured on page one) and her Golden Retriever, **Nigel**, recently traveled with Lorri's family on a Royal Caribbean cruise to Mexico. After negotiating an appropriate relieving area for Nigel (mulch on a tarp on a remote deck), Lorri spent much of the trip educating fellow passengers about guide dog partnership.

**John and Rebecca Albarran**, with black Lab **Gabrielle** and Golden Retriever **Lilly**, and **Amber McLain** with yellow Lab **Dolly**, went camping on the beach in Carpentaria, Calif. The dogs mastered the campground easily and targeted areas so well, it was a snap getting around.

**Sue Burdyshaw** and her yellow Lab **Gidget** attended the 4th Annual "Run for the Dogs"

motorcycle ride in Tacoma, WA, with her husband, **Greg**. Sue reports that the food was great, as were the music and the people. Then Sue, Gidget, and Greg traveled to Everett, WA for Everett's 1st Annual Guide Dog Jog, Walk, and Run organized by **I.A.M. District 751**. They were joined by **Lew Wilson** and his yellow Lab, **Lincoln**. Lew, who had recently moved to the area, was happy to help kick off this great new fundraiser for GDA.

**Randy Brooks** and his guide, black Lab **Odyssey**, traveled with GDA's newest apprentice trainer, **Kris Schmidt**, to represent GDA at the American Council of the Blind National Convention in Houston.

**Dave Bates** and his wife **Julianna** took to the road with black Lab **Stanley** for a trip to Ashland, OH, and the 11th Annual Ride for the Guide motorcycle run, organized by members of **I.A.M. Local 1297**. It was a great time, with more than 600 participants, lots of good food, music, and excitement -- and a good amount of funds were raised for GDA. 🐾

## Why Carole Put GDA in Her Will

Carole Crean found her reason for supporting GDA at 30,000 feet. Some years before she retired as an flight attendant, Carol met two blind travelers with guide dogs on the same flight. She sat them together and listened with rapt attention as they discussed how much their dogs meant to their ability to live an independent and active life. Carole was convinced from that day on that she wanted to support this wonderful process. Because one of the women talked so glowingly about Guide Dogs of America, Carole began supporting GDA and recently decided to include GDA in her will.

We hope you'll consider including GDA in your will or Living Trust as Carole did. For more information, 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:

- **STERILIZED BONES & NYLABONES** - extra large
- **INDESTRUCTIBLE JOLLY BALL DOG TOYS** - large and small
- \* **WADING POOLS** for our kennels
- \* **STEREO CABINET** with doors for the dorm, approximately 3' by 5'



The cut-out holes in these Jolly Balls give our fun-loving dogs something to get their teeth into.

## Special Holiday Remembrances

For your holiday gift-giving needs, GDA offers a thoughtful and popular way to recognize loved ones and friends while helping GDA carry out its work.

A gift in memory or in honor of your friend or family member is a considerate gesture and one that is appreciated both by the recipient and by GDA.

With your gift of \$50 or more, GDA will send a beautiful card with a full-color photograph of one

of our dogs with a handwritten message notifying the recipient of your thoughtfulness.

Please take special note that you must allow three to four weeks for your card to reach your recipient. GDA needs time to process your gift and unfortunately we've found that mail delivery continues to be compromised since the September 11 terrorist attacks. Send your memorial and in honor gifts to GDA soon to ensure holiday delivery. 🐾



# Holiday Items with Canine Appeal

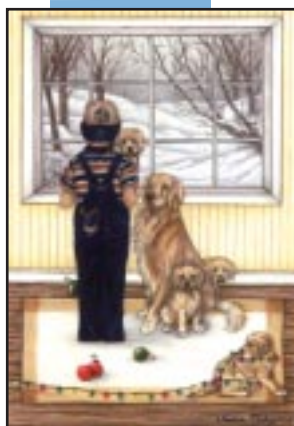


## Holiday Cards with the Most Joyous Dogs

GDA Holiday Cards are a great way to show your joy this holiday season. And if you order now you'll beat the rush and be prepared for the holidays early. Our cards come in packages of 20 cards with envelopes. Each package is \$15 plus shipping and handling, and all proceeds go to help provide guide dogs free of charge to men and women who are blind.

### A Boy by Window

Inside message: blank

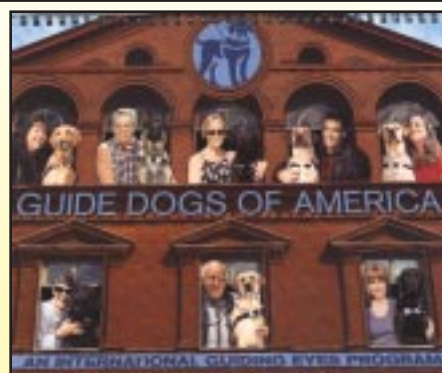
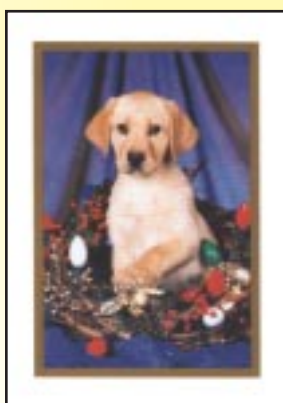


### B Black Lab Mona

Inside message: "Happy Holidays"

### C Yellow Lab Harlow

Inside message: "May this magical season fill your heart and home with happiness and love"



## GDA'S FAMOUS DOG CALENDAR - only \$15

Our Annual Calendar is back and better than ever. The 2003 edition features pictures of some of the most handsome dogs you'll find anywhere. Give them to your dog-loving friends, and help provide mobility, independence, and companionship to the blind at the same time. Our full-color calendar is only \$15 (plus \$2 S&H). The quantity is limited, so don't wait! Order yours now.

## GDA MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Information:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

☐ Check: Please make payable to Guide Dogs of America and mail it to GDA in the enclosed envelope.

**Mail this entire form with your payment in the enclosed envelope.**

Holiday Cards	Quantity	Price	Subtotal
A. Boy by Window		\$15.00	
B. Black Lab Mona		\$15.00	
C. Yellow Lab Harlow		\$15.00	
2003 Calendar	Quantity	Price	Subtotal
GDA's Famous Dog Calendar		\$15.00	

\*Shipping & Handling:

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:**

### \*SHIPPING & HANDLING

FOR CARDS	
QUANTITY	COST
1 package	Add \$3
2-4 packages	Add \$6
5-10 packages	Add \$8
10 or more packages	Call GDA at 818-362-5834, ext. 0

FOR CALENDAR	
QUANTITY	COST
Any qty of calendars	Add \$2

Thanks for supporting Guide Dogs of America. Allow 2 weeks for processing and delivery.  
Mail this entire form with your payment in the enclosed envelope.

# 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.

## A Volunteer's Volunteer -

For more than 16 years, Florence Mast has been one of GDA's most dependable volunteers. She is now our Tender Loving Care Coordinator who helps to make sure our dogs get all the affection they need. Thanks to Florence for her dedication to our wonderful dogs.



Steve Burkman, Director of Operations, awards a plaque of distinction to Florence Mast for her long years of volunteer service to GDA.

## Quilts with Feeling

The Santa Clarita Valley Quilt Guild held a wonderful contest to design tactile quilts for hanging in our dorms. One entry depicted a favorite dog, complete with fuzzy ears, and a leather tongue. Another was a lovely lawn scene of a boy holding a teddy bear next to a pond. Other entries had Braille words spelled out with buttons. The quilts were judged by GDA graduates Rebecca Albarran and Lorri Bernson, and the quilters were awarded prizes in various categories.

Thanks to all who took part in this project and created such remarkably original and creative quilts. We're still looking for additional tactile quilts and wall hangings (objects must be securely fastened). For more information, call Andi Krusoe at (818) 362-5834, ext. 228.

## In Memory of Larry Teter and Dennis Syposs -

We're so grateful for the recent donation of \$277,185 from the estate of Dennis Syposs. Since 1995, the estate has given a total of \$475,000 to GDA in memory of Larry Teter and Dennis Syposs.



Sandra Mullikin, Executor of the Estate of Dennis Syposs.

## A Thank You and a Welcome -

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Karen Srour of the National Charity League for her hard work as President of the San Fernando Valley Chapter on behalf of GDA. In the last year, the NCL members and their daughters raised \$7,500 for GDA, and put in over 800 hours of volunteer time. They are a godsend. As Karen completes her term we want to thank her, and welcome Virginia Tong, the new president for 2002-2003. Thanks to all the members of the NCL for all they do for guide dogs!

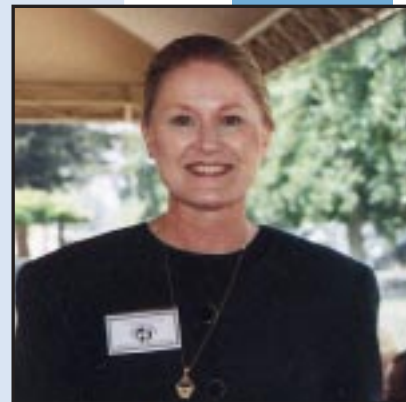
## Kids Working for Pups

GDA has recently been the beneficiary of the hard work of some remarkable school groups. Thanks so much to all the kids. Their enthusiasm and commitment to providing guide dogs to people who cannot see is an inspiration to us all!

- Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School in Los Angeles, CA - \$4,600 raised through community service work
- Lincoln Middle School in Santa Monica, CA - \$1,980 raised in a Pennies for Pups drive
- Franklin Elementary School in Manitowoc, WI - \$1,900 raised through monthly cookie, cupcake, popcorn, and orange drink sales
- Long Ranch Elementary School in Thousand Oaks, CA - \$3,000 raised through a jog-a-thon

For information on how your school or civic group can raise money for guide dogs, call Rachel Utiger at (818) 362-5834, ext. 225.

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



Karen Srour of the National Charity League.





## The Puppy Corner

We have had a bountiful crop of new puppies this spring and summer. Every GDA supporter plays a role in bringing these wonderful guide-dogs-to-be into the world. Thanks!

Breed	Number of Puppies	Date of Birth
Black/Yellow Labrador	8	4/27/02
Black Labrador	8	4/29/02
German Shepherd	7	5/14/02
Black Labrador	7	5/21/02
Golden Retriever	11	5/30/02
Black/Yellow Labrador	5	6/1/02
Golden Retriever	11	6/14/02
Black Labrador	8	7/10/02
Yellow Labrador	5	7/22/02



If you'd like to be a Puppy Raiser to one of these future guide dogs, please call Louise Henderson at 818-362-5834, ext. 234.



### GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

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## GRADUATION CLASS #334



Front row, graduates and guide dogs from left to right: Alan Kelman and Corbin, Larry Edwards and Doshi, Connie Paschall and Brumbi, Mary Anne Bonifacio and Wrenie, Rhiannon Hughes and FeeBee, Sheila Huggins and Takara, Lynn Bary and Wryan, Sally Pacheco and Cherry, David Rosenkoetter and Lali. *Instructors (standing) left to right:* Kris Schmidt, Jean Richardson, Bob Wendler.

## GRADUATION CLASS #335

Front row, graduates and guide dogs from left to right: Steve Hazzard and Boston, Kandie Springer and Fletch, Kim Pomatto and Doron, Santiago Martinez and Fenix, Rayna Henry and Berlin, Melissa Barry and Charlie, Malinda Carter and Ansel, Ethel LaRoche and Fayda, Dominic Martinelli and Angel. *Instructors (standing) left to right:* Jessica Alfenito, Yvonne Martin, Bob Wendler.

