ALUMNI NEWS

Volume 29 – Number 4

Maia Scott, Deb Cook Lewis, and Theresa Stern, Editors

Audio version voiced by Michele Spitz, Woman of Her Word and Cliff Hahn, Cliff Hahn Sound

We love your participation in this newsletter. Send submissions to the editor via phone, mail, or e-mail tstern@guidedogs.com or alumninews@guidedogs.com

Alumni Association Mission Statement

The Alumni Association will support the vision of GDB, “using our power of partnering to improve quality of life”, by building a strong sustainable community of support among our Alumni. We will work to support Alumni success with their guide, in building relationships with others, and actively participating in the greater GDB community.

Alumni Association Board of Directors Mission Statement

Connecting our community through leadership, advocacy, communication and outreach

Alumni News is available electronically, in Braille (upon request), and on audio CD (upon request). The audio version of this newsletter and Guide Dog News can be found on our website, guidedogs.com. If you are able to access email and would like future issues sent to you electronically, please let Theresa Stern know at tstern@guidedogs.com. Email allows us to get the news to you in a timely manner and is easy on the environment!

We'd like to send our very special thanks to all of our Alumni who, by their efforts and their examples, refer others to our program.

Interested in a career with GDB? Check out our opportunities at: <http://guidedogs.com/careers>

Browse all GDB’s newsletters, including back issues of Alumni News at [www.guidedogs.com/news](http://www.guidedogs.com/news)

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# FROM YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Editor’s Note*:*

*The Alumni Association Board Committee that helps to produce this newsletter is trying something new! Each issue will have a theme – as you will see, this issue focusses on holiday fun! Our next issue, scheduled to come out in Spring 2022 will feature articles on gardening. We need your help, please submit your articles, poems, garden fresh recipes, etc. to* *alumninews@guidedogs.com* *by Feb. 15 to be considered for inclusion in the next Alumni News!*

#

# Survey Says!... And We Listened.

By Maia Scott with *Gleam*

Our Alumni Association Board conducted informal focus groups with our Alumni Association Chapter Members asking what you like and what you’d like to see from your Alumni Board. Many of you answered strong as one powerful voice on a number of topics and concerns. This in mind, board members created some new work groups or committees in order to move forward on some of these suggestions for change and development.

**Advocacy** - Many grads asked for additional, accessible resources and tools to help others understand the guide dog lifestyle, address issues around access and script responses for those uncomfortable encounters with the public. A committee has been formed to work closely with GDB staff and experts to build new resources and improve existing ones. We will keep you posted as new and improved resources become available.

**Puppy Relations** – Have you ever wished to visit your dog’s puppy club when you were in town? Or have you thought it would be neat to offer your wisdom in a Q&A about topics around blindness, living in extreme weather or other topics? Possibilities for such engagements are taking shape. In the near future, look for a brief questionnaire asking you about your interest in supporting the work of puppy clubs.

**Who’s Who?** – A general consensus showed that “Town Hall” and “Speaker Series” sessions appear interchangeable. As to which ones are offered by GDB proper and which come from the Alumni Board, anything titled “Town Hall” is organized by various department staff at GDB and the “Speaker Series” offerings are organized by your board. Presently, board members are working with Theresa and GDB’s marketing experts to explore both audible and visual ways of easily identifying what content is coming from where. For instance, you may see future Alumni Association emails more clearly identified so you know what’s coming from Theresa Stern versus missives from Client Services or other GDB departments.

**Reunion** – The Events Committee is starting to generate a vision for a reunion in October of 2022. And, yes! It’s going to be virtual! We heard you loud and clear. This reunion, celebrating GDB’s eighty-year anniversary, will feature an opening session, talent show, breakout sessions, a vendor’s space and more. For those of us who want to celebrate in person, we will also offer a central schedule where alumni chapters, puppy clubs and other GDB fan groups can plan and post in-person special events during the reunion week.

Mentorship – We heard from many of you that you are interested in being a mentor, either for an existing grad with whom you have shared interests or with someone new to vision loss and exploring the guide dog lifestyle. Our Mentoring Project Team has begun looking into organizing such a program with the help of our Client Services Team. In the meantime we have plans in the works to meet, via Zoom, with folks who have been accepted to train at GDB and are waiting for a class date. We will give them info and insider tips on what to expect in class and how to prepare to go home with your first guide dog. Stay tuned for more information on our developing programs.

## The 2022 Virtual Reunion Starts with You.

By Maia Scott with *Gleam*

You heard it right, folks. The forthcoming reunion is VIRTUAL. This means some traditions are being transformed, making room for new possibilities – and more of them.

How would you like to participate in the GDB Eightieth Anniversary Reunion planned for October 15 – 22, 2022? Many of us are itching for a healthy dose of paws-itve vibes among our GDB family and plans are in motion. Next October seems so far away. Time flies when you are having fun and when you are waiting for it. This in mind, we want to give you a heads up about opportunities to get involved:

**Introductions** – During our in-person reunions, we take some time to pass a mic around the room in order to hear an introduction from everyone present. In lieu of this tradition, we will be asking for attendees to pre-submit a super quick, thirty-second introduction from a favorite place near home, all to be compiled into video montages that will be shared during the reunion.

**Talent Show** – If you would like to share a favorite song you composed, a poem you wrote about your dog or another terrific talent; we will be welcoming submissions of videos with a run-time of five minutes or less for consideration to appear in a livestreamed celebration of GDB talent. Keep a lookout for a call for submissions.

**Breakout Sessions** – This is your chance to teach a skill or share your expertise related to guide dogs, blindness topics and beyond. A curated selection of breakout sessions will be offered throughout the reunion week. Stay tuned to learn more about how to apply and where to access an application for submission.

**Vendors** – We may have a virtual space for a selected group of vendors to share their wares. If you own a small business that you believe would benefit our GDB family, consider applying once the call for interest comes out.

**In-Person Events** – If you meet with an alumni chapter, puppy club or other mix of GDB family, consider scheduling one of your meetings, an outing, fundraiser or regional picnic during reunion week. Health protocol pending, an in-person gathering can be a great opportunity to make local connections while celebrating all that’s GDB.

For now, hold those leashes tight and put a gentle leader on that bouncy spinning donut of waggy anticipation, (that’s probably on you rather than Juno), and get ready to save the date, sit back and CELEBRATE!

##

## Harnessing the Holidays with Safety and Pleasure – A recap of the December Speakers Series

By: Theresa Stern with *Wills*

Your Alumni Association Board of Directors offers a quarterly Speakers Series. Our last program was especially informative and fun so we thought we would give you a quick recap of the highlights. Our presenter was the amazing Toby Contreras, Field Services Support Specialist. Toby has worked at GDB for over 25 years and has a wealth of knowledge to share. We asked him to enlighten us on how we can keep our guides safe while enjoying the chaos of the holiday season. Here are a few tips from the expert!

Trees, and Ornaments, and gifts Oh My!:

* Festive holiday foliage is often poisonous to pooches including Missile Tow, Holly, and Poinsettias
* Christmas Trees are large and heavy and curious dogs may accidently knock them over while exploring the decorations
* Trees may be in your dog’s “zoomie” route so be aware of falling trees!!
* Those adorable costumes, such as reign deer headbands, jingle bell collars, and Santa hats along with tree ornaments, lights, and other festive decor may be confused by Juno as tempting toys, so to stay safe, remove costumes after picture time and try to keep your four-legged friend away from the balls, and bows, and other ho ho hos!
* Remember that some of the gifts under your tree may be of an edible nature, aka the dreaded fruit cake, so if you have an inkling that Santa may have brought you cookies this year, keep those tasty treats away from Juno, and it is always best practice to monitor your dog around the tree!

Friends, Family, Food and Fun!:

* Remember to keep treats like that delicious cheese ball out of Retriever reach!
* Let Grandma know that Juno does not need a nibble, even though his big brown eyes say he does, consider bringing some kibble to give as positive reinforcements throughout the party – that way Juno can have a little fun and not go home with a belly ache.
* Turkey bones, chocolate, and raisins (along with other treats) are tempting, but can cause severe problems if ingested, let the two-legged turkeys at your gathering know not to share with Juno.
* Close the door! When you are either hosting or attending a holiday gathering, remember that more folks are coming in and out and the door may be open allowing Juno to walk your local winter wonderland – remind folks to keep the door closed or keep your pup close at hand.

More Nice, Less Naughty!

* Avoid problems by keeping your guide on leash, tie down or in a crate
* Remember that when on tie down you need to still be able to monitor your pup, especially around guests who love to feed treats.
* Crates can be a great option as they provide a safe and quiet place for your dog to get away from the craziness and sleep in heavenly peace!
* Consider getting an additional tag for your guide that has your phone number just in case he gets out and GDB is not open due to our holiday schedule.
* Call the Support Center, we are here to help you have a fabulous holiday season!

*Note: A recording of this event will soon be posted in the alumni section of guidedogs.com*

## GDB CEO and President, Chris Benninger Elected to IGDF Board!

By: Karen Woon, VP Marketing and Communications

“Christine Benninger, President and CEO of Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB), has been elected to the board of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF), the world’s largest membership organization of guide dog schools, whose members’ purpose is to train and provide guide dogs for people who are blind or have low vision around the globe.

Benninger’s IGDF board participation further solidifies GDB’s leadership role on the global stage in improving mobility, inclusion, and independence for people who are blind or visually impaired, and in advocating for policy reforms that change how the world views blindness.”

If you would like to read the entire release [please follow this link](https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20211006005338/en/Guide-Dogs-for-the-Blind-President-and-CEO-Christine-Benninger-Joins-the-Board-of-the-International-Guide-Dog-Federation) and feel free to share. The release contains an image of our logo as well as a pic of Chris holding a yellow Lab puppy.

Congrats to Chris!

# SEASONS’ EATINGS

*Tis the season for treats, we have one for you and one for your pooch (remember to avoid those pesky pounds on your pup only give in small quantities)*

## Flan-Tastic Holiday! (For You)

Submitted By: Melba Valez Ortiz with *Chad*

The cheapest way to flee to the Caribbean in the winter months: Puerto Rican Flan

Originally called Borikén by its original Taíno indian inhabitants, Puerto Rico became a colony of the USA in 1897 after Spain lost the Spanish-American War and the US acquired the tiny Caribbean island. Puerto Rican culture is a rich mixture of African, Spanish, and Taíno Indian heritage with all three groups strongly represented in contemporary Puerto Rican arts, culture, and food! One of the most festive and delicious Puerto Rican desserts is Spanish custard or flan. Puerto Rican flan is different from Mexican flan because as it is firmer in consistency and has a fuller flavor. The recipe below is for our classic Puerto Rican cheese flan and it is best eaten cold and accompanied by a hot cup of extra strong coffee. The sweetness and fullness off the flan will compliment perfectly the bitter warmness of the coffee. This is the cheapest way to travel to the Caribbean in the winter months. ¡Buen Provecho!

Prep: 15 mins

Cook:55 mins

Additional:2 hrs 5 mins

Total:3 hrs 15 mins

Ingredients

Original recipe yields 8 servings

• 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk

• 1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated milk

• 6 eggs

• 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened

• ⅓ cup 2% milk

• 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

• 1 cup white sugar

Directions

Instructions Checklist

• Step 1 - Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

• Step 2 - Fill a large oven-safe pot with water to 1 inch; bring to a boil.

• Step 3 - Place sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk, eggs, cream cheese, milk, and vanilla extract in a blender; blend until smooth.

• Step 4 - Place sugar in an even layer in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook until edges start to brown, about 1 minute; drag sugar into the center with a spatula once the edges start to brown. Continue cooking, stirring from time to time, until caramel is an even golden brown, 4 to 5 minutes.

• Step 5 - Pour caramel into a 9-inch flan mold or baking pan; swirl so that caramel reaches 1 inch up the sides. Pour condensed milk mixture on top. Place mold in the pot of boiling water.

• Step 6 - Bake flan in the preheated oven until a damp table knife inserted into the center comes out clean, 45 minutes to 1 hour. Remove from oven and let stand for 5 minutes.

• Step 7 - Chill flan in the refrigerator until firm, 2 to 3 hours. Invert onto a serving plate so that caramel is on top.

Notes:

• You'll need a flan mold (or standard baking tube pan) and a pot for the bain-marie that's big enough to comfortably accommodate the mold.

• This recipe was modified from the original published by Allrecipes.com.

## Pumpkin and Peanut Butter Holiday Treats (For Your Pup)

Submitted By: Cheri Owen with *Martinez*

Ingredients

2.5 cups of whole wheat flour

2 eggs

1 cup canned organic pumpkin

2 tablespoons natural creamy peanut butter (unsalted)

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon of ground cinnamon

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

2. Whisk together the four, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, salt and cinnamon in a bowl. Add water as needed to work the dough but not too much. Just enough where the dough is dry and stiff and not watery. (we added a tablespoon of water at a time and that worked well)

3. Roll the dough out into a 1/2 thickness onto a counter and cut into 1/2 inch pieces or use your favorite dog festive cookie cutter.

4. Bake in the preheated oven until hard, about 40 minutes.

5. Let cool and have one happy guide dog!!

# REIN-DOG GAMES AND RYMES

## “Avivia, Clean Up”

By: Leigh Moss with *Avivia*

At home during the pandemic, Leigh Moss and Guide, Avivia took the GDB Boredom Busters seriously and.created their own.   One afternoon, after stepping barefoot on a newly sharpened Nylabone (honestly worse than Legos) Leigh took to the internet to find out how to break down the task of teaching Avivia to put away her toys!

She figured if Aviva could learn  how to find bus stops, chairs, elevators and such, she could certainly learn to put a toy into a basket.   After some research on clicker training and refreshing herself on the GDB class article on backchaining, she and Avivia went to work!

By nature, during playtime, Avivia would already bring her toys.  She began by creating a target for her to drop the toy and clicker training her to drop the toy on an unfolded dish towel in front of her.   Once she was doing that consistently, she placed her empty toy basket on the towel.  This time, without any toys around, she clicked each time Avivia put her head into the basket.  While Leigh sat on the floor, with the basket right in front of her, Avivia faced her from the opposite side of the basket.  She could now hold out the toy for Avivia to take and each time it fell or was dropped into the basket, “Click!”

As you might imagine, Avivia loved this game and was super motivated to learn: take the toy, drop it in the basket and…. treat!  Next, the toy was placed on the ground, in close proximity to the basket.  Whenever she picked up the toy and dropped it in the basket, more clicks and treats.   Eventually, Leigh was able to move the toy further and further from the basket and when she knew for a fact that Avivia was going to drop it in, then she introduced the command, “Avivia, clean up!”

Like all learning, this took weeks of a little bit of practice one day at a time.  It’s not perfect even now.  There are certainly days when 5-6 Nylabones are all over the living room floor, but now, instead of the fear of walking barefoot through the room, Leigh knows she can start the game with the simple words, “Avivia, clean up!”

## *Martinez’* Night Before Christmas

By*: Martinez* with Cheri Owen

Twas the night before Christmas and all through my crate,

I smelled my dog treats baking and knew I must wait.

My stocking was hung by the chimney with care,

In hopes that extra strong Kong toys soon would be there.

I was snuggled in my blankets for a cold winter’s nap when suddenly

I heard a *clap, clap clap*—

When out on the lawn, there was such clatter.

I stood up in my crate to see what was the matter.

The moon as a glimmer on the new-fallen rain—

Gave the luster to Christmas photos tucked into their frame.

When, what to my velvety brown eyes should appear,

But Chris Benninger, Theresa and eleven GDB Board alumni volunteers!

With a little old training van driver, so lively and quick,

I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than Bassett hounds, his coursers they came,

And he whistled, and shouted, and called us by name:

“Now, AMY!, now CHERI, now, MAIA, KELLY and DEB! On, JACK! on LEIGH!

on DEANNA and CHRIS, LUIS and MELBA! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!

Come down here now,and make all the toys fall!

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the tiles—

Everyone down the chimney in a blind pile!

They spoke over each other, but went straight to work

“No, over there, don’t trip!” “Don’t tell me what to do.” “Don’t be a jerk.”

*When can we eat the cookies?* Everyone chorused

Well, we must find them first, in this enchanted forest.

I silently watched with joy.

I heard the word cookie and thought “Oh Boy!”

My nose knows best, but counter surfing they detest,

They clumsily feel and fill stockings while I drool,

The gifts set ‘round the tree like abundant jewels.

They gleefully found the plate of sweets

And took their time eating the treats.

From the roof, Chris and Theresa whistle them back—

They rush and sweep the rest of the cookies into their sacks.

On the way out, they turned to me and whispered,

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

# CHAPTER CHAT

New Alumni Chapter! GDB HaRT of Oregon (Handlers and Raisers Together)

By: Chari Chauvin and Jenny Collins

There’s nothing better than running into a Puppy Raiser while out working with my guide dog. I could easily stop and chat with them for hours. If there’s time, I’ll happily share all the fabulous things my dog does as a well-behaved, well-socialized dog. And I love to acknowledge that it’s because of the foundation Raisers build through countless hours of training. Without that foundation, I would not have my amazing dog.

Those chance meetings led me to the realization that I wanted to connect even more with Raisers, so about four years ago I reached out and found my local club, Portland West, and began attending meetings and outings with the club. My guide and I were enthusiastically welcomed, and the ensuing friendships have been transformational.

These positive experiences with the Portland West Puppy Raisers Club got me to thinking how fun it would be to have an alumni chapter that brought together Handlers and Raisers in Oregon. I’ve learned as much or more from Raisers as they’ve learned from me as a Handler, so why not share our collective knowledge and have fun with other Handlers and Raisers across the state, as well as our close neighbors in Vancouver, Washington?

Seizing on the idea, I approached my friend Jenny Collins, a Leader in the Portland West Puppy Raising Club, with the idea, and Jenny was 100% in! Shortly after, GDB HaRT of Oregon (Handlers and Raisers Together) was born, and our inaugural virtual meeting took place in October. We had 10 Handlers and 10 Raisers attend, representing 14 cities across Oregon. 41 people have joined the chapter so far! We’re off to a great start!!

Well said, Chari, and it was a great way to kick off this new partnership between handlers and raisers. As I listened to the attendees of our first meeting, there was a common theme. We are all excited to learn from each other. There are a lot of rules puppy raisers are asked to follow. At times, some of these don’t make sense or seem important. However, when we talk to handlers and witness the dogs working, we begin to understand why these standards need to be followed.

I was recently at the Portland airport and saw a woman with a Guide Dog in a GDB harness. I admired their partnership from a distance, especially as the dog worked past a small fluffy pooch who had been let out of its travel carrier. As luck would have it, we ended up eating lunch at adjacent tables and there was an opportunity to chat briefly. Although we had just met, we shared a bond of having our lives changed for the better by Guide Dogs for the Blind and their wonderful dogs.

One of my favorite things about being a raiser is finding all sorts of fun outings to help socialize my puppy to the world. Eventually we will have the opportunity to do outings as Handlers and Raisers Together. In the meantime, I look forward to guest speakers and educational discussions to deepen our understanding and appreciation for each other. Thank you for joining us on our shared journey!

If you are a handler or raiser and live in Oregon or Vancouver, WA, please reach out via the Facebook link below, or Chari’s or Jenny’s email addresses also listed.

We would love to welcome you to the group!

[www.facebook.com/groups/gdbhartoforegon/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gdbhartoforegon/)

Chari Chauvin (handler)  finn986@gmail.com

Jenny Collins   (raiser)  puppycruisedirector@gmail.com

## Introducing, Movie Club!

By: Cheri Owen with *Martinez*

Get your popcorn and M&M’s ready! Like a book club, only quicker: Each month we will watch/listen to a movie at our own pace, then meet via zoom to break it down. We will discuss character analysis (who is the antagonist? What are the motives of the protagonists?), themes, the arc of the movie, the structure of the film, and its various acts, and why they matter.  Followed all by any other detail we find interesting and fun to discuss! For instance, we all think of *Rocky*as a sports movie, right? But it isn’t just Sylvester Stallone sweating and boxing. In reality, what made Rocky such a huge hit is the fact that it was one big romance--a love story. Love is the theme that runs through the entire movie. Rocky triumphed— not because he won his boxing match—but because he was able to love and be loved at the end of the film. Movies selected will vary each month by genre. Movie club discussion will be held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6pm PST, for January 2022 that is Monday, Jan. 17th. Check the Alumni Association E Calendar each month for details!

# ADVOCACY UPDATE

## Exciting California Legislation Update, AB 468 Passes!

By Rabih Dow, Director of Outreach and Advocacy

Guide Dogs for the Blind is happy to report that California Governor Gavin Newsom signed the legislation we have been pursuing for almost 2 years: AB468 ‘Guide, Signal and Service Dogs’. Congratulations to all of us at GDB on a historic achievement!

In an internal email last Spring, I described the legislation “as designed to address the growing  on-line sale of fraudulent service animal certificates by unscrupulous  opportunists.  These certificates are sold to unsuspecting victims with promises of giving their pets public access equal to that of legitimate service dogs.  In addition to cheating people Out of their money, these misleading shady business practices  have also resulted in putting innocent untrained animals in uncomfortable, scary and even dangerous situations.  Legitimate service dogs as well as innocent bystanders have unfortunately been also hurt by these untrained animals.  GDB sponsored this bill to protect the guide-dog public access rights to insure a long productive partnerships for our guide teams.”

We did it!  The new state law will go into effect in California on January 1st 2022.  Selling on-line fraudulent certificates/IDs misrepresenting dogs as service animals to California residents will be charged with a civil misdemeanor.  First time offense carries a fine of $500 escalating to $1,000 for second offense, and $2,500 for every subsequent offense.  In addition to the civil misdemeanor and the fine, mental health therapists treating California residents must conduct a clinical evaluation and establish a clinical relationship with the patient before and after they recommend a ‘support animal’. It’s the law!

This has been a long and arduous process.  We had to suspend earlier efforts in February 2020 due to the frightening onset of the COVID-19 crisis.  Undeterred, we vigorously resumed our quest last August With the support of GDB’s Board, management, staff, graduates, volunteers, donors, and other stakeholders.  Your phone calls, emails, and letters to your legislators made a difference.  We’re a small community but our rights matter.  We were heard.   we were able to overcome objections and oppositions to our efforts through both legislative chambers, numerous committee reviews, and the Governor’s office.  AB468 is one out of more than 4200 proposed legislations in California this session; less than 25% of them succeed in becoming laws.  Bridging a troubling gap in these divisive times, we even succeeded in receiving overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers! Now, just as crucially, we need to push for enforcement of the law.

We learned a lot from this experience. This is the first step in our legislative/regulatory efforts to address the growing abuse of selling on-line certificates. Our goal is to take this model to other jurisdictions in the U.S. and Canada and modify it as needed to further restrict this fraud. The success of AB468 in California shows us that we can fight back and make a difference.

How to help:

We want to hear from you as we strategize for next year. Our strength is in the greater GDB commitment to protect our rights, and in the watchful alumni network passion and determination. I look forward to hearing from graduates with ideas or suggestion for how we can work together to pursue similar legislation or regulation in your home state or province. I welcome any connection that you or someone in your social circle may have with state/provincial elected or appointed officials. Let’s explore potential opportunities together. You can contact me at:

Phone/text:415-342-8155,

Email at RDow@guidedogs.com

Happy trails.

# ALUMNI BULLETIN BOARD

GDB Alumna Kelly Egan with *Caspian* want you to know about their special business venture -Wine VEIL the unique, practical and beautiful accessory for anyone who loves wine!

Keep bugs OUT of your delicious wine. Check it out [www.wineveil.com](http://www.wineveil.com)

# IN MEMORIAM, IN MEMORY, IN TRIBUTE

In Memoriam – Remembering Alumni Who Have Passed

Elise Berkeley of Merced, CA with female yellow Lab guide *Becky* (CA 805 – March 2015)

Trevor Jones of Victoria, BC with male Yellow Lab /Golden Cross *Hastings* (CA 890 – December 2012)

## In Memory – Remembering Guides Who Have Passed

*Parkin,* male Black Lab guide for Maria Buzdon of Mississauga, ON (CA 699 – October 2009)

*Provo*, male Black Lab guide for Erin Rumer of Tacoma, WA (September 2009)

*Grady,* male Yellow Lab guide for Lynne Janssen of Lakewood, CO (OR 236 – March 2013)

*Cherelle,* female Yellow Lab / Golden Cross guide for Christine Stabe of Spokane, WA (OR 152 – September 2008)

## In Tribute – Honoring Guides Who Have Retired

*Dyson,* male Yellow Lab guide for Laura Anne Grymes of College Station, TX (OR 250 – May 2013)

*Jasmine*, female Yellow Lab guide for Maile George of Concord, CA (CA 730 – November 2011)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## The Shared List

The Department of Defense Diversity Management Operations Center, Disabilities Programs Directorate Presents… THE SHARED LIST - A database of diverse and highly qualified individuals who are eligible for Federal Employment under Schedule A hiring authority. Website: [www.dodsharedlist.com](http://www.dodsharedlist.com)

A user friendly database where qualified job seekers who are eligible foremployment under the Schedule A hiring Authority can post their resume andcredentials to be considered for priority employment. Assist the Department of Defense inmeeting the hiring goals of people withtargeted disabilities, as determined by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), or individuals with non targeted disabilities. An affirmative employment program for people with disabilities and disabled veterans (DVAAP). Designed to provide hiring managers an easy way to identify individuals with disabilities who can fill vacant position without utilizing the full compete process. For More Information Email: info@dodsharedlist.com

## Sequel to Guiding Emily, by: Barbara Hinske, Now Available

For those of you who enjoyed the 2020 novel Guiding Emily: A Tale of Love, Loss, and Courage. The author, who did a great deal of research for her novel at Guide Dogs for the Blind, wants to let you know that the sequel, The Unexpected Path, was published on November 16th. To refresh your memory, Guiding Emily is the story of a young woman who loses her eyesight on her honeymoon and the guide-dog-in-training who becomes her guide dog. I'm thrilled that Guiding Emily has been enthusiastically embraced by the visually impaired and guide dog communities, and has almost 500 Amazon reviews, with a 4.7 star average.

The Unexpected Path is the much-anticipated continuation of Emily Main's story, as she, along with her guide dog Garth, finds her way back into her happy and productive life.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**2021 – 2022 Meetings**

**Sept 18, Dec 4, March 5, June 4**

**Officers:**

**Chair – Amy Salger/*Marsala***

**Vinton, IA**

**asalger@guidedogs.com**

**Vice-Chair: John (Jack) Heim /*Scout***

**Madison, WI**

**jheim@guidedogs.com**

**Secretary - Deanna Lewis/ *Mambo***

**Cincinnati, OH**

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**Vice President Outreach, Admissions, and Alumni Services**

**Theresa Stern / *Wills***

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#

# Guide Dogs for the Blind Alumni Chapters

## USA

**Arizona**

**Desert Dogs of Phoenix**

* **Location: Phoenix, Arizona**
* **President: Scott Wilcock,****stitchbert@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Brian Mucyo,****brianmucyo@gmail.com**

**Northern Arizona High Country Walkers**

* **Location: Northern Arizona**
* **President: Patricia Clingman,****patriciaclingman@yahoo.com**
* **Vice-president: Doug Reber,****dougib4586@gmail.com**
* **Secretary: Vicki Reber,****vreber78@gmail.com**

**California**

**Foggy Doggies**

* **Location: San Francisco, California**
* **Email:****fogdog@groups.io**
* **Co-president: Lauri Shay,****laurishay@gmail.com**
* **Co-president: Jan Robitscher,****jbrobit@aol.com**
* **Secretary: Alysa Chadow,****chadowab@gmail.com**

**OC Guide Dogs Alumni Chapter**

* **Location: Orange County, California**
* **Web Site:**[**ocguidedogs.com**](http://ocguidedogs.com)
* **President: Mindy Wulff,****minwulff@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Jeff Senge,****jcsenge@outlook.com**
* **Secretary: Carla Ross,****info@ocguidedogs.com**

**Paws of Fame**

* **Location: Los Angeles County, California**
* **Web Site:**[**www.pawsoffamela.com**](http://www.pawsoffamela.com)
* **President: Joseph Landau,****jklandau@yahoo.com**

**Sacramento GDB Alumni**

* **Location: Sacramento, California**
* **Email:****sacgdbalumni@gmail.com**
* **Web Site:**[**www.sacgdbalumni.com**](http://www.sacgdbalumni.com)
* **President: Christopher Pitcher,****christopher.pitch@icloud.com**
* **Vice-president: Debra Thompson,****adrinamom@gmail.com**
* **Secretary: Shelby Haines,****Shelby-Haines@scusd.edu**

**San Diego Alumni Chapter of Guide Dog Handlers**

* **Location: San Diego, California**
* **President: Launa Hardy,****Launahardy@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Monique Fenton,****Moniquegdb14@gmail.com**

**Colorado**

**Colorado Rocky rovers**

* **Location: Denver, Colorado**
* **Email:****CoRockyrovers@gmail.com**
* **President: Beth Gustin,****bethglpc@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Veronica Rodriguez,****Veronicarodriguez1954@gmail.com**
* **Secretary: Pat Hein**

**Florida**

**Sunshine Guide Dog Teams of Florida**

* **Location: Florida**
* **Description: We talk about our guide dogs and support each other with once a month calls and a once a year in person meeting.**
* **President: Marcia Bukala,****mjbukala@yahoo.com**
* **Vice-president: Jim East,****jim.east.mhs@gmail.com**
* **Secretary: Reggie Alvarado,****reggie.alvarado@gmail.com**

**Illinois**

**Windy City GDB Alumni**

* **Location: Chicago, Illinois**
* **Description: Chicago and Northern Illinois**
* **President: Pete Berg,** **pberg55555@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Terry Ann Saurman,****saurmann@access4less.net**
* **Secretary/Treasurer: Marian Roberts and Maureen Reid.**

**Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio**

**Guide Dog Handlers of the Midwest**

* **Email:****GDB\_Midwest+subscribe@groups.io**
* **President: Deanna Lewis,****Deannakay03@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Paul Walker,****herospaw2002@gmail.com**
* **Secretary: LuAnn Bowers**

**Montana**

**GDB of Montana Alumni Chapter**

* **President: Ed Worrell,****ed.worrell@icloud.com**
* **Secretary: Aaron Page,****ampage87@gmail.com**

**Oregon**

**GDB HaRT of Oregon**

* **Location: Portland, Oregon /Southern WA**
* **President: Chari Chauvin at** **finn986@gmail.com**

**Utah**

**Greatest Paws on Earth**

* **Location: Utah**
* **President: Sandy Ruconich,****sruconich@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Patty Mueller,****plmueller@q.com**

**Washington**

**Washington State GDB Alumni**

* **Location: Washington State**
* **Description: Supporting each other and keeping everyone up to date about GDB**
* **Email:****wagdbalumni+subscribe@groups.io**
* **President: Danette Dixon,****danettedixon63@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Jeanne Jacobs,****Jeannelavernejacobs@gmail.com**

## Canada

**British Columbia**

**BC Dogwoods GDB Alumni**

* **Location: British Columbia**
* **Email:****BC Dogwoods Alumni Group talkadvocacy@hooh.ca**
* **President: Heather Walkus**
* **Advocacy: Lisa Bentz**
* **Outreach: Matt Salli**

**Quebec**

**Isee Paws Guide Dogs**

* **Location: Montreal, Quebec**
* **President: Kim Holdbrook,****kimholdbrook3@gmail.com**

## Special Interest

**GDB Bibliodogs**

* **Description: Book Club**
* **Email:** toBibliodogs+subscribe@groups.io
* **President: Leigh Moss**

**GDB Creative Tails writing group**

* **Description: Writing**
* **Email:****GDBCreativeTails@groups.io**
* **President: Lisa Gilmartin,****lsg1144.lg@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Dorianne Pollack,****Doriannepollack@gmail.com**
* **Secretary: Launa Hardy,****launahardy@gmail.com**

**GDB Guide Dog Handlers All Ways**

* **Description: GDB grads and other guide dog handlers with multiple disabilities**
* **Co-president: Kim Kilpatrick,****kimjkilpatrick@gmail.com**
* **Co-president: Jo Elizabeth Pinto,****jopinto@msn.com**
* **Vice-president: Sarah Gales**
* **Secretary: Deanna Lewis,****Deannakay03@gmail.com**

**GDB Mommies with Guides**

* **Description: Focus on parenting**
* **President: Tara Chavez,****tmatzick06@gmail.com**

**GDB Paws Around the World**

* **Description: Travel**
* **President: Marcia Yale,****dragoncatmc@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Kay Malmquist,****kay.malmquist@gmail.com**

**GDB Raisers and Handlers**

* **Description: Bringing raisers and handlers together.**
* **President: Danette Dixon,****Danettedixon63@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Paul Walker,****herospaw2002@gmail.com**
* **Secretary: Mary Flynn**
* **Outreach: Andrea Barnhurst,****atl\_braves1fan@yahoo.com**

**GDB Tech Dogs**

* **Location: International, meets via Zoom**
* **Description: Sharing tips, tricks, and techniques related to technology**
* **Email:****techdogs@groups.io**
* **Web Site:**[**www.tech-dogs.net**](http://www.tech-dogs.net)
* **President: Deborah Kendrick,****Kendrick.deborah@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Paul Walker,****herospaw2002@gmail.com**

**Gdb Stitch and Bitch**

* **Description: Needlecrafting of all types**
* **Email:****GDBStitchAndBitch@groups.io**
* **President: Dorianne Pollack,****Doriannepollack@gmail.com**
* **Vice-president: Jack Heim,****john@johnheim.com**
* **Secretary: Deanna Lewis,****Deannakay03@gmail.com**