



**GUIDE DOGS
OF AMERICA**

13445 Glenoaks Blvd.
Sylmar, CA 91342

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS HELD AT GDA

Graduations

Graduation celebrations take place four times a year on Sunday mornings at GDA. Graduations begin promptly at 10:00am.

February 1, 2009

August 2, 2009

May 10, 2009

October 25, 2009

6th Annual Motorcycle "Ride for Guides"

May 17, 2009 (Sunday)

Open House

June 13, 2009 (Saturday)

For events and involvement opportunities in your area, visit the GDA web site (www.guidedogsofamerica.org) and click on "Events Calendar."



COLLECTIBLE 2009 GDA LAPEL PIN NOW AVAILABLE

The annual GDA lapel pin for 2009 is now available. The pin measures 1" x 5/8" and is the perfect everyday accessory and a great way to show your support of GDA. The lapel pin is \$8. Shipping and handling is free.

WINTER 2008 ORDER FORM *shipping and handling free

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

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

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

Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Card Number: _____

Signature: (required for credit card purchase) _____

____ Quantity of Pins (\$8/ea)

Questions? Call (818) 833-6429.

Mail to: Guide Dogs of America

ATTN: Fall Order Form

13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342

\$____ Total Amount Enclosed

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



GRADUATES

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

Bill Davenport & **Aunyx** (Robert & James Ameeti),
Larry Landro & **Jensen** (Alan & Alyson Verchick),
Larry Westmoreland & **Harmony** (The Harris Family),
Clennell Anthony & **Jaya** (The Sutro Family),
Brian Hall & **Rookie** (The Manzer Family),
Renee Oehlert & **Hoshi** (Mike & Jill Deschamps),
Duke Hendrickson & **Felix** (The Behringer Family),
Deborah Abare & **Scylla** (Amy Johnson),
Ray Esquibel & **Nishi** (Cat & Constance Howell)

TRAINERS (L to R) – David Ponce, Chuck Jordan, Linda Hawes

IN-HOME

Ken Davidson & **Koko** (Doug & Chandra Morton),
Edwin Elliott & **Whittier** (The Carlson Family),
Mark Oswald & **Wendy** (The Lockman Family),
Don Pulaski & **Wiley** (Kate & Chuck Lancaster)

A PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT

What It's Like for the Family When the Guide Dog Team Comes Home

"No!" That's a word that gets said a lot when a guide dog team comes home for the first time, but it's not directed at the guide dog. Family members have to adjust to having a new dog in the house, and yes, they will need some training and time to adjust.

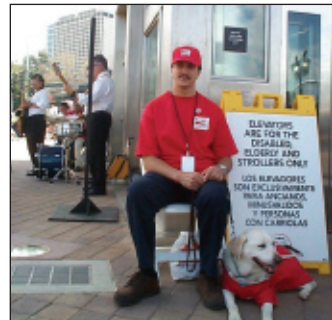
When they reach down to pet or hug or distract the dog in some way while in harness, they are going to hear, "No, he's working." When they ask if they can take the guide dog out to play fetch the answer again will be, "No." When excited children want to show the dog to their friends and tell them to come and pet him, the guide dog user will have to remind their well-intentioned family members, "No, not while he's in harness."

When a guide dog comes into the house, it's difficult to not treat it as...well, a dog. Several of our graduates have spouses, children or co-workers anxiously waiting at home for them and the new guide dog after graduation. And, even though family members know that the guide dog is their loved ones' new eyes, they don't always know or remember the rules and need to be reminded from time to time – even after the period of adjustment. This is especially important during the first several weeks that the team is home. Even though they've been working together and forming a close bond at school, at home the guide dog team will cement that bond. For about the first month, family members and any co-workers are to have very little to no contact with the dog. After awhile though, when the bond is well-established and only when the guide dog is out of harness, will there start to be some forms of interaction with the other household members. If the guide dog user works outside the home, the same rules apply.

It's a different experience for every guide dog team and their family as you will read.

When Agustin Moreno arrived home with his first guide dog, Liza, in 1993, he knew she would be a welcome addition to the family and a tremendous help to him with his mobility and keeping up with his three children. He just never could have guessed how much help.

"At first my wife was concerned about having a big dog around our daughter Judith, who was just 18-months-old at the time," said Agustin. "She didn't know what to expect and how having a guide dog would change life for the family."



Agustin Moreno at work with his first guide dog, Liza



Judith Moreno with her "sister" Liza

“When my daughter Judith was old enough to talk, if someone asked me how many kids I had, I would answer two boys and one girl. Judith would correct me and say, 'You have two daughters, remember? You have Liza.' **”**

It turns out there was no need to worry. Liza quickly found her place in the family. Working hard with Agustin while in harness, and out of harness serving as best friend to sons Sergio and Ivan. But it was daughter Judith that Liza "took care of" when she was off duty. "If I needed to find Judith and Liza was out of harness, I knew I just needed to find Liza," recalled Agustin.

Agustin and Liza worked as a team for 11 years. She was truly a part of the family. "When my daughter Judith was old enough to talk, if someone asked me how many kids I had, I would answer two boys and one girl," he

"A Period of Adjustment" continues on page 5>

GRADUATE QUOTES

All of our graduates and their families experience a period of adjustment when they arrive home with their new guide dog. Throughout the newsletter we share the answers we received from many of our graduates to our question: What was the biggest adjustment for your family when you and your guide dog came home?



"Radar is my third guide dog. He is my first from GDA, but not the last. With every dog I have had the hardest adjustment for others has been the fact that there is no petting or speaking to Radar while he is in harness."

PAULETTE WILSON, GRADUATE

"I'd have to say the biggest adjustment when we came home (and eight years later, still is), my family's ability to listen to and remember to follow my instructions as to how they are to interact with my dog. It has been difficult to keep in mind that she is specially trained for a specific purpose, and has to follow strict rules at all times." **CORTNEY MAZZOLA, GRADUATE**

IN MEMORY

With sadness we note the passing of GDA family member:

Ethel LaRoche – Class #335

We also note with sadness the loss of these loyal guide dogs and a breeder dog:

Herschel – Class #317 **Fedo** – Class #329

Lucy – Breeder **Vega** – Class #329



Partners newsletter

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Two-legged guest mingling with four-legged guest.



Larry Edwards with guide dog, Doshi, and fiancé Debra Hatcher.



Guests bid early and often at the silent auction.



Partners Honorees (L-R): Jay Bormann, GDA President; Joan & Ron Shaw; Cherry Teter; Debbie, Pam & Larry Silverman; Debbie Sands, Dinner Chair

3RD ANNUAL "PARTNER'S" AWARDS DINNER CELEBRATES GDA'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY AND RAISES \$60,000 FOR THE SCHOOL

More than \$60,000 was raised at the 3rd Annual "Partner's" Dinner, which was held at the Petersen Automotive Museum on September 27. Nearly 300 guests were in attendance for the special evening celebrating GDA's 60th anniversary. Guests generously bid for the many items available at the silent auction. The spirited bidding continued during the live auction following dinner, which was served in the Grand Salon amongst an impressive display of vintage travel trailers.

This year's honorees presented with the 2008 "Partner's" Award were puppy raisers Ron & Joan Shaw, the Silverman Family (Larry, Pam & Debbie) and Cherry Teter.

We wish to thank our many sponsors for their support and for making the event a tremendous success: Suzanne & Michael Tennenbaum (Tennenbaum Capital Partners, LLC), Mr. Paul Morton (Morton Management Company), Mr. Casey Scott (Scott Wealth Management Group of Wachovia Securities), Mrs. Macki Singer, Mr. & Mrs. John Connors (Sepulveda Building Materials), Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gettleman, Animal Specialty Group, Inc., Mrs. Eleanor Hughes and Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Kidushim.

Additional thanks go to Judy Reilly and her fellow volunteers who worked on the silent auction; Glyn Judson, Westside Puppy Raiser Area Leader, who served as our live auctioneer; and Tammy and Mark New, who created and donated the beautiful table arrangements.

For additional pictures, please visit www.guidedogsofamerica.org, and click on "Fundraiser Photos."

A PAWS FOR THANKS

Throughout the year and across the country, fundraising events are held with all proceeds earmarked for GDA. We'd like to take a "Paws for Thanks" and recognize these organizations for their support of GDA.

SEPTEMBER

IAM Grand Lodge Convention – Orlando, FL
Street Vibrations Bike Show – Reno, NV
9th Annual Sacramento Classic Auto Show – Sacramento, CA
Guide Dogs of America Foundation Annual Golf Classic – Camarillo, CA
KY State Council of Machinists' Annual Golf Scramble – Calvert City, KY
KY State Council's Annual R. Thomas Buffenbarger Skeet Shoot – Calvert City, KY
11th Annual Golf Tournament – District 15 – Middle Island, NY
20th Annual IAM-GDA Golf Tournament – Ridgefield, WA
6th Annual Fall Poker Run, Golden State Glendale H.O.G. Chapter – Glendale, CA

OCTOBER 2008

15th Annual Original West Coast Hawgs for Dogs
"All Harley" Poker Run – San Jose, CA

NOVEMBER 2008

8th Annual Las Vegas "Hawgs for Dogs" – Las Vegas, NV
28th Annual GDA Charity Golf Tournament – Las Vegas, NV
28th Annual W. W. Winpisinger Charity Banquet – Las Vegas, NV
5th Annual GDA Poker Run – Bristol, CT

"A PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT" CONTINUED....

said. "Judith would correct me and say, 'You have two daughters, remember? You have Liza.'"

Agustin's current guide dog, Shadow, has also become a member of the family. Since Shadow is a male, Judith is once again the only daughter and Agustin now has "three sons."

Recent graduate Laura Beickman answered frankly the question about how she and her family are adjusting to having a guide dog in the family: "We're still adjusting," she said. It's been less than a year since the team graduated and Laura returned home with Karbon. Greeting the team were Laura's husband, Kim, and their three children, Thiler, Bianca, and Nethanial, and Heidi, the family's five-year-old lab/German shepherd mix.

While Laura anticipated she'd have to work with her dog-loving husband and kids about how to treat her



"We're still adjusting," said Laura Beickman, who reports that her family remembers the rules, most of the time.



Laura Beickman's family with Karbon (left) & Heidi (right)

guide dog, she also had to consider just how to introduce Heidi to Karbon.

Since it's Heidi's house, Laura and her husband decided the two would meet on neutral territory – the park. Kim picked up the team from the airport, dropped them off at a park close to home, and went to pick up Heidi. "Out of harness Karbon is very playful and wanted to play hard with Heidi right away," recalled Laura. "Once we had Karbon in harness and Heidi on her leash, we walked them side by side. They would glance at each other now and again, but did very well."

Laura happily reported that her family remembers the rules, most of the time, and that Heidi has welcomed Karbon to the family.

When Richard Guzman brought home his first guide dog Pismo, his three teenage children, Richard, Veronica, and Larissa, had a lot of questions for him. "Is he going to chew the shoes?" "Will he knock over the trash can?" "Do we have to feed him?" To which Richard simply replied, "No." And the kids stared at him. Richard continued his answer and told them, "No, because he's not a dog. He's my eyes. That's the way I look at it and that's how I want you to look at it."

Richard's family was used to having dogs and being responsible for them, now their father was telling them they had no responsibility for his guide dog.

"I told them, you don't have to worry about playing with him or exercising him. He's my eyes and he stays with me all the time," said Richard. "I would tell them that Pismo would become a family dog, but not like any

dog that we had before – he's a dog with a purpose. I had to remind myself of that as well and remember that I was his purpose."

So if Pismo was going to be with Richard "all the time," his wife Sylvia wondered, where is he going to sleep? In their room, of course.

"For a couple of days Sylvia was nervous having Pismo in the room.

She wasn't used to such a big dog," explained Richard.

"Pretty soon she was so in love with him, she'd be asking me, 'Did you feed him?' 'Did you give him water?'"

To which Richard always replied, "Yes."

From the beginning it was clear that Richard's first guide Pismo and now his second guide dog, Evan, are Richard's dogs, but family members, especially Sylvia, have always made sure that Richard was taking as good of care of his dogs as they were of him.

Christy Moon recalls coming home with her guide dog Walker and going out to dinner for the first time with her husband, John, and their three kids, Paul and twin daughters, Jamie and Jessica. "Before they would assist me, but this time they just all got off the car, stood back, and let Walker guide me," she said. "It all seemed very natural."

For Christy having a guide dog didn't seem like an adjustment, but her family had to adjust to seeing the



Richard Guzman and his first guide dog, Pismo

"I told them, you don't have to worry about playing with him or exercising him....he's not a dog. He's my eyes."



John, Paul, Jamie, Jessica and Christy Moon with Walker

"I know they understand that distracting Walker when he's working could put our safety at risk."

reaction from strangers when they accompanied her. "At first it was exciting for them, now it's just part of every day."

Like most dog loving families – Christy and her family have two pet dogs – it was hard for her family to not treat Walker like a pet. "Sometimes I have to scold John for talking to the dog when he's in harness and working," she admitted. "And my daughter can't help herself and will come up and kiss Walker when he's in harness. I feel bad sometimes, but I know they understand that distracting Walker when he's working could put our safety at risk."

Christy and her family have adjusted well to having a new family member. "Honestly, the biggest adjustment my family faced was having me away from home for a month at school during our training," she said. 🐾

"When Sam (Silvio) came home the biggest adjustment was to handle all the attention we received. Sam is a great looking Labradoodle. Everywhere we go, we get a lot of attention. Sam is a great dog and guide." TONY DAVIS, GRADUATE



MAKE YOUR DOG A PART OF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Much has been written about the health benefits of having a dog – both physical and mental. Walking your dog means you will also be getting more exercise. More exercise contributes to a healthy lifestyle and possibly losing a few pounds. In addition to your physical well-being, studies also show that a dog can contribute to your mental well-being. With New Year's and the resolutions that inevitably come with it around the corner, we'd like to offer several health tips to get your dog and you off to a healthy and happy start to the New Year!

The Nose Knows – Do You?

Is a wet nose a sign that a dog is healthy? The short answer: not necessarily. There are many reasons a dog will have a dry, warm nose that have nothing to do with his overall health. A dehydrated dog, though healthy, will have a dry nose. A dog sitting in a hot place may also have a dry nose temporarily. When you look at your dog's nose, look for nasal discharge. If your dog's nose runs, the mucus should be clear. If your dog is producing bubbly, thick, yellow, green or even black mucus, see your veterinarian. If your dog's nose is cracked and you see scabs or sores, your dog may have a skin disorder. Ask your veterinarian to check it out.

Look Into My Eyes – A dog's eyes should be clear and bright and free of any red spots, heavy discharge, debris, or other abnormal

conditions. Eye infections often start as just a little bit of ooze coming from the corners of the eyes. Eye infections are contagious to other pets as well as humans. It is important to catch these and clear them up early. Some breeds are prone to a slight eye discharge (your veterinarian can tell you what to expect). Wiping around the eyes daily with water-soaked cotton will help to keep the eyes and the area around them clean and free of debris.

Listen Up – Check your dog's ears at least once a month. Long-haired dogs should be checked more frequently, since they are more prone to ear problems. To maintain good ear health between vet visits, gently wipe the surface of your dog's external ear with a cotton square moistened with mineral oil or even a baby wipe. When cleaning check to see if there is a waxy build up, excessive matting of hair in the external ear, and/or redness or inflammation around the ear. It is also a good idea to actually smell your dog's ears. The presence of a sour, cheesy odor is usually indicative of a potential problem. If you think that a problem may be present or developing, consultation with a veterinarian is imperative as soon as possible.

My, What Big, Beautiful Teeth You Have – Routine dental care is essential to your pet's overall good health. Build up of tartar can cause inflamed, swollen gums and secondary infections that can lead to serious health problems. Dogs, one to three years old, should have their teeth brushed once a week. Dogs over three years old should have their teeth brushed more often. Use a toothbrush and toothpaste made especially for dogs – toothpaste for humans can be toxic for dogs. The toothbrushes have long handles to allow you to brush

the dog's back teeth and specially-formulated toothpastes for dogs are pleasant to taste and can be swallowed without upsetting your dog's stomach. For information on cleaning your pet's teeth, consult your veterinarian.

The Pet-icure – Keeping your dog's nails clipped to the proper length is essential to his health and comfort. In order to avoid the "quick" of the nails, have your veterinarian or groomer show you how to clip your dog's nails, or have a professional groomer do it. Check your dog's nails at least every other week, so they don't get too long. If you hear a scratching or clicking noise as your pet walks across the uncarpeted floors or on concrete, his nails are too long!

See Spot Run (or Walk) – Just like exercise contributes to our health, it also contributes to your dog's healthiness and happiness. Your dog needs daily exercise to stay healthy and free from illness, and to avoid putting on weight and becoming obese. Exercise gets the heart pumping, the blood flowing, and the muscles working. Take your dog for a hike in the hills, a jog on the beach, a swim in the lake, or just a stroll in the neighborhood, and you too will be getting the physical and mental benefits of being outdoors and moving!

The Doctor Will See You Now – Keeping your dog healthy between vet visits is often a matter of knowing what to look for, but should not replace your dog's annual exam. It is most often during these exams that a veterinarian can pick up the early warning signs of a serious problem that will affect the dog in the future. Serious problems can often be corrected or at least slowed in progress when they are detected early. 🐾

NEW EMPLOYEES & NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Please join us in welcoming a new employee to the GDA staff and in congratulating a long-time employee.

Steve Williams – Administration (part time)

Rhonda Bissell – Executive Assistant

Rhonda will continue to handle gift and estate planning in addition to her new role as Executive Assistant.

"I think the biggest adjustment for many of my family members, with the exception of my husband, was the idea that this new dog would allow me to be more independent. For my husband and his dog, it meant that there were twice as many squeaky toys around the house." CONNIE TERRY, GRADUATE

Making Holiday Wishes Come True

During the holidays and all year-round there are many ways to support GDA and continue to fulfill the hopes and dreams of our students – past, present, and future. Please take a moment to read about the many ways you can create holiday memories for years to come!

GDA – A “TRUST”WORTHY CAUSE

By thoughtfully naming GDA in their wills, trusts, and life insurance policies, the members of the Partners in Trust Society ensure their support of GDA will continue for years to come. We are forever grateful to them for remembering GDA in their estate plans, in any amount, and we are honored to be a part of their legacy.



Become a Member of the Partners in Trust Society.

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 for more information at (818) 833-6432.

DONATING FREQUENT FLIER MILES

Our GDA students come from all over the United States and Canada, which means for many of them their 28-day training at the school begins and ends on an airplane. We are able to cover 100% of all students' travel expenses, including airline tickets, by “purchasing” their tickets using frequent flier miles that have been donated to the school.

Two airlines participate in the program: United Airlines and Northwest Airlines. If you or someone you know have unused miles with either of these airlines' programs, they can be donated directly to GDA to help support our program.

To donate your miles, have your account number ready and contact:

United Mileage Plus Customer Service: (800) 421-4655

Northwest WorldPerks:
(800) 327-2881 or www.nwa.com/worldperks.

“PLANNING” TO GIVE TO GDA

In an effort to keep our supporters up-to-date on current issues involving estate planning and planned giving, Guide Dogs of America has added a “Gift Planning” page to our web site. The site features information, e-Brochures, and monthly feature articles covering a variety of related topics including the new charitable IRA legislation, retirement planning, charitable gift annuities, and endowments. To learn more about the options available to you for planned giving visit www.guidedogsofamerica.org, click on “How to Help,” then click on “Gift Planning.”

YEAR-ROUND GIVING ONE MONTH AT A TIME

Many of our supporters donate to GDA monthly using our convenient automatic donation program. At the beginning of each month we automatically charge your credit card in the amount you specified at the beginning of the year. At year's end you will receive a thank you letter with a donation total for your tax records.

Call (818) 833-6432 with questions or to participate.

GDA'S HOLIDAY WISH LIST

Help us continue to bring comfort and joy to all our GDA puppies with a gift from the GDA “Holiday Wish List.” As you are making your list and checking it twice this holiday season, please remember all the GDA puppies that have been extra nice! Items on our Wish List will bring comfort and joy to our puppies during the holiday season and beyond:

GENERAL HOLIDAY AND YEAR-ROUND KENNEL WISHES:

Super-thick orthopedic dog beds
Large sterilized bones
Large heavy duty rubber toys
Large compressed rawhide bones and large compressed rawhide chews
Blankets/fluffy comforters
Gift cards from any mass market pet store, i.e., PetCo, PetSmart

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

- Tug Toys – Size: medium and large (\$3.89-\$4.99); Item: ZA848
- Nylabone Double Action Chews – Item: TF813
- Tough by Nature Holey Rollers – Size: 5 and 6.5 (\$4.99 - \$6.99); Item: ZX335

NURSERY WISHES:

- “Just Born” Puppy formula – 8 oz. cartons (WalMart or Petco)
- X-Pens/24” size (all pet stores)
- “Guardian Gear” Poly Animal Control Leads (www.petedge.com) – Quantity needed: 5 dozen (12 pack); Item: TP41212
- “Main Stays” print blankets: Size: twin/full
- Kirkland signature pet throw 64” – available at Costco (in-store and online)
- Snuggle safe warming dish – available at www.revivalanimal.com, www.drsofostersmith.com, www.jefferspet.com

VET DEPARTMENT/RECOVERY ROOM WISHES:

The following items is available at Costco:

- Kirkland Pet Beds – Quantity needed: 5; Size: large*

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

- Cordless Dremel – Quantity needed: 2; Item: 686-0101-2*
- Sanding Drum – Quantity needed: 2; Item: 686-0101-3*
- Thermo Bolster Bed – Quantity needed: 6; Size: Large (\$99.99)
- Medi-Paw – Quantity needed: (4) large, (4) medium; Item: 105-0100*
- Walk-a-Belly – Quantity needed: 2; Size: med/large (\$17.39); Item: 137-0112*
- Memory sleeper – Quantity needed: 6; Size: Large (\$99.99); Item: 300-0114

Available anywhere:

- Charlie Bear treats

*Please call (818) 833-6431 before ordering to make sure these “wishes” have not been filled yet as we only need a small number of each.