



**GDA Celebrates 60 Years!** As seen in this photo from the late 50s, German Shepherds exclusively were trained as guide dogs for many years.



**GUIDE DOGS  
OF AMERICA**

13445 Glenoaks Blvd.  
Sylmar, CA 91342

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

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## IN MEMORY

*With sadness we note the passing of GDA family members:*

**Karen Hollister — Graduate**

**Mary Novak — Graduate**

*We also note with sadness the passing of the following guide dogs and breeder for their dedication to ensuring the safety and independence of their partners:*

**C-Broker — Class 321.5**

**Picasso — Class 314**

**Merlin — Class 312**

**Rosie — Breeder**

**Midnight — Class 327.5**

**Whitney — Class 310**

**Natasha — Class 306**

**Taz — Class 327.5**

**Nike — In home training**

**Tracer — Classes 311 & 307**

**Kyla (aka Rocket) — In-home training**

**"I think Willow saves me from danger all the time, actually. I move quickly and she is very smart and more stubborn than me. She will look at me with her questioning look and pull hard the other way. She has even pushed me over a little bit many times to keep me from hurting myself. After she does this, I will notice she has moved me away from a situation where I could have been hurt."** KAREN MCINTYRE, GRADUATE



## GDA GEARING UP FOR 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "RIDE FOR GUIDES"

The 5th Annual "Ride for Guides" is around the corner (down the highway and through the hills). **Sunday, May 18th** is the date for this year's ride. The ride is 100-miles round trip and will begin and end at GDA. Nearly 500 riders on 400 motorcycles joined us last year. This year, we look forward to seeing many familiar as well as new faces.

**Early registration – by May 1, 2008 – is encouraged and appreciated.** Savings on the price of registration and a special bonus will be extended to those riders who sign-up by this date. Early registration is \$25. Ride day registration is \$30. For registration forms, information, sponsorship opportunities, or if you'd like to help by donating new items for our prize drawings, please call Lorri Bernson at (818) 833-6431. Registration forms also are available by clicking on the "Events Calendar" at our web site: [www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org).

## SAVE THE DATE! 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL "PARTNER'S" AWARDS DINNER

Saturday, September 27, 2008 is the date of this year's "Partner's" Awards Dinner, which will be held at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For information, contact Debbie Sands at (818) 833-6433.



# Partners

spring 2008 volume 24 number 1

## GDA CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

*In* the 60 year history of Guide Dogs of America there have been many changes as the school continuously seeks new and better ways of serving the blind community. But over the years something has never changed, and that is the school's mission, which is:

"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."

Established in 1948 as International Guiding Eyes (IGE), the school was one of the first guide dog schools to be founded by a blind individual, and one of the first to adopt a policy of no upper age discrimination. At 57-years-old and visually impaired, Joseph Jones appealed to and gained the support of his Union, the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers (IAM&AW). With the IAM&AW providing the needed funding, Mr. Jones became the school's founder and its first student.

The school's first location was a house in North Hollywood that had been modified to accommodate the students and create the administrative office. Due to limited space, class size was only two students. The school was moved to a larger North Hollywood home, where the extra space provided room for six students per class. In 1982 the school relocated to its current location in Sylmar.

"Celebrating 60 Years" continued on page 3 >



The school's first location was a residence in North Hollywood.



With the support of the IAM&AW, Union Member Joseph Jones (pictured with his guide dog, Lucy), founded the school.

## IT TAKES TRAINING AND TIME TO BUILD GRADUATES' TRUST IN THEIR GUIDE DOGS

*It took a literal "thump on the head" before Larry Edwards' guide dog had his complete trust. Tiffany Kim had to overcome her fear of dogs before she was ready to consider, much less trust, a guide dog for her mobility.*

*Trust is something every guide dog will have to work hard to earn and the work begins the first day the team meets. For our graduates, trusting their guide dog doesn't necessarily happen during their four weeks of*



Larry Edwards and Doshi

*class. It often takes several months. And, as you will read, this is as true for graduates who have had several guides as it is for new graduates.*

**Talk to Larry Edwards** and you'd never guess it took a thump on the head before Doshi, his guide dog of nearly six years, earned his trust. Even though Larry's vision loss had become progressively more profound since age five, he never had used any mobility aids before his guide dog. For Larry, who was in his early 60s, it was a thump on the head that brought him to GDA.

"Training to Trust" continued on page 2 >

## "Training to Trust" continued from page 1...

It was on Larry's walk to work and he could hear his bus coming. Quickly turning and hoping to catch the bus, Larry started running. He ran smack into a metal pole suffering a broken nose and facial injuries. Learning of Larry's accident a friend suggested that he consider a guide dog and shortly thereafter, Larry arrived at the school. Returning home after graduation, the new team resumed Larry's routine. "I think any guide dog user with some vision believes he sees better than the dog, and I had just enough vision to get myself into trouble," recalled Larry. During those first few months when Doshi would approach an obstacle and stop, Larry would urge his guide to go "his way." When Larry got his way, a trip or stumble often served as a reminder to trust Doshi. For Larry, it may have taken a second thump in the head from a low tree limb – a limb Doshi had tried to help him avoid – but his complete trust, respect, and love for his guide has only grown since that day.

**Repeating a class is something Bill Dailey**, a gerontology teacher at his local city college, hopes none of his students ever has to do. But Bill, who recently received his third guide dog, doesn't mind repeating class at GDA. A guide dog user for 13 years, this past summer Bill graduated with Farley. "Every dog has his own personality, stride, and mannerisms," said Bill. "You can't take anything for granted based on your experience with your previous dog. It will take much longer to work as a team and build trust." For Bill trust starts at the school and builds



Bill Dailey with Farley (in-harness) & Merlin (retired)

at home in your day-to-day environment. Steadily gaining Bill's trust, Farley is off to a good start. "From my experience, I think it takes six months to a year to have complete confidence in your dog," he said. Visually impaired since birth, Bill started using a guide dog in his 30s when he lost 80% of the vision he still had. "Periodically, I will misjudge traffic and Farley will stop," admitted Bill. "He is always paying attention, even if sometimes I am not. A guide dog remembers what he's been taught and will always work to keep you safe."

**From time to time Vivian Conger second guesses** her sixth guide dog, Blaze. "In class they tell us to always trust your dog, but there are times when we are someplace new and I will second guess her," said Vivian, who began to lose her sight in 1986. She also said there are times that she'll second guess Blaze even in a place that is familiar to her. "I should know to always leave it to Blaze because she's the one who's probably right. When my limited vision starts to affect my judgment, I close my eyes and focus on my hearing,"



Vivian Conger and Blaze

**"From my experience, I think it takes six months to a year to have complete confidence in your dog."**

—Bill Dailey, three-time guide dog recipient

said Vivian. "At those times, it's not Blaze I am second guessing, it's me." A team for nearly five years, Blaze earned Vivian's trust in class. At home, Blaze quickly learned Vivian's route to her job at the community help center and earned Vivian's trust all over again.

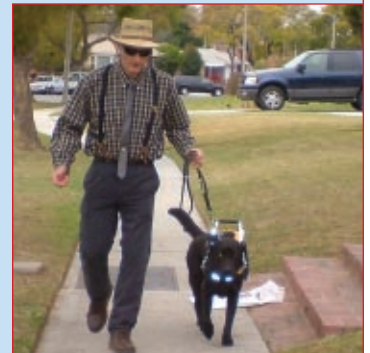
**Tiffany graduated from GDA this past July** with her first guide dog, Lara. In a few months, the pair will graduate again. Tiffany will be the only one of the team graduating, but Lara will be walking with her when she accepts her sociology degree from the University of California. Tiffany who has been blind since birth, overcame a long time fear of dogs, and now can't imagine being without Lara's companionship. However, that was not the case when the



Tiffany Kim and Lara

team first returned to school for Tiffany's final year. Tiffany discovered she had something new to overcome. Since freshman year, Tiffany always had made her way to class using her cane. She was proud of how well she knew the school and was feeling reluctant to put her trust in Lara to successfully navigate the large campus she had spent three years mastering. During those first months Tiffany would wonder, "Why should I trust her?" Saying to herself, "I know this school better than she does, why is she dictating which way to go?" Now, with the first quarter completed and the second quarter well underway, Tiffany knows why she trusts Lara. "I get to class faster than ever before and we have met a lot of new people together. Next year we'll be going to graduate school and learning a new campus together."

**Surgery at 18 months old gave Brian Collins** some sight, but no measurable vision. A proficient cane-user, he didn't understand the benefits of having a guide dog until he met a GDA graduate. Brian graduated with Keegan about a year ago and trusted his new guide right away. That trust



Brian Collins and Keegan

was cemented when the team attended a seminar. Access to the building's multiple levels was via a series of single-lane pathways which presented a particularly difficult challenge. Guide dogs are trained to stay on the users' left, but because the pavement was smooth on the left and had wide-spread steps on the right, it created a problem for the new team, at first. Without stairs on Keegan's side of the path, Brian was not able to pick up on his guide's body language signaling him to move closer, causing him to stumble on the stairs. Throughout the week, the team walked the path and mastered the challenge. "That experience helped me to learn to trust Keegan," said Brian. "Every now and then something unexpected pops up and I know we'll be able to handle it." 🐾

# "SHADOWS OF LIGHT" SHINES BRIGHTLY ON GDA

## Record Funds Raised at 27<sup>th</sup> Annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet and Golf Tournament

For the past 27 years GDA's Annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet and Golf Tournament has shined the spotlight on the school and its program. Setting new fundraising records again this year, the weekend-long event has grown to become one of the most successful ways in which GDA raises money to fulfill its mission.

As has been the tradition for the past seven years, the Annual Las Vegas Hawgs for Dawgs motorcycle ride served as the kick-off event for the weekend. On a bright, beautiful morning, 80 riders on 50 bikes took off from the Paris Hotel. The group rode out to the scenic "Valley of Fire," Nevada's first state park, where they refueled with a fabulous lunch and were awarded their raffle and door prizes before heading back to Las Vegas.

The following morning, Revere Golf Club in Henderson, NV provided the location for the next "driving" event. The golf tournament attracted 288 golfers, who for the most part, stayed out of the "ruff." It was a great day and another bright spot in the weekend.

Bally's Hotel ballroom was the site of the weekend's spotlight event, the 27th Annual William W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet. The banquet was themed "Shadows of Light" and was attended by 1,200 guests. During the evening three prestigious Gift of Sight Awards were presented in recognition of the recipients longstanding commitment to Guide Dogs of America. Honored at this year's banquet were:

**Mark Blondin.** When he was 18, Mark Blondin became a member of the Machinists Union. At 19, he was hired by the Boeing Company in the tooling department where he worked on commercial and military aircraft. A dedicated Union member, Mark has held many positions representing his fellow workers. In 2001, he was elected President and Directing Business Representative

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of District Lodge 741. Mark's top priorities have always been jobs and community service. Under his leadership, nearly \$1 million dollars has been raised for GDA. Mark serves on the Board of Directors of GDA, as well as the Salvation Army, and Families and Friends of Violent Crime Victims. Mark recently was appointed as Overall Boeing IAM&AW Aerospace Coordinator, negotiating agreements between Boeing and the IAM&AW throughout the United States and Canada.

**Lockheed-Martin** (represented by Jeffrey George). From the beginning Lockheed-Martin has been a part of our school's history. IAM&AW Union member Joseph Jones was visually impaired and unable to find a guide dog school to accommodate his needs. He made an appeal to his fellow Union members at the Lockheed-Martin facility in Burbank, CA, to help found a new guide dog school. The proposal was presented to the IAM&AW's Executive Council and approved. Lockheed-Martin has been a dedicated and generous supporter of the school and its mission from the beginning and has continued its support throughout the school's 60 years.

**Alan W. Skolnick.** Active in the multiemployer benefits field for more than 40 years, Alan Skolnick has served as Director for the IAM Benefits Pension Fund since 1993. In this position he is responsible for all fund activities including the health and welfare, and dental and vision care programs for IAM members and their families. Prior to his current position Alan was the Assistant Executive Secretary for the Health and Retirement Fund of the Fur Manufacturing Industry. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans. 🐾



Jay Bormann, GDA President, honors Mark Blondin, GDA Board of Directors member.



Lockheed-Martin was represented by Jeffrey George.



Alan W. Skolnick receives hearty applause for his dedication to GDA.

"Midway through crossing a busy intersection, the traffic light changed. I was still in the middle of the intersection and had no option but to remain where I was until the light changed again. Why I'm here today I don't know. If not for Rugby, I probably wouldn't be." JOHN STIERS, GRADUATE

"My guide dog Raisin is always keeping watch over my safety. The other day I had an eye appointment at the Naval Hospital. Raisin sat between me and the several doctors who were examining my eyes. She was putting herself between me and the doctors because she didn't know who they were. I love my Raisin." KIYO MOKKENTINE, GRADUATE

"I took one step to cross a major intersection and there were dog paws around my ankles. Fremont was executing a move guide dogs are taught to keep you from falling onto the track at train stations. Well, let me tell you, I stopped. An 18-wheel truck had been coasting along the curb and that is why I couldn't hear it. I was only aware of the truck when it accelerated right in front of me to make a right turn. Thank goodness for Fremont and his quick thinking. Without him I would not be writing this today." DEBBIE PAUL, GRADUATE

## "A DAY WITH THE TRAINERS" Is a Once a Year Opportunity

The experience of a lifetime doesn't come around everyday, but it could be just a raffle ticket away. Two lucky people will spend "A Day with Trainers" accompanying them as they transport and work our guide dogs-to-be on training routes, observing daily training exercises, and, after being blindfolded by a trainer, taking harness in hand and being led on a short route with a dog to experience how it feels to be led by a guide. Winners must be at least 18 years of age, able to walk 4-5 miles in one day, and available for "Training Day" on June 25, 2008. Use the order form on this page or purchase tickets at GDA before or on June 14, 2008 (Open House). Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. Winner will be notified on June 18, 2008.

## WHAT ARE THE ODDS? Two winners from PRIOR LAKE, MN!



This year's winner of the GDA raffle of a Custom Pro Street Bike is a resident of Prior Lake, MN, as was the winner of last year's raffle. Dennis Dawson bought the winning ticket from his friend Kelly Mertens. Kelly also sold last year's winning ticket...to his mother, Carol. In fact, Dawson was at the Mertens' home when the bike was delivered and even had considered making an offer to buy it. Turns out he didn't have to. After several spins of the raffle drum, the winning ticket was drawn by GDA graduate Don Kanallakan on November 17 at GDA's Annual Charity Banquet in Las Vegas. What are the odds?

## RAFFLE TICKETS Order Form

Questions? Call (818) 833-6429.

Mail this entire form with your payment. Please note the deadline dates for the raffle ticket purchases to ensure your eligibility.

### A DAY WITH THE TRAINERS RAFFLE

To be eligible entry must be postmarked by June 6, 2008.

Ticket Price: 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00 QTY \$

### CUSTOMIZED HARLEY-DAVIDSON FLHX STREET GLIDE BIKE RAFFLE

To be eligible entry must be postmarked by November 1, 2008.

Ticket Price: 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00 QTY \$

### QUILT RAFFLE

To be eligible entry must be postmarked by December 1, 2008.

Ticket Price: 1 ticket for \$2.00 and 6 tickets for \$10.00. QTY \$

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Credit Card (check one) ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: (required for credit card purchase) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## BUY A TICKET TO RIDE

### Customized Harley-Davidson FLHX Street Glide

Picture this...a brilliant red, Donnie Smith customized Harley-Davidson FLHX Street Glide with custom wheels, custom seat, and wide rear tire, plus features that have been stretched to the max. Stretched fenders. Stretched tank. Stretched saddlebags. Now visit the photo gallery at [www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org) and picture yourself cruising on this motorcycle masterpiece as this year's raffle winner. Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20.

Complete and return the order form on this page (postmarked by Nov. 1, 2008) to purchase tickets. Tickets can also be purchased at GDA or from our secure web site ([www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org)) through Nov. 15, 2008. The winning ticket will be drawn on Nov. 22, 2008 at the Guide Dogs of America Annual Banquet in Las Vegas. (Winner need not be present to claim prize.)

## HEART WARMING QUILT TO BE RAFFLED



For GDA's 60th Anniversary and our annual fundraising raffle, the Orange County Quilt Guild members have created "Dogs Leave Paw Prints on Our Hearts." This one-of-a-kind quilt measures 86" X 72" and features 20 colorful blocks accented with a black-and-white paw print border. Purchase tickets using the order form on this page and mailing it to GDA by Dec. 1, 2008. The drawing will be held at the GDA December 13th puppy raiser meeting. (Winner does not need to be present.)

## "Celebrating 60 Years" continued from page 1...

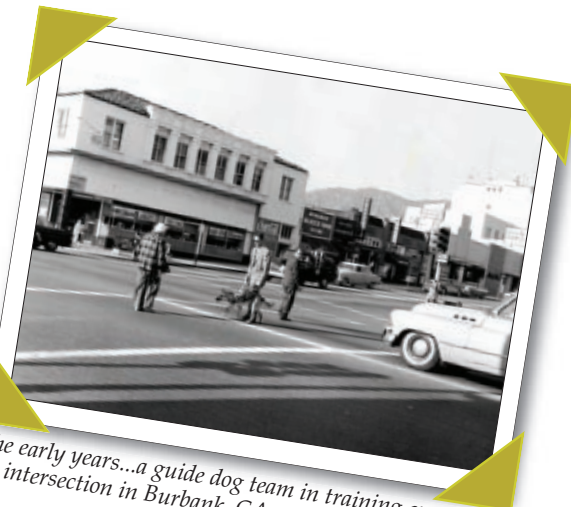
Today, GDA's dormitory house 10 students and every year 40-50 students graduate from the school.

In 1992, International Guiding Eyes changed their "doing-business-as" name to Guide Dogs of America to communicate more clearly its services. Now the organization operates under the name Guide Dogs of America an International Guiding Eyes Program.

From its beginnings at the house in North Hollywood to its present location in Sylmar, the school has always welcomed its students, donors, volunteers, staff, and our dogs as part of a large, extended family.

We sincerely hope you enjoy the "through the years"

photos of GDA we have included in this special 60th Anniversary issue, and we thank you for being a part of our ever-growing GDA family and for your continued support. 🐾



*The early years...a guide dog team in training crosses an intersection in Burbank, CA.*



*View of the GDA's back campus during construction in 1983.*



*GDA's new Sylmar campus was completed in 1984.*

## A DIAMOND IN THE "RUFF" – Open House Theme Celebrates 60 Years!

Mark your calendars and be prepared to be dazzled as GDA celebrates its 60th Anniversary at our annual Open House on Saturday, June 14, 2008. In recognition of the school's diamond anniversary, this year the theme is "A Diamond in the 'Ruff.'"

Open House gives GDA the opportunity to sparkle and show its many facets. In keeping with the celebration of our 60 years, people and pooches are encouraged to wear gem-adorned clothing and jewelry (tiaras, rhinestone dog collars, "diamond" studded clothing, etc.) or "dress for the decades" in your favorite styles from the 40s to present.

Admission to the Open House is free, but there is a charge for food. Gates open at 11 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Events begin at 11 a.m. We do ask that you leave your personal pets at home

## BUILDING GDA'S FUTURE TILE BY TILE



*Personalizing a tile on GDA's Dedication Wall will help support new projects and existing programs at the school.*

In honor of Guide Dogs of America's 60th Anniversary, we have set a goal to complete the tiling of our Dedication and Memorial Walls. By personalizing one or more sections of these tiles you will be helping to support new projects as well as existing programs at the school, which include continuing to build our breeding program, funding off-campus emergency veterinary treatments, and making kennel improvements. Your lasting tribute can be personalized with your name, your pet's name, special dedication and/or memorial etched on tile.

We encourage you to make your contribution to the future of GDA and help us meet our goal of completing these walls during this special anniversary year. There are three levels of dedication to match your specific area of interest and level of philanthropy:

**Puppy Pal - 2" x 6" tile (up to 18 characters, 1 line) - \$50**

**Best Buddy - 4" x 6" tile (up to 18 characters, 1 line) - \$75**

**Faithful Friend - 6" x 6" tile (up to 18 characters, 2 lines) - \$100**

*Please note: characters include letters, numbers, spaces, and punctuation.*

For more information or to personalize a tile, go to the GDA web site ([www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org)) or call Sandy Meyer at (818) 833-6429.

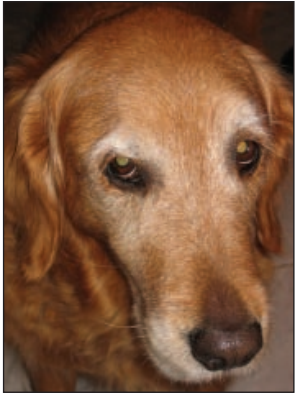


## NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE DEBUTANTES ARE DOG-GONE SPECIAL TO GDA

GDA wishes to congratulate the 12 young women who were recognized for their completion of the National Charity League's (NCL) six-year program of leadership development, cultural awareness, and philanthropy at the organization's 40th Annual Charity Ball in November. As GDA volunteers, these exceptional young women have provided cookies for and hosted our graduations, helped with puppy socialization, sewed puppy coats, assisted at workshops and at Open House, and tackled special projects, including painting our lobby. Additionally, the funds raised by the NCL have helped to fund several projects and programs including new computers and software, the puppy nursery, puppy training, and transportation vans. GDA is honored to be one of the San Fernando Valley Chapter's recipient charities.

## GETTING OLDER...IN DOG YEARS

### Caring for Your Elderly Dog



As with people, dogs slow down with age. The appearance of the signs of aging will depend on the breed and the individual dog. In general, medium-sized dogs more than eight years old and larger dogs more than five years old are considered "elderly."

Although aging is inevitable, there are many things you can do to ensure your dog lives happy, healthy senior years.

- **Take a Walk...Not a Hike** – Daily moderate exercise will do a lot for your aging dog. Short walks will increase circulation, strengthen muscles, improve

heart and lung function, and trim fat. Do not over do it on walks – 10 to 30 minutes depending on the dog.

- **Need a Lift?** – Using a ramp can help a dog that's losing mobility get into a car or up on permitted furniture. Ramps also are particularly useful if your dog is too big for you to easily carry.
- **This Bed is Just Right** – Older dogs often suffer from arthritis and other joint problems. Providing a soft, comfortable place to sleep, whether it's a commercial dog bed or a bundle of old sheets, will help to ease stiffness and discomfort.
- **Chow Hound** – Many dog's nutritional needs will change as they age, requiring different food or nutritional supplements to get the vitamins and minerals they need. Ask your vet for recommendations specific to your dog.
- **Keep it Up** – Elevating your dog's food and water will prevent neck strain and make digestion easier.
- **What's Up Doc?** – Most veterinarians recommend annual or semi-annual checkups for older dogs.

**"Walking down the sidewalk towards home, Conrad came to a sudden stop. After trying to encourage him to continue, I slid my foot forward to find out why he had refused. To my surprise, recent construction had left a drop-off where the sidewalk had been. Following many hugs and 'good boys,' Conrad calmly took me around the hazard and back onto the sidewalk just like it was all in a typical day's work. I'm so grateful for the wonderful job our guides do everyday for us!!!"** RAE HOWELL, GRADUATE

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



### Class #355.75

GRADUATES from LEFT to RIGHT  
(Puppy Raiser in parenthesis):

Val Sirna & Morris (Melissa & Joe Hyams), Richard Guzman & Evan (The Phillips Family), Tony Davis & Silvio (The England Family), Dee Dee Mann & Zinnie (Annette & Tom Kleven)

INSTRUCTORS standing L to R:  
Chuck Jordan and Linda Hawes



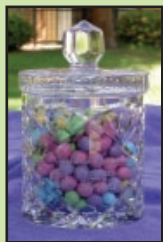
### Class #356

GRADUATES from LEFT to RIGHT (Puppy Raiser in parenthesis):  
Fred Marin & Frasier (The Oppenheim Family), Wendy Sparrow & Lava (Brenda Reid), Nan Lewis & Reese (Tracy Dolan), John McConnell & Naja (Robert & Moira Wunderlich), Paulette Wilson & Radar (Burt & Elin Pittler), Laura Beickman & Karbon (Jason & Cameron Shubb), Kitty Clark & Nayan (Rachel Moldover & John-Paul Hosom), Chris Diller & Kayla (The Prince Family), John Faitro & Ally (Cheryl Doherty)

INSTRUCTORS standing L to R:  
Patty Elizondo, David Ponce, Steve Burkman

- **Things May Change** – Behavioral changes such as becoming irritable, loss of appetite, weakness, change in walking gait, loss of bladder control, and slowness in rising can signal serious health problems. If you notice a worrisome physical or behavioral problem between check-ups, contact your vet.
- **Love and Affection** – Older dogs aren't as demanding of our affection as puppies, so we can find ourselves accidentally ignoring them. Dogs need attention and affection on a regular basis. Make sure to return the unconditional love you've enjoyed for so many years from your dog.

The care you give to your dog throughout his life will be significant in how he ages. Being aware of and responding to your elderly dog's changing needs will be well-rewarded with continued good health for your dog, and more years of happy and healthy companionship for you. 🐾



## Partners in Trust

Just as blind men and women partner with GDA's remarkable dogs for additional independence and mobility, generous friends and supporters partner with GDA to help us carry out and maintain our mission. Become a member of the *Partners in Trust Society* by naming GDA in your will or trust and receive this beautiful, crystal biscuit jar. Please contact Rhonda Bissell at (818) 833-6432 for more information.

## NEW EMPLOYEE

Please join us in welcoming our newest GDA staff member

**Audra Rice**  
Computer Support Specialist



# Partners

newsletter

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## GDA MERCHANDISE

Our brand new **Web Shop** showcasing official GDA logo merchandise is now open! We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, fanny packs, mugs, hats, pins and much more. **Plus, shipping & handling is free with all purchases!** Click on the link from the GDA web site ([www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org)) to shop. Included here are just two of the many items available for purchase to show your support of GDA.



### Celebrating 60 Years! 2008 GDA Lapel Pin

Incorporating the GDA logo and its years of service, this beautifully designed 1" X 1" lapel pin celebrates GDA's 60th Anniversary. Previous year's pins and a special collector's edition boxed set also are available in limited quantities. See order form below.



### GDA Polo

GDA's new polo shirt is burgundy with black stripes, made in the U.S.A., 100% cotton, and machine washable in cold water. The polo is unisex styling and sizing. Women order true-to-size; men order one size larger. See order form for sizes.

## SPRING SHOPPING FOR A CAUSE WITH PAWS

### Merchandise Order Form

Questions? Call (818) 833-6429. **\*\*ALL SHIPPING & HANDLING IS FREE\*\***

**GDA Cotton Polo** (Unisex sizing, men order one size larger) **\$35 per shirt**  
Indicate quantities in box next to chosen size(s).

☐ SM ☐ MED ☐ LARGE ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐ XXXL \$

**GDA Lapel Pins** **\$8.00 per pin**

☐ 2008 GDA 60th Anniversary Lapel Pin \$

☐ 2007 GDA Yellow Lab Lapel Pin \$

☐ 2006 GDA German Shepherd Lapel Pin \$

☐ 2005 GDA Chocolate Lab Lapel Pin \$

☐ 2004 GDA Golden Retriever Lapel Pin \$

☐ 2003 GDA Black Lab Lapel Pin \$

☐ **2003 -2007 Collector's Edition Boxed Set – \$35.00** \$

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card** (check one) ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: (required for credit card purchase) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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