



# GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

# Partners

VOLUME 17  
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WINTER 2002

## Sending A Pup into the World

When a Guide Dogs of America Puppy Raiser like **Joan Shaw** or **Cindy Miller** returns a puppy to GDA after giving it tender care and gentle training for more than a year, they care very deeply what career path that dog takes. And there are several.

First, of course, they hope they will pass the grade to become a guide dog. Joan and her husband Ron,

who have been raising puppies for GDA since 1990, have had six puppies graduate to become guide dogs.

Joan is intensely proud of **Kodiak, Yosemite, Kali, Amber, Ripley, and Shane** who help to provide independence to blind people. Another dog, **Zachary**, was so good we kept

him in our breeding program.

Cindy, as well, has felt the pride of standing at a graduation to watch as her puppy takes on a new life with a partner who is blind. Cindy, her husband, and her three children, who all play a role in raising puppies for GDA, gain an intense feeling of joy whenever they visit **Liberty**, whom they raised from an eight-week-old puppy. "These dogs are really a miracle in someone's life," she says.

But not all dogs have the temperament, patience, and desire to work as a guide dog. However, that doesn't mean the dog isn't exceptional.



Erin Pilkington of the U.S. Department of Fish & Wildlife and GDA "career change" dog, Mason.

When a dog can't graduate as a guide dog, the Puppy Raiser gets the first option to take the young dog back. And many do. But sometimes, it's clear that the dog is destined for something else. Joan is extremely proud of

**Mason.** Though this yellow lab's temperament precluded him from becoming a guide dog, it was when Joan took him back, that it became clear that Mason was not happy as a house dog. He was restless and Joan was convinced he wanted to work.

So when she heard that the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife was creating a new program to train sniffer dogs to detect illegally imported endangered animals such as birds and lizards, and illegal animal products such as bear gallbladders, she thought Mason would be perfect. After ensuring that he would not be caged, and that he would go home with a Fish and Wildlife investigator each night, Joan transferred ownership to the investigator.

Before Mason retired recently, he had a six-year career and his work led to the arrests of



Joan Shaw, surrounded by six of the GDA dogs she's raised.

Photo by Ron Shaw



Season's Greetings

continued on page 2



## MESSAGE FROM JAY

# Thanks For A Very Special Year, And My Wish That The New Year Is Even Better!



My third year as president of Guide Dogs of America has been remarkable. It was exciting to make full use of our modern Puppy Nursery and thanks to many generous donors, we raised funds for our Kennel Renovation Project ensuring outstanding care for our talented, valuable and beloved dogs.

Statistics could never tell the story of what a year at GDA means, but the fact that we provided guide dogs to 51 people is a notable accomplishment. I consider it a tremendous privilege to be a part of this mission that brings companionship, mobility, and independence to so many people through the dedication and love of such wonderful dogs.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all the supporters, staff, volunteers, and others who give of themselves on behalf of GDA. I am especially grateful to all the members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers who make payroll contributions and hold fundraising events for GDA all over the U.S. and Canada. Their support is an important part of this organization. I also want to thank all our friends who organize, sponsor and participate in the many GDA events and fundraisers throughout the year. Special recognition is due to our puppy raisers. They are the backbone of GDA and I am in awe of their commitment.

To all those who help make GDA's work possible, I wish the very best of holidays, and a very happy new year. It is good to know that GDA can count on your continued support in 2003!

*Jay A. Bormann*  
Jay A. Bormann  
President

*Sending a Pup into the World—continued from page 1*

criminals who were destroying endangered species. He is truly a pioneer and this program is now an ongoing part of Fish and Wildlife's work.

**Jubilee**, one of the dogs Cindy raised, also has a new career. The Golden Retriever is now a companion dog at a group for six mentally disabled adults. *"Jubilee is so happy there. The residents love her and take turns caring for her. Jubilee gets so much love and attention. And she is so good with these special people."*

Cindy and her family are also raising **Glimmer**, a Golden Retriever. Glimmer has a minor heart murmur, which disqualifies her as a guide dog. But she is scheduled to begin training this winter with a K-9 Support Team program that trains dogs to help people with paralysis and other physical disabilities. Dogs like Glimmer can be taught to do everything from picking up a ringing telephone to getting food from the refrigerator. Cindy is sure that Glimmer will be a wonderful companion.

Other "Career Change" GDA dogs have become arson detectors, drug detectors, or search and rescue dogs.

If a Puppy Raiser wishes to keep a dog that can't graduate from the program, they have that option. **Logan** is currently living with Joan, and has become a wonderful family dog. Cindy hopes all her dogs will find a way to be of service, either as guide dogs, or in another field, but she would welcome one as a pet, as well. She made a deal with her children that if they handled the responsibility of raising a guide dog puppy well, they could get a family dog. But so far, after giving back each puppy to GDA, they have chosen to get another puppy rather than a permanent family pet.

In some cases, Puppy Raisers can't take dogs back. Often, they are already raising another puppy for GDA, or have a household full of other pets. In those instances, the dogs are offered to those who've placed their names on our adoption list for GDA dogs. We have more than 500 names on

this list. We're not accepting any more names because it will take over five years to honor the requests of those currently on the list!

No matter where they end up, our dogs are so carefully bred, and our Puppy Raisers bring them up with such love and attention, that they are always exceptional. Joan says, *"The dogs are so*

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## PARTNERS NEWSLETTER

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GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

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The Miller family has raised several GDA puppies. From left, career change dog Glimmer, Jackson, Eamon, working guide dog Liberty, and Dylan.

well cared for at GDA, and it's such a personal achievement when you see how much independence they bring to people. All the cares and all the heartache of giving them up goes away. And once you raise one, you're hooked."

Cindy shares that feeling. "Raising a GDA puppy is addictive. Now that we've seen how rewarding it is, I think I'll be raising puppies for GDA when I'm 90." 🐾

# WISH LIST

We're wishing and hoping that some of our friends will be able to donate:

- \* THOMAS GUIDE street map guides for L.A., Riverside, Santa Barbara, Orange County, and San Bernadino
- \* AURI FLUSH for flushing dogs' ears, contact SPAH at 800-521-5767 (approx. \$350)
- \* BINOCULAR MICROSCOPE up to 100x
- \* SURGICAL PACKS, sets of surgical equipment, 5 needed
- Warm, fuzzy BLANKETS
- \* BIG SPLASH CENTER swimming pool

## SPECIAL PUPPY NURSERY WISH LIST

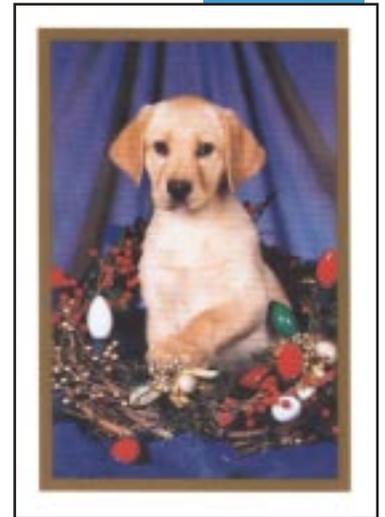
- \* LARGE PLASTIC TOY BOX for puppy toys
- \* DIGITAL CAMERA
- \* PLUSH TOYS
- \* AGILITY TUNNELS, 5-6 ft long, new
- \* LABRADOR WALL CLOCK
- \* PUPPY BISCUITS
- \* STERILIZED BONES, small to large size
- \* CANINE EAR THERMOMETER
- \* DOGLOOS, small size
- \* PUPPY GUMABONES

## And The Award For The Most Photogenic Pooch Goes To...

The search is on for the most adorable, noble, and/or handsome GDA dogs to grace our two new holiday cards next year; one for Christmas and another for Hanukkah. If you have a great shot of your GDA puppy-in-training, working guide dog, retired guide dog, or career change dog in the holiday spirit, your favorite holiday pooch might win. Winners will be announced at a party for all participants to be held next Spring.

Please send your photos by January 16, 2003 to:

**Guide Dogs of America Holiday Photo**  
9360 W. Flamingo Road #110-496  
Las Vegas, NV 89147



**THE RULES:** Dogs only, no people allowed. Please send only one photo per dog. Unfortunately, digital photos, scanned photos, and color copies cannot be used. Professional photos are OK if accompanied by release from photographer. All photos become property of GDA and will not be returned. 🐾

## IN MEMORY

We note with sadness the passing of four beloved guide dogs who helped to change their partners' lives:



- Guide Dog Pastel - Class #288
- Guide Dog Savannah - Class #289
- Guide Dog Scotch - Class #300
- Guide Dog Rogan - Class #300

## 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)

# Kennel Renovation Is Underway!



Thanks to so many who made generous donations, our long-awaited, and much-needed kennel renovation is in full swing. Already, we have applied the epoxy paint coating to the floors and walls, which makes them much easier to clean. We have installed insulated doggie doors. Much work remains, of course, and we still need addi-

tional support to complete this important project to ensure the health and comfort of our wonderful dogs.

Thanks to all who contributed, and special thanks to those listed below who made leadership gifts of \$500 or more to the Kennel Renovation Appeal:

- Teri Chang & Dave Crawley
- Leland H. Clay
- The Kenneth Coopman Family
- Leah & Brian Duval
- Lola A. Hagstrom
- Joyce Hatter
- The Richard Hollander Family
- I.A.M. Local 2444
- Judy & Bill Kerler
- Brian & Nancy Matthews
- Pacific Palisades Lions Club
- PacifiCare Behavioral Health
- Kathy & Joseph Puishys
- Lee & Nathan Rosenmutter Family Foundation
- Laurel E. Schuman
- Harold Shapiro
- Phil Singer
- Randi L. Starr
- Margareta Taylor
- Doug & Janette Thomas
- Frank H. Tranzow
- Margaret M. Van Ostrand
- Laura & Della Warner
- Young & Company

## IGEF NEWS

by Randy Brooks, *President of IGEF*

Our 12th Annual Golf Tournament on September 30, was a stunning success this year. The day was perfect, and the course at North Ranch Country Club in Westlake Village, CA was beautifully prepared. We were thrilled to welcome 34 celebrities who volunteered to accompany the 144

golfers who thoroughly enjoyed themselves and told me so repeatedly. Actor Alan Thicke, good friend and fellow Canadian to Chairperson and former hockey player Rogie Vachon, served as Master of Ceremonies and kept everyone laughing. The live auction was a great success, and we honored our very own Helen Harris for her role in starting this



John O'Hurley of "Seinfeld" fame (2nd from left) is joined by some friends of GDA



GDA puppy raiser, Mike Michalski with puppy-in-training, Toffee

IGEF Golf Tournament founder, Helen Harris with IGEF President, Randy Brooks



GDA president, Jay Bormann (far left) with Buddy Hackett (center) and some GDA friends

tournament 12 years ago. In her honor, our \$10,000 putting contest will forevermore be known as the *Helen Harris Putting Contest*.

All the money raised from this year's tournament will go towards the Kennel Renovation Project at GDA. My thanks to Rogie Vachon, Alan Thicke, and all the other celebrities who attended. Thanks as well to GDA graduate teams, Puppy Raisers and their puppies, Board Members, staff, and volunteers who helped make the day a success. And special thanks to the Golf Committee for their hard work to make it all happen! 🐾

## Partners In Trust Forever



A gift made to GDA through your will is a permanent tribute to your commitment to providing guide dogs to people who are blind. You don't have to be wealthy to leave a very meaningful gift. If you have GDA named in your Will or Trust and would like to be included the next time we pub-

lish this list, or if you would like more information on including GDA in your will, please notify Rhonda Bissell at (818) 362-5834 ext. 229.

In addition to those mentioned in the last issue of Partners, we gratefully thank the following people, who have included GDA in their wills:

- Mordechai Arditti
- Cathy Rake
- Jeanne Ward
- Rita Marchi
- Robert A. Superchi



## MAESTRO - Stud from the Big Apple



In 1996 we received a gift of three puppies of a litter of black labs from New York. Three other puppies from the same litter remained in New York. And what a litter it turned out to be.

Two of the puppies we received, as well as two of those in New York, turned out to be excellent guide dogs. The other puppy that stayed in New York, a female, became a breeder who had many litters. And the third puppy who came to GDA was **Maestro**, our most successful stud dog of all time!

Maestro's puppies are always black. They also strongly inherit his intelligence and easy-going, hard-working temperament. If you are raising a black lab for GDA, it's very likely related to Maestro.

Maestro has produced more than 150 puppies for GDA and more than 75% of those puppies graduate through the program to become guide dogs. This is a remarkably high percentage. Maestro's bloodline is also strongly represented in our breeding colony, with daughters, sons, nieces, and great nieces all producing high quality puppies for GDA.

Our thanks and congratulations to Maestro, the Stud From The Big Apple, for all his wonderful descendants! 🐾



## 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.



GDA graduates and their partners mingle before the First Annual GDA Alumni Reunion Dinner.

What has 566 feet, 211 big grins and 72 wagging tails? Why, the First Annual GDA Alumni Reunion, of course, where graduates, family and friends, working guide dogs and guide dog puppies shared an evening of memories and dreams.

Senior Instructor Bob Wendler and his hilarious alter ego "Reverend Billy Bob" were the Masters of Ceremonies. Both did an outstanding job! Director of Operations and Senior Instructor Steve Burkman gave a talk about his admiration for guide dogs. And two graduates, Bob Acosta and Steve Ehlers, with more than 50 years as GDA grads between them, spoke eloquently about their affection for guide dogs and how their canine partners had changed their lives.

Two special women were honored and awarded by the appreciative graduates. Angie

Wellington, GDA's beloved cook who, for 17 years has been serving up wonderful food and lots of love to our students. And Florence Mast, who's been giving tender loving care to the dogs in the kennel for over 16 dedicated years.

GDA's extremely talented graduates provided the entertainment for the event. Nan Bearden played piano beautifully throughout the evening. Gayane Pogosyan offered several pieces on the violin. Sharon Hutton read a poem she wrote and Hayley Burman sang a wonderful song. Puppy raisers Susan Renwick and Ann Benya brought smiles and sighs with a guide dog puppy's version of *Dear Diary*.

Special thanks to Girl Scout Troops #54 and #1774 for their assistance and their very moving Salute to the Flag, with tenor Peter Vecchio. GDA graduates Rebecca Albarran, Patty Arocho, and Amber McLain did a magnificent job planning and organizing the celebration, with much help from many others.

The evening came to a close much too soon, with new friends made, old friends hugged, and the promise to meet again next year! 🐾



GDA senior trainer, Bob Wendler (left) and GDA graduate, John Albarran (right) help the graduates say thank you to Angie Wellington (center), GDA's dormitory chef extraordinaire.



Florence Mast was recognized for her years of volunteer service to GDA.





## In-Home Graduates

Training with a guide dog usually takes 3 to 4 weeks at our facility here in Sylmar, CA. But because of responsibilities at home or work, not everyone can leave home for that amount of time. In a few special cases, qualified retrainees may receive a dog through our 2-week in-home program. Here are some of the latest in-home graduates and their guide dogs.

- **Bob Acosta and Kramer**, March 2001
- **Karen Karsh and Stafford**, May 2001
- **Sue Burdyslaw and Gidget**, September 2001
- **Valerie Evans and Flare**, November 2001
- **Darlene Walker and Pasha**, March 2002
- **Frank Pavolillo and Nova**, May 2002
- **Eric Rothhaar and Ulan**, May 2002
- **Bob Acosta and Arlo**, September 2002
- **Bob Humbert and Haven**, September 2002
- **Mike Zingarelli and Trixie**, September 2002

## 4 for the Dogs



GDA is fortunate to have many loyal and dedicated volunteers, but there are four women, in particular, who are a breed apart. They have raised dozens of puppies for GDA, put on many, many fundraisers, and helped GDA in a hundred other ways. And now they're planning to do even more.

Mary Ball, Jacque Butler, Cherry Teter and Teri Chang have launched a new fundraising venture to benefit GDA. Beginning with this issue of *Partners*, the four volunteers are offering for sale cotton canvas tote bags printed with photographs of GDA's favorite breeds, plus one with a special patriotic image.



ALL the proceeds from sale of these high-quality tote bags will be donated to GDA.

Anticipating that GDA's friends and supporters will enjoy some new dog-related merchandise, Mary, Jacque, Cherry and Teri plan to offer other attractive products in the future.

Each bag is 15" x 12" and constructed of cotton duck with web handles with gusseted sides and a reinforced bottom. The photographs are printed in full color on both sides. The cost is \$20 plus shipping & handling.



Makes a Great Gift



### TOTE BAG ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (in case we have questions about your order)

*Please make check payable to Teri Chang.*

Tote Bag	Quantity	Price	Subtotal
A. Chocolate Lab		\$20.00	
B. Yellow Lab		\$20.00	
C. Black Lab		\$20.00	
D. Golden Retriever		\$20.00	
E. Dalmation Fire Department		\$20.00	

\*Shipping & Handling - add \$5 (two totes maximum).  
 If ordering more than two totes, please call Cherry at (818) 362-5834 ext. 309 for shipping cost.

\*Shipping & Handling:

<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b>	
------------------------	--

**DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM TO GDA.** Complete it and mail it with your payment to Teri Chang, 19360 Rinaldi Street #229, Northridge, CA 91326

## Last Chance To Order Holiday Items With Pup Appeal!

There is still time to order GDA Holiday Cards and get them in time for mailing. Our cards come in packages of 20 cards with envelopes. All proceeds go to help provide guide dogs free of charge to men and women who are blind.

### Oldies but Goodies at Bargain Prices!

Previous seasons' cards are available in limited quantities. **\$10 PLUS SHIPPING & HANDLING** (see chart). Please specify your first and second choice on the order form.



#### A Boy by Window with Goldens (2002 Holiday Card)

Inside message: blank

Cost: \$15 plus shipping & handling (see chart)



### 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 blind men and women at the same time. Our full-color calendar is only \$15 (plus \$2 shipping & handling). The quantity is limited, so don't wait! Order yours today!



#### C Goldens in Front of Fireplace

Inside message: Holiday Greetings



#### B Pups in a Basket

Inside message: Wishing you many golden moments this holiday season.



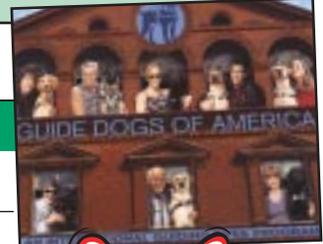
#### D Three Breeds in Stars

Inside message: Season's Greetings



#### E Wagonful of Labs

Inside message: Season's Greetings



## ORDER FORM

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.**

2002 Holiday Card		Quantity	Price	Total
A. Boy by Window			\$15	
SALE Holiday Card	Choice*	Quantity	Price	Total
B. Pups in a Basket		1st 2nd	\$10	
C. Goldens in Front of Fireplace		1st 2nd	\$10	
D. Three Breeds in Stars		1st 2nd	\$10	
E. Wagonful of Labs		1st 2nd	\$10	
2003 Calendar		Quantity	Price	Total
GDA's Famous Dog Calendar			\$15	

\*We have a limited supply. Please indicate your second choice if your first choice is not available.

**ORDER SUBTOTAL:**

**\*\*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.





## The Puppy Corner

We welcomed two new litters into the GDA family this fall. Congratulations to their parents, to the puppy breeding staff, and to the Puppy Raisers who'll soon be taking these beautiful babies home.

Breed	Number of Puppies	Date of Birth
Black Labrador	6	8/26/02
Black/Yellow Labrador	3	9/7/02

If you'd like to be a Puppy Raiser to one of these future guide dogs and live in southern California, please call Louise Henderson at (818) 362-5834, ext. 234. 🐾



## GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

13445 Glenoaks Blvd.  
Sylmar, CA 91342

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## Our Dog's Best Friends GDA Employee News

GDA welcomed two new employees this fall. **Robin Gurule** is Licensed Instructor and will be working in our Training Department. Robin has previously worked for Guide Dogs of the Desert and has been an instructor for eight years. **Andrea Alfaro** is our new Weekend Kennel Manager. Andrea gained her experience at the Los Angeles Zoo. We also wish a speedy recovery to instructor **Jean Richardson** who has been out due to injury. 🐾

## 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.*

### Traveling in Style

Special thanks to some very good friends who have made the purchase of two new vans for the transporting our dogs possible.

The golf tournament sponsored by the **International Guiding Eyes Foundation Board** last year raised the funds not only for a new van, but also for new crate systems that were installed in three of our vans to ensure that our dogs travel comfortably and safely.

GDA was awarded a generous grant by the **George Hoag Family Foundation** for the purchase of one of our much needed vans.



### Babying our Puppies

The staff of our Puppy Nursery wishes to thank the **South Bay Puppy Raisers Group** for their generous donation of polyfleece blankets, little tykes play equipment, and a dog ramp to help mom dogs in and out of our van.

### The Voice of GDA

If you've ever called GDA and been "put on hold" you've heard the mellow voice of **John Alfenito**. John is a professional disc jockey and voice-over artist with numerous radio and TV credits. He is also a great lover of dogs and the father of Jessica Alfenito, one of our trainers. For nearly two years, John has generously donated his time to record and update our informational messages. Thanks John!

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

## Our Feline Dog Trainer



**Ben**, Chief Feline Officer of GDA, sleeps in the reception area, just to torment all the new puppies.

When you visit the GDA campus, you might see our CFO patrolling the grounds. CFO usually stands for Chief Financial Officer, but Ben is our Chief Feline Officer. For sixteen years, longer than almost any other GDA "employee," Ben has been helping to train guide dogs.

As anyone who has ever owned a dog knows, cats can be a major distraction. Ben and his new sidekick, Jerry, help us train our working dogs to ignore feline distractions. Ben plays his role to the hilt, swaggering around the school, daring any dog to bother him. He can frequently be seen checking his territory, inspecting new puppies at the nursery, keeping rodents under control, and attending all our public events. 🐾

