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# GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

# Partners

VOLUME 20  
NUMBER 2  
SUMMER 2005

## How Two Partners **FIND** Each Other

One of the most crucial steps in creating the unique partnership of a guide dog and a person without sight is to match the right dog with the right person.

The process starts with an application packet being filled out, along with a complete physical by their doctor. Our instructors will then visit the potential student to gain a better understanding of their personality and lifestyle, make sure their living arrangements are suitable for a dog, and to get a feel for the environment in which the student and dog will be working.

Trina Began, one of GDA's senior instructors, outlines some of the key factors.

*"We want to get a feel for the applicant's lifestyle. We attempt to determine if their orientation and mobility skills could be enhanced by the use of a guide dog. At what pace are they comfortable walking? What is their activity level? Do they work outside the home? Have they ever had a dog?"*

*"We also need to know about the neighborhood. What are the streets like and how much traffic is*

*continued on page 2*



Riva and Rumor, two purebred Labrador Retriever Black & Tan puppies and future guide dogs.

## Black & Tan and PURE All Over

Every once in a while, in a litter of Labrador puppies, there will be a surprise.

Rather than looking like a Labrador that is just one color – black or yellow – Black & Tan Labs have a little of both colors, but are just as much a purebred Lab as his or her solid colored siblings.

The Black & Tan coloration is the result of a recessive gene, which means mothers and fathers who look like normal black or yellow Labs can carry the Black & Tan gene. If both the mother and father carry this gene they can occasionally have one or more Black & Tan puppies in their litters.

So if you see a black puppy-in-training with tan highlights on his muzzle, chest or legs, he might look like a mixed breed to you but he's really a purebred Labrador that has what it takes to become a great guide dog! 🐾



## PARTNERS NEWSLETTER

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13445 Glenoaks Blvd.  
Sylmar, CA 91342  
818/362-5834  
818/362-6870 fax

**EMAIL:**  
mail@guidedogsofamerica.org

**WEBSITE:**  
www.guidedogsofamerica.org

**EDITOR:**  
Lorri Bernson

**CONTRIBUTORS:**  
Jay Bormann  
Trina Began  
Rhonda Bissell  
Meri Forman  
Louise Henderson  
Andi Krusoe  
Debbie Sands

How Two Partners Find Each Other continued from page 1

there? We check for the condition of sidewalks, the route the guide dog user would take to work, to the grocery store, etc.”

All of this information is used by our Selection Committee to determine whether the person could benefit from a guide dog and if having a guide dog would improve their mobility.

On the other side of the equation is the dog. We selectively breed our dogs for traits such as good health and temperament. But as anyone who has ever had a dog knows, every dog has its own personality.

*“Some dogs like to walk at a fast pace,” Trina says, “and some like a much slower pace. Some dogs need to walk miles every day, whereas others don’t. All dogs respond differently to different voice inflections, so even the person’s voice tone is part of the matching process.”*

To make sure we have an excellent match for each student, we usually have 16-18 dogs prepared for a typical class of 10 students. But when a student has been accepted and comes to GDA for the 28-day training program, we don’t match a dog and a person right away. The first three days are what we call “Juno training.”

Our instructors use a harness and pretend to be “Juno.” For three days, instructors like Trina act as the student’s guide dog to get a feel for how the student would handle a real guide dog.

*“During the Juno assessment we are looking for the student’s comfort level in reference to pace and the pull of the dog.”*

During the first three days, the instructors interview each student again to get a better feel for their expectations and other factors.

Taking all that information together, the instructors pair up each student with a dog who matches them as much as possible in personality and temperament, gait, activity level, and physical strength.

The goal is to create a team that will be successful for many years to come. The process is extensive, yet so rewarding, because if you ask our graduates who are partnered with our dogs, you’ll recognize how they benefit. So many of them say, *“I can’t believe how well my dog matches my personality, my needs, and my lifestyle. It’s a perfect match!”*

It’s a wonderful thing to see when two partners who were made for each other stroll down the sidewalk with joy and confidence.. 🐾

# GRADUATION



## Class #346

Seated from left to right – Thomas Olzak and Wrigley, Kim Pomatto and Voyager, Laure’ Noble and Vienna, Melissa Barry and Richter, Donna La Vance and Lola, Paul Dang and Marshall, Lisa

Hauptfleisch and Phineas, Tim Franklin and Monroe.

Instructors (standing left to right): Yvonne Martin, Steve Burkman, Wendy Roof

Puppy Raisers (not pictured)



## Class #346

**Wrigley**—Katie & Laura Christensen; **Voyager**—Madeline Wright & Robert Jaroneczyk; **Vienna**—Joanna Wilkinson; **Richter**—Judi Gomez & Miguel Ola; **Lola**—The Primack Family; **Marshall**—Karen & Paul Apolinario; **Phineas**—Brenda Kenworthy & Howard Fitzer; **Monroe**—Alyson & Alan Verchick



# WISH LIST

We're wishing and hoping that some of our friends will be able to donate some of the following items.

- EZ-Ups lightweight shade structures 8' x 8' or 10' x 10'
- Tall standing fans

## NURSERY:

- Snuggle Safe microwave heatpads for pets
- Small crates: 21" x 16" x 15"

## KENNEL:

- Nylabone products (in LARGE size only)
- #4, #7 and #10 blades for Oster A-5 Grooming Clippers
- Heavy-duty/non-destructible kiddie pools

## VET Dept:

- Kongs (medium & large)
- Orthopedic pet beds (28" x 36")

## TRAINING Dept:

- Long-range Walkie-Talkies
- Long-range 2-way communication headsets (2 pairs)

## STUDENT DORM:

- Portable cassette/AM/FM players
- Talking alarm clocks with large digital read-out
- Braille games ([www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org) and other blind-related websites)



## New Dogs To Match With – More Choices Than Ever

For many years, the breeds most often used for guide dogs were German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, and Golden Retrievers. But GDA and other guide dog schools have recently begun to accept Standard Poodles, and strategic crosses between breeds.

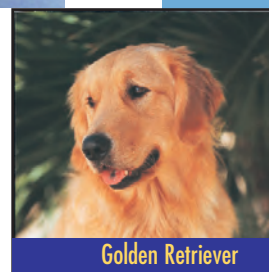
Two of our first cross-breeds just recently graduated as guide dogs. One was a cross between a Golden Retriever and a Standard Poodle – a “golden-doodle”. The other was a cross between a Golden Retriever and a Labrador Retriever—a

“goldador” or a “golden-lab.” GDA is now raising about 20 mixed-breed puppies.

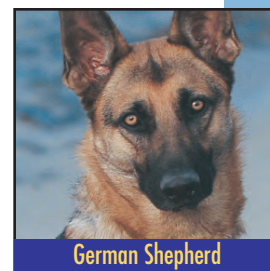
The goal is to increase the range of dogs available to become guide dogs. A key concern for some people is allergies and like the general population, a portion of people who are blind are allergic to dogs. Poodles and many crosses with poodles don't produce as much dander as most dogs, which greatly reduces allergy concerns.

Other crosses are an attempt to merge the best traits of two breeds, such as the responsiveness of a Golden Retriever and the confidence of a Labrador. While every breed has a range of personality types, there are some general trends among the breeds bred to become guide dogs.

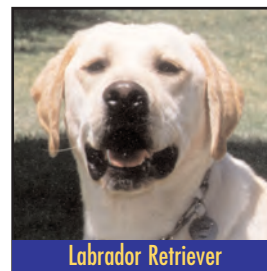
Though we have just begun a breeding program for Standard Poodles, we are not breeding any of the crosses. Several of our experienced dog breeding friends have donated the puppies that are now making their way through the program. These dogs will give us new options for finding the perfect match between a guide dog and a person without sight. 🐾



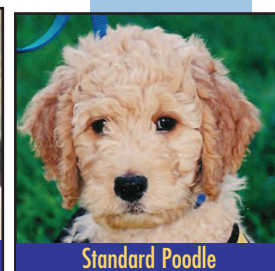
Golden Retriever



German Shepherd



Labrador Retriever



Standard Poodle

**We'd love to hear from our readers!**

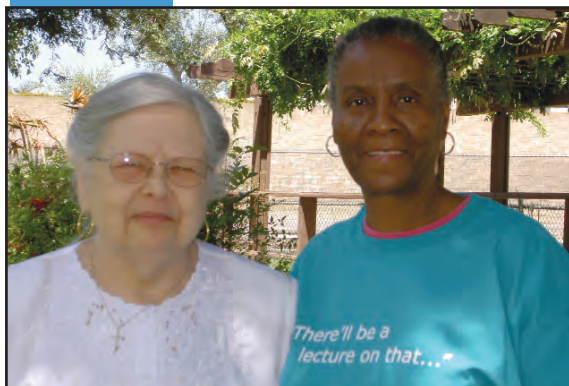


Send us your ideas, suggestions or comments about our newsletter, “Partners” to [Partners@guidedogsofamerica.org](mailto:Partners@guidedogsofamerica.org). Tell what you'd like to see in an upcoming issue!



# 20 Years And Going Strong

Two of GDA's most loyal and most dedicated, employees will be reaching their 20th Anniversary this year. We are grateful for their hard work and their friendship to fellow employees, our dogs, and to the blind people we serve.



Employees Pat Siehr (left) and Angie Wellington celebrate 20 years with GDA.

## Pat Siehr – Donor Data Manager

Even before Pat Siehr accepted a job at GDA, she was involved as a Puppy Raiser, something she has continued to do over the years, having

raised four puppies for GDA. When Pat first started working on donor records in 1985, all our records were kept on 3x5 index cards. After having gone through four system conversions over the years, Pat has become very proficient at modern donor record keeping and communication. She greatly enjoys getting to know GDA's donors.

*"They are such great people. Very faithful."*

Pat brings her two dogs, Sassy and Trischka to work with her everyday, where they help her keep everything in perspective. *"I came to California for the climate 25 years ago, and have been here ever since. I'm glad I have had the chance to work here. The employees and volunteers are great. And the dogs are wonderful. What a special group of people and animals!"*

## Angie Wellington - Cook

Angie Wellington moved to California from Louisiana in 1985 with no job. When she saw the listing for a job at GDA in the *Pennysaver*, she knew nothing about the school. But in the 20 years since, she has played a key role in our mission, keeping our students well-fed, healthy and feeling at home.

*"It's wonderful to work someplace where we are reaching out to others. You never know when you or one of your loved ones might need a guide dog."*

Over the years, Angie has fed hundreds of students, and some of her specialties have become great favorites. In fact, our recently published GDA Cookbook includes her not-so-secret recipes for french toast, BBQ ribs, mac & cheese and her famous potato salad.

Congratulations to Angie and Pat! 🐾

**STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH GDA**  
[www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org)

## A Range Of Ways To Help

For those who want to donate to help provide the companionship, mobility, and independence a guide dog can give to a person who is blind, there are ways to help that fit every budget. And every gift is greatly appreciated. Here are a few possibilities for your next donation and we've enclosed a reply envelope to make it easier to support GDA today.

- Puppy Kit \$25 (Goes home with new puppy – leash, collar, I.D. tag, stainless steel bowl, sterilized bone, small bag of dog food & puppy raising manual)
- Feed one dog in GDA kennel for one month \$50
- Guide Dog Graduation Kit \$100 (Goes home with graduate and guide dog – nylon collar, working collar, 2 tie-downs, leash, heartworm medication, grooming tools, dog toy, dog bed & small bag of dog food)
- Specially-designed custom leather harness \$175
- Spay or neuter one dog \$250
- Vaccines for puppies in Puppy Raiser homes \$300
- Feed one dog during six month guide dog training \$300
- Travel expenses for one student \$750
- Room & board for one student for 28 days \$2,000
- Student Accommodation Sponsor \$3,000 (includes room & board, travel expenses, and graduate kit)
- Puppy Sponsorship \$4,000
- Sponsor one guide or one student \$19,000
- Sponsor one guide dog team \$38,000





# Puppy Raiser Corner



## Growing Up with Guide Dogs

As she prepares to go off to college soon, Laura Coyle can still remember pretty clearly the days in junior high school when she hated to be seen with her parents and the guide dog puppies they were raising for GDA. *"As a young teenager, being seen with my mom was bad enough, but the extra attention generated by the dog made it even worse. It would take us an hour just to buy milk at the convenience store."*

Of course, there were lots of fun times with the puppies, too, and as Laura got older, she began to appreciate the importance of what her family had been doing. After she attended a couple of graduations, she found that she wanted to be associated with those guide dog puppies more than ever – even if they were with her mom.

Today, she is very proud of her role in helping to raise puppies for GDA. Laura is an excellent student, but she says, *"While I take pride in my academic and extracurricular activities, I have found my greatest sense of accomplishment in teaching my puppy not to eat Kleenex off the bottom shelf at the grocery store!"*

We wish Laura the best of luck in all her future endeavors. We know she will be a friend to GDA for many, many years to come.

## Puppy Raisers and Motorcycles

Sometimes, you've got to go where the prospects are. In April, a group of GDA Puppy Raisers went to Tom's Farm in Corona, CA, a favorite gathering place for motorcycle enthusiasts, to promote GDA's Ride for Guides, which took place on May 22nd (see page 8). The Puppy Raisers manned a booth with a couple of adorable guide dog puppies, and encouraged hundreds of riders to join us in a fun event for a good cause. The puppies were a great hit, of course, and GDA gained many new friends that day. Our thanks go out to the Puppy Raisers and their dogs.

## Dalmatians for a Day

Puppy Raisers go to great lengths to make sure their puppies are comfortable in any situation, so Puppy Raiser groups are always looking for new experiences for their puppies. In February, the South Bay GDA Puppy Raisers and the Orange County GDA Puppy Raisers met at the Irvine Fire Station #38 to spend the morning with firemen and fire trucks.

It was an interesting time for both humans and dogs, as the fireman graciously explained all their equipment and procedures. The puppies got to meet the firemen dressed in their full suits. They were even tested when a fire truck was driven by with lights flashing and siren going as the puppies were walking at heel.

The trip ended with a great lunch in front of a roaring fire at the Champs Restaurant in the Irvine Spectrum. All who attended, puppies and their raisers, express their thanks to the Irvine Fire Station #38, and to all who helped to organize the event.



## A Tiny Down Payment On The Debt We Owe To Our Volunteers

*Thanks!*

There's no way we could ever repay all the generous people who give so much of their time and energy to Guide Dogs of America. The best we can do is give them a great meal at our Annual Volunteer Luncheon and tell them over and over again how much we appreciate them.

So that's what we did on March 19th. The student dormitory was dressed up for the occasion with flowers and balloons, and fabulous food was donated by Portos Bakery in Glendale. Close to 100 people attended, including dozens of volunteers who help in the office, perform public speaking engagements for GDA, organize and conduct fundraisers... the list goes on and on.

An organization like Guide Dogs of America can't survive without great volunteers who believe in our mission, so we hope all our volunteers know just how much we appreciate them. Thank you!

If you are interesting in learning about volunteer opportunities at GDA, call (818)362-5834, ext. 310. 🐾





## SWIMMING WITH THE PRESIDENT

There aren't many guide dogs who can claim to have shared a swimming pool with a president of the United States, but Paul Jordan's Rawhide can. Rawhide's Puppy Raiser was John Barletta, who was

assigned as a Secret Service Agent to the late President Ronald Reagan from 1980 until John retired in 1997. Over that time, he became a close friend of the President and Mrs. Reagan, and after his retirement, John often brought Rawhide with him when he visited the Reagans. The President loved to swim and he loved dogs, so it was natural that he would invite Rawhide into the pool with him.

Based on his experiences, John wrote a book, Riding With Reagan, which is now in bookstores nationwide. In his book, John mentions that guide dog Rawhide is named for the Secret Service code name for President Reagan.

John's heady days of guarding presidents are over, but he's enjoying his new job raising puppies like

Rawhide for GDA. "These dogs are so amazing. I like my solitude, but these dogs entered my life and I feel blessed. And it's so gratifying to see that what you have worked so hard on makes such a difference in the life of a blind person."

Paul Jordan, the person who now shares his life with Rawhide, couldn't agree more.

"Rawhide has opened a whole new world for me. He gives me physical and emotional confidence. The people who provide these dogs are the greatest. They all belong in heaven, in my opinion."

After meeting at graduation, Paul and John became good friends and have continued to visit each other regularly.

John protected and took care of Presidents, and now Rawhide protects and takes care of Paul. Rawhide may have swum with the President, but he knows exactly where he is most needed today, and nothing could make John more proud. 🐾



Puppy raiser John Barletta enjoys visiting with Paul Jordan and his guide dog, Rawhide.

A



### A. Men's Polo Shirt

- navy blue
- 100% cotton pique
- Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- \$35 ea. (S&H included)



### C. GDA Baseball Cap

- khaki and black
- 100% cool cotton
- comfortable six-gore style fits everyone
- \$18 ea. (S&H included)



C

### B. Women's Sleeveless Polo Shirt

- black
- 100% cotton pique
- Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL
- \$35 ea. (S&H included)

B



## Early Announcement! 2005 Holiday Cards!

### E. Pups Go Shopping

- inside message: Season's Greetings
- 15 cards and envelopes
- \$18 per package (S&H included)



### D. Insulated Nylon Lunch Bag/Tote

- navy blue
- sturdy and practical for snacks and lunches
- \$13 ea. (S&H included)



D

## GDA SUMMER FASHIONS FORM

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

### PAYMENT INFORMATION:

☐ Please make your check payable to Guide Dogs of America (GDA).

Telephone Number ( )

Name

Address

City State ZIP

Your purchases help support the work of Guide Dogs of America. Please allow 2-4 weeks for processing and delivery. THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS OR CREDIT CARD ORDERS  
Call GDA at (818) 362-5834, ext. 310

Item	QTY/Size						Price	Subtotal
A. Men's Polo Shirt	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	\$35 ea.	
B. Women's Sleeveless Polo Shirt	S	M	L	XL	2XL		\$35 ea.	
C. GDA Baseball Cap							\$18 ea.	
D. Lunch Bag/Tote							\$13 ea.	
E. Holiday Cards*							\$18 ea.	

\* Shipping and Handling for orders of 2 or more Holiday Cards ONLY  
Call GDA at (818) 362-5834, ext. 310 to obtain shipping cost.

TOTAL ENCLOSED:





## IN MEMORY

Guide Dogs of America has recently lost some wonderful friends and dogs.

### Friends

#### Working Men And Women Lose A Great Champion – Frank Souza

On February 19th, working men and women all over the world lost a great champion when Frank Souza passed away at his home in Oakland. Frank became a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM&AW) nearly 50 years ago, and rose to leadership positions in the 60s. He retired as Directing Business Representative for IAM&AW in 1989.

Over the years, Frank became known to everyone from the guys on the shop floor to Senators and Fortune 500 CEOs as a man who dealt fairly and straightly, and who never quit working for the rights of workers.

As a leader of the IAM&AW, Frank was always supportive of the union's backing of GDA. The

world lost a great force for justice and GDA lost a good friend.

All of us at GDA offer our sincere condolences to Frank's wife Virginia, and his children and grandchildren. Our hearts are with them.

### Graduate

- **Cecil Faulkner**—Class #295

### Guide Dogs

- **Brevin**—Class #323
- **Hook**—Class #298
- **Lolly**—Class #312
- **Sally**—Class #308
- **Vanish**—Class #316
- **Whistler**—Class #309

### Breeding Dogs

- **Katie**
- **Kadin**
- **Maestro**—This black lab was a legend while alive for his extraordinary ability to sire some of GDA's best guide dogs. Truly, his legacy will live on in the generations of pups that follow him. 🐾



## 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.

### Waking Up to The Unseen Bean

GDA graduate Gerry Leary and his guide dog Midnight have always been grateful that GDA brought them together. That's why their coffee house, "The Unseen Bean" donates the coffee that greets our students every morning during their training. Our students offer a wide-awake thank you to Gerry and Midnight!

### The Lions and the Flea Market

The Malibu Lions club Annual Flea Market for Charity is a yearly favorite. And each year, one lucky charity is the recipient of all the proceeds. This year, the Lions chose GDA, and we are greatly honored. GDA friends who attended the Flea Market had a wonderful time, and the donation will help breed, raise, and train guide dogs for people who are blind. Our roaring big thank you to the Malibu Lions club!



### Pennies for Pups

Kids and staff at the Curtis School presenting a Pennies for Puppies check to GDA for over \$600. After a visit about 5-6 months ago by GDA volunteers the elementary school kids began collecting money for the pups at GDA.



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



## Puppies, Puppies Everywhere!

GDA Labrador puppies, of course! Twenty-five sweet bundles of love have been born since mid-February.

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.



### GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

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## Partners in Trust...

Just as blind men and women partner with GDA's remarkable dogs for more independence and mobility, generous friends and supporters partner with GDA to help us carry out our work.

Become a member of the "Partners in Trust Society" by naming GDA

in your will or trust and receive this beautiful, crystal biscuit jar. Call Rhonda Bissell at (818)362-5834, ext. 229 for more information. 🐾

## A Motorcycle Run For Guide Dogs



route along the Angeles Forest Highway. The ride began at GDA, continued with three stops along the way, and ended again at GDA, where poker, raffles and a great BBQ finished off an outstanding day.

Thanks to all who came to help raise money to provide guide dogs to people who are blind. See you next year! 🐾



Thanks to all those who made our Second Annual Ride for Guides on May 22 such a great success. More than 200 bikes and 80 passengers came to our Poker Run and rode an 90 mile

## Guide Dogs of America Foundation

## PICK YOUR SPORT To Raise Money For Guide Dogs

The Guide Dogs of America Foundation has two great sports fundraising events coming soon. Please join us!

Our Annual Golf Classic attracts more and more people every year because it's such a fun event for such a worthwhile cause. This year, we'll be playing for big prizes at Robinson Ranch Golf Club in Santa Clarita, CA on August 29th, 2005. It's sure to be a perfect day with fun people and delicious food. For more information, call (818) 362-5834 ext. 300.

Or if bowling is your sport of choice, join us on Sunday October 16, 2005, for our Annual Bowlathon at Canoga Park Bowl. Sign in time is at 11:00 and bowling begins at noon.

Of course, if you like golf and bowling, we hope to see you at both events! 🐾