# ALUMNI NEWS

Volume 29 – Number 2

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](mailto:tstern@guidedogs.com) or [alumninews@guidedogs.co](mailto:alumninews@guidedogs.co)m

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](mailto: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>

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# NEWS FROM CLIENT SERVICES

# Client Town Hall Resources

By: Lauren Kenney, Director of Client Services

If you didn’t get a chance to watch live, please find a link to the recording of GDB’s Client Town Hall held on March 10, 2021. It was a pleasure to connect with those who joined us. With over 230 clients in attendance, it was a very successful meeting:

[Client Town Hall Video (YouTube)](https://communications.guidedogs.com/e/896181/watch-v-3tI5kLKN-gE/fxdb/95392807?h=xEuA2_2ZnQ9XST-Fva9IVO2LBE-p60hhEfXNCycZ_2M)

[Client Town Hall Video Transcript (Word File)](https://communications.guidedogs.com/e/896181/ient-Town-Hall-March-2021-docx/fxdd/95392807?h=xEuA2_2ZnQ9XST-Fva9IVO2LBE-p60hhEfXNCycZ_2M)

 During the meeting, we informed participants that we would include responses to

questions we were unable to address and send recording details. Below, please find a

links to articles related to some of these responses:

Related to returning to outside activities with your guide, check out, “Back to Basics”, our article about maintaining and returning to guidework practice during the pandemic:

["Back to Basics" (article)](https://communications.guidedogs.com/e/896181/work-Basics-Fresh-and-Fun-docx/fxdg/95392807?h=xEuA2_2ZnQ9XST-Fva9IVO2LBE-p60hhEfXNCycZ_2M)

For answers to questions about the DOT  Service Animal Regulation updates implemented in January, 2021, please click the following link which will take you to a recording of our Webinar with Ray Prentis from Alaska Airlines:

[DOT Townhall (YouTube)](https://communications.guidedogs.com/e/896181/al-Regulation-Changes-2021-m4a/fxdj/95392807?h=xEuA2_2ZnQ9XST-Fva9IVO2LBE-p60hhEfXNCycZ_2M)

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact us with questions. Call the Support Center

team from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM (PDT) Monday-Friday at 800-295-4050. You can also

reach us via email at [igraduatesupport@guidedogs.com](file:///C:\Users\tstern\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\F3GI4UGD\igraduatesupport@guidedogs.com)

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue forward progress on returning to

full mission. Stay safe and be well!

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# CHAPTER CHAT

***Editor’s Note – So excited to see our chapters flourishing! You should be receiving a calendar of chapter activities each month, please know that you are invited to all these programs, weather you live in the area or not! We encourage you to get involved!***

## OC Guide Dogs Thriving the Pandemic Together

**By Mindy Wulff with *Moto***

Prior to COVID, our Chapter met quarterly for in-person meetings at the Orangewood Avenue Baptist Church. Monthly outings included: The Ocean Institute in Dana Point, The Spaghetti Factory in Fullerton, The San Clemente Outlets, The Laguna Canyon Winery, and the IRWD Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. In January 2020, Linda Becker with *Anchorage*; former President and OC Guide Dogs Board member, organized the Ruby’s restaurant fundraiser. Several Ruby’s locations participated and we raised over $700.00. It was well attended by Puppy Raisers, Handlers and friends.

Last year was like no other. Upon returning from the Boring Oregon campus with my successor guide dog; *Moto*, I realized our members would soon need help. Everything came to a screeching halt. We coordinated community volunteers, Puppy Raisers and the Delta Gamma Sorority. It was a challenging time for many. In April, we started a weekly Friday afternoon “Social Hour” for members via conference call. Together, we helped each other navigate the waters.

“If it had not been for the OC Guide Dog Alumni group, I never would have been introduced to the sorority that helped me find an assistant to do my shopping, drive me to the bank, and help with little things since I live alone,” remarked Tina Wilson with *Barnum*.

With the help of our awesome secretary, Carla Ross, quarterly meetings via conference call have been well attended. Guest speakers this past year included: Bay Area Puppy Raiser Mary Kay Bettina, Outreach and Advocacy Director Rabia Dow, Dale McIntosh, OC Guide Dogs alumni member Paul Brennan, Jeremiah with *Anaheim and* Puppy Raiser Beth Jesch.

“OC Guide Dogs Social Hour has given me the opportunity to connect with other blind individuals who have Guide Dogs and are trying to stay active during the pandemic,” shared Rebecca Mendez and *Cora*.

Supporting GDB’s 2020 theme of service to others, OC Guide Dogs raised over $1,400.00 for the Foundation Fighting Blindness Virtual 15th Annual Vision Walk.

In November, we enjoyed our Zoom Fall Festival Concert featuring members Tina Wilson on vocals and guitar, Rebekah Mendes on vocals and piano and included Saxophone tunes by Richard King with *Traveler* and Tim Dill with *Rosebud*.

At the end of 2020, OC Guide Dogs was able to give the six Orange County GDB puppy clubs $200.00 each in appreciation for ALL of their incredible work thanks to generous support from MD4 California Lions, District 4l4 Leo’s, and Scott Quinlan and Irish’s Orange County Fair Blue-Ribbon BBQ sauce.

OC Guide Dog Members are not required to be GDB graduates. Blind and visually impaired non-Guide Dog users are welcome. Our accessible and informative website is OC Guidedogs.com. Mary Ann Epstein, our webmaster, updates the site regularly. We also have a Facebook page managed by OCGD Board member and past Vice President Paula Pinheiro with *Joanie*.

## Update from the New Montana GDB Alumni Chapter

**By: Ed Worrell, president**

The new GDB Alumni chapter of Montana held an organizational meeting in December, 2020 and our first official meeting with all 12 members was held on the second Sunday of January, 2021. We meet every month on the 2nd Sunday at 2 pm (M T.) We also have a discussion board/mailing list. Send a blank email to [gdbmt+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:gdbmt+subscribe@groups.io) to join the list.

Currently we have 3 members waiting for guide dogs. One will be receiving her 8th dog, one is waiting for his 2nd dog, and one is a new applicant/handler.

Members of the GDB Montana Alumni Chapter help one another with simple issues/suggestions and our new handlers especially help by thinking a little more outside the box. This has quickly become one of our groups biggest strengths.  We have a great group of alumni in Montana and are looking forward to becoming much more active in our local communities.

Our officers are as follows:

President: Ed Worrell - [ed@overhereconsulting.net](mailto:ed@overhereconsulting.net) or 406-231-6822

Vice President: Chandra Scheschy - 360-463-3435.

Secretary: Todd Falhstrom - [todd.falhstrom@usfamily.net](mailto:todd.falhstrom@usfamily.net) or 406-600-7548.

## How Our Puppy Raisers Are Special

By: Veronica Rodriguez

 As a loyal member of our Colorado Rockies chapter, I would like to honor our puppy raisers. They play a helpful part in our group.  They provide pointers for grooming our dogs, especially nail trimming. Their kindness also makes it possible to attend the Puppy Paddle a party usually held in September by providing transportation for those in need.  One of our raisers even offers their home for our holiday party and our dogs have the opportunity to celebrate by running and playing in their big yard! Also, if a guide dog handler has a situation where their guide cannot travel with them and needs to board, a raiser is able to provide a safe and loving home.  But best of all, they introduce us users to their puppies in training where we get our puppy fix

In speaking to our special puppy raisers over the years including those who have raised my guides, I have learned that they say they find raising puppies to become guide dogs is extremely rewarding, even though they feel sad when their puppy goes off to training and graduates. They say it is like a child growing up and going away to school and then off to work.

We handlers love hearing about our guide’s life as a pup, their little tricks and try-outs; and the raisers love hearing about our adventures in travel throughout our guide’s working career.

 It sure pays to keep in contact with our puppy raisers, as when the hard retirement decision comes, and a handler cannot keep her retired guide due to apartment living or other complications, our sweet puppy raisers may be willing to adopt the senior citizen pup. And, if you are able to keep your dog in retirement, you will find it is a pleasure sharing highlights of your dog’s retirement with our raisers till the end and they love hearing of them in return.

# IN OUR OWN WORDS

## “Lyle’s Legacy, The Life of a Guide Dog and How He’s Changed Mine.”

**Coming soon; a memoir written by Launa Hardy.**

**Synopsis:** A young mother of three has just had her world shattered by the man she trusted most. She is then given devastating news. She has a condition that will lead to vision loss. Sometime later she receives a new diagnosis of impending hearing loss as well. Her self-esteem is wounded and confidence is lost until she meets the most loveable and endearing canine; a well-trained guide dog from Guide Dogs for the Blind. This loving companion and loyal guide dog became her eyes. Over time he gives her empowerment to help her rebuild trust, and build the confidence that was lost and bringing back the hope she needs for an amazing future. From the challenges of everyday life, to the enrichment of working with wounded warriors, and returning back to school to earn a degree, the two create an amazing team that becomes inseparable. Through their journey, comes laughter and tears, tough lessons and unbearable moments, amazing achievements and the beauty of making a difference in the life of others. The resilience learned from this beloved guide dog helps his handler to believe she’s had it all along. Together the two are able to reach great achievements and overcome life’s most difficult obstacles. This beautiful canine, Lyle, came into this world for a purpose and when life comes to an end for this endearing companion, he hears the welcoming phrase “Well done my furry friend, well done!” This book will keep you on the edge of your seat from the beginning of the story to the very end.

**A personal note from the author:** Lyle’s story, I soon realized I was also writing my own. And together our story will fall into the genre of a beautiful memoir. I learned that blindness was never a barrier, and through the help of my beloved guide and my faith, I was able to build the courage to face my fears and the many obstacles along the way. The strength that is regained through the help of my guide dog reopened doors I had thought were forever closed and discovered dreams I thought were long forgotten. Lyle constantly showed me unconditional love regardless of my failures and his presence helped me to feel safe in our travels.  I learned that life doesn’t stop because of vision and hearing loss. It was only the beginning of a whole new world; a world I had never known could exist.  Over our many years as a guide dog team, Lyle showed me the courage I needed in order to move into a life of new and wonderful possibilities. The two of us built a strong friendship, a trusting relationship and an unbreakable bond.

## Book by GDB Graduate Nominated For an Audio Book Award!

**BY: Betsy Folwell with *Hartlyn***

"*Short Carries: Essays from Adirondack Life*" was my pandemic project says Betsy Folwell, a GDB graduate working with Hartlyn an eight-year-old black Lab. The book is a collection of articles on nature, outdoor recreation, local history and small town life that was published as a paperback in 2009. “After visiting some GDB folks in Montreal in January 2020 I realized that my book is just not accessible to my new friends, nor, for that matter, to me as a blind person.” .

"Using the Audible Creative Exchange, a platform that connects authors and narrators, I selected a price range for production and posted samples for auditions. I was blown away when 60 MP3 files came in, all women reading the same sample I chose,” Linda Jones, who has narrated scores of books for major publishers had just the right delivery for the book, which runs 8 hours and 18 minutes.

In April Jones notified the author that Short Carries is a finalist for the Independent Audiobook Awards in the nonfiction category. The winner will be announced at the Hear Now Festival in June.

The Independent Audiobook Awards website: <https://www.independentaudiobookawards.com/>

The HEAR Now Festival website: <https://www.hearnowfestival.org/>

The original Facebook announcement: <https://www.facebook.com/IndependentAudiobookAwards/posts/3709836569069370>

To purchase the audiobook visit [Audible.com](http://Audible.com) or <https://books.apple.com/us/audiobook/short-carries-essays-from-adirondack-life-unabridged/id1527113107?ct=audio-books_short_carries%3A_essays_from_a&ls=1&cc=us&id=1527113107&urlDesc=%2Fshort-carries-essays-from-adirondack-life-unabridged&ign-itsct=books_toolbox&ign-itscg=30200>

For a sample of Linda Jones reading from *Short Carries* visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoFbv6JNqHk>

## Sustainability Through an Inclusive Lens

BY: Hillary Scanlon with *Margarita*

When I suddenly and unexpectedly lost my vision in 2016, I felt that I was thrown into a world that I had never known before. Certainly, this world has always existed, but I did not have the time or desire to notice it until I needed to. This world, the world of inaccessibility and exclusion, is full of hurdles and hoops for people with disabilities to navigate, understand, fight against.

When I first lost my vision, I was extremely frustrated with my inability to complete seemingly simple tasks such as reading a book, texting a friend, putting toothpaste on a toothbrush, and throwing out my waste when I was in public. I never imagined that being able to dispose of waste properly in public spaces was tied to a certain level of privilege and ability. If I went to grab tea on my university campus, I had to think about what I was going to do with the cup, the lid, the tea bag, and the cardboard sleeve that I had now acquired. Should I walk up and down the hallway with my cane to see if I can into anything that feels like a waste container? If I happen to find one, should I try and determine the proper waste stream for each of the cup components? This would require me to touch and feel the containers and try to decipher which waste stream was which. If I went this route, I often ended up touching something sticky, and was then tasked with finding a hand sanitizing station and/or a washroom. If I was determined and had time that day, I would do what I described above. If I didn’t, I had a few options. First, I could just try and find the waste unit and throw out my cup in whichever stream I could find. The second option was to litter. The third option was to put my cup in my bag (which often resulted in a mess), bring it home with me, and dispose of it at home where I am familiar with the locations of the garbage, organics, and recycling. All of these options are not only inconvenient, but they are also unacceptable.

In 2019, I received my first guide dog, Margarita. She is a 60lb Yellow Lab who is the perfect combination of a co-worker, a friend, and a dog. When her harness is on, she has her game face on. When her harness is off, I usually have to convince people that she is indeed a guide dog because she is so silly and goofy. The perfect combination. I would do anything for her, and I know she would do anything for me.

As all guide dog users are aware, one of our responsibilities as a handler is to clean up after our dogs, “do their business.” Picking up waste and keeping spaces clean is part of being a community member and a steward of the environment. Properly disposing of this waste, however, is a barrier. Whether you have a bag of poop, a cup of tea, a tissue, etc., you are asked and expected by society to dispose of this waste properly. Unfortunately, society has not provided all of its members with the tools necessary to do this. That is why I developed STIL Solutions (Sustainability Through an Inclusive Lens).

At STIL Solutions, we aim to bridge the gap between sustainability and accessibility by making waste disposal more accessible to people with vision loss and other disabilities. We do this by providing communities, institutions, business, etc. with a product known as the WasteFinder. The WasteFinder is a two-part system that uses a technology similar to tactile walking surface indicators (i.e., similar to what you may interact with at a crosswalk or at the top of stairs). The first component, the Vicinity Indicator, goes on the ground (like a large mat), surrounding the waste container and alerts individuals who pass over it that they are in the vicinity of a waste container. The Vicinity Indicator is light blue and contains raised outlines of flat triangles. This unique colour and texture make it easy for individuals of all abilities to determine that they are in the vicinity of (or close to) a waste container.

The second component of the WasteFinder is the Stream Indicators. Stream Indicators are also placed on the ground, however, they are located directly in front of the appropriate waste stream, thereby enabling people with vision loss, and those of all abilities, to identify which waste stream they are directly in front of without having to touch the waste container. This is done by seeing or feeling the unique design of each Stream Indicator under your feet, mobility device, etc. STIL currently provides 3 types of Stream Indicators, the Recycling Stream Indicator, the Garbage Stream Indicator, and the Organics Stream Indicator.

**The Recycling Stream Indicator**

The Recycling Stream Indicator is a royal blue 12” x 12” indicator that is placed on the ground directly in front of the recycling stream. It contains a large, raised outline of a equilateral triangle, a shape that resembles the recycling symbol. If the tip of the triangle is pointed towards you (i.e., away from the waste unit), that indicates that you are directly in front of the plastics and containers waste stream. If the tip of the triangle is pointed away from you (i.e., towards the waste unit), that indicates that you are directly in front of the paper and cardboard waste stream.

What does it feel like?

If you were to stand on the Recycling Stream Container or move your mobility device over it, it may feel somewhat like a Toblerone (a pyramid-like candy bar). In other words, the top surface of the raised outline of the triangle is not flat, but rather, it is triangular.

**The Garbage Stream Indicator**

The Garbage Stream Indicator is a black or dark grey 12” x 12” indicator that is placed on the ground directly in front of the garbage stream. It contains a large, raised outline of a square.

What does it feel like?

If you were to stand on the Garbage Stream Container or move your mobility device over it, it may feel somewhat like a miniature step. The top of the raised outline of the square is smooth and parallel with the ground.

**The Organics Stream Indicator**

The Organics Stream Indicator is a forest green 12” x 12” indicator that is placed on the ground directly in front of the organics stream. It contains a large, raised outline of a circle, a shape that is often used to represent the Earth or organic materials. The circle also resembles the letter “O,” which is a great way to remember that “O” is for “organics.”

What does it feel like?

If you were to stand on the Organics Stream Container or move your mobility device over it, it may feel like you are interacting with a solid hose that has been cut in half lengthwise and placed in a circular formation. In other words, the top surface of the raised outline of the circle is not flat, but rather, it is rounded.

Product characteristics

* AODA compliant
* ADA compliant
* Weather resistant – whether you are in California or Ottawa…
* 7 Principles of Universal Design
* The use of shapes, textures, colours, rather than text, makes the product usable/accessible to people whose first language may not be English, to young children who cannot yet read, to individuals with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, to people with developmental disabilities who often rely on shapes and colours to understand and communicate with their environment.

If you are interested in the WasteFinder and would like to implement it in your space, we invite you to visit our website at [www.stilsolutions.ca](http://www.stilsolutions.ca) . We are always open to feedback and we welcome your contributions to the development of a more sustainable and accessible world.

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# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## Pro Tips:

## Capturing Picture Paw-fect Moments

**BY: The GDB Marketing Team**

Are you itching to capture those perfect, post-pandemic memorable moments with your dog back out at a favorite spot and maybe submit the best of the best to the next Pupperazzi Contest? What makes a photo worthy of getting shrink wrapped large-scale on a San Francisco Streetcar or even promoting “Pick of the Litter”? Here are some pro tips from GDB’s marketing team and photo maven, Morry Angell.

If you want your picture to represent Guide Dogs, be sure that working guides are wearing their harnesses. This identifying apparel is what sets our dogs apart, and indelibly ties them to GDB. Without a harness, the dog could be any pet dog.

Attempt to capture action or candid style photos - the more emotion, the better. Show activities taking place and the interaction of the people and dogs.

Photograph people and dogs in close proximity; eg: rather than have a person standing next to a dog (where the person is tall, and the dog is short), get the dog and person’s faces in closer proximity - it may mean having the person kneel or the dog get on a bench.

Photograph dogs at their eye level, rather than from above.

If appropriate, get the dog’s attention so that they look alert. In GDB’s case since we have a lot of Labradors, they look best in photographs when their ears are “up” or flagged. If their ears are lying back on their head, they can look sad, nervous or scared - even if that is not the case.

We know that we are sticklers for having our dogs on leash, but when it comes to photos, please discreetly tuck leashes off to the side or behind the dogs. The same goes for bait bags, leash luggage, etc. While all the gear serves valid purposes, it can clutter up photographs.

If your dog is wearing head collars, please position the equipment correctly and always be aware of not showing “squishy eye.”

Be aware of the surroundings in your photographs. What is in the background and foreground? Can you move your subject or your camera to get a cleaner background or foreground? Can you remove clutter (garbage cans, odd furnishings, etc.)? Are there people in your background that shouldn’t be?

Be aware that taking your photo in front of an open window or door where the light is behind the subject can create a backlight effect where everyone looks like a shadow and is difficult to see in the image. Instead, try switching the positioning so your subject is facing the window, door or light source.

Most important, be safe and live in the moment with your dog while having fun.

## Puparazzi Photo Contest Winners!

**BY: Danielle Walker, Digital Marketing Manager**

This year’s Puparazzi Photo Contest was another tight competition. Clients, volunteers, and community members alike bid until the final seconds to win a chance to have their photos featured in the 2021-22 GDB Calendar. The competition alone raised nearly $40,000 for GDB’s mission and the calendar will go out to more than 100,000 homes this fall as a major fundraising initiative.

This year’s category winners raised more than $10k combined!

* GDB Puppy and Overall winner: Littermates Molly, Marv, and Madras submitted by Vicki Moss of Reno, NV (2360 votes) Image Description: Three Golden Lab cross littermates in their green training vests are seated side-by-side at a restaurant.
* GDB Working Guide Dog category winner: Jagger submitted by hander Anthony Lewis of Alameda, CA (1304 votes).  Image Description: Fluffy Golden Retriever guide dog wearing his harness and a tie looks up into the face of his male handler, who is wearing a GDB ball cap and a blue backpack. Behind them is a brightly flowering bougainvillea plant.
* K9 Buddy category winner: Nessa submitted by Lauren Dawson of Santa Rosa, CA (1831 votes). Note from Lauren said that this was Hannah and Nessa’s first day together as a buddy team. Image Description: A female black Lab is seated between two smiling young blond sisters. The older sister has her arm around the dog and the younger sister peeks out while holding a Kong toy.
* GDB Breeder Dog category winner: Waffle and CC Cabot submitted by Pamela Ellingson of Menlo Park, CA (1289 votes). Image Description: Two yellow Labs lay together beside a pond. The dog on the left is wearing a blue GDB Breeder bandana and the dog on the right is wearing an orange Career Change Bandana.
* GDB Career Change Dogs category winner: Jamar and Jambo submitted by Eileer Goor of Alameda, CA (1660 votes). Image Description: Two male Golden Retrievers are seated together in a garden surrounded by blooming shrubs and succulents. Both dogs have big smiles on their faces and their tongues are hanging out.
* Pet Pooch category winner: Woody submitted by Kate Bailey of San Rafael, CA (1970 votes. Image Description: A black Lab puppy in a sit position wearing a blue tie.

# DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Canine Heroes Gala Goes Virtual – You Are Invited!

By: Debi Morgen, Special Events Manager

On Sunday, June 6, 2021, *Wills* and Theresa will be hosting the Canine Heroes Gala! Join us for a free one-hour celebration of all our Canine Heroes!

Date: Sunday, June 6, 2021

Time: Pre-show 4:30 pm PT/Main-event 5:00 pm P

How: Register in advance online at [**guidedogs.com/events**](https://www.guidedogs.com/events)

If you are having trouble registering, or have questions, please contact Debi Morgen at [dmorgen@guidedogs.com](mailto:dmorgen@guidedogs.com) or 415.246.9619.

# IN MEMORIAM: IN MEMORY: IN TRIBUTE

In Memoriam **– Remembering Alumni Who Have Died**

Betty Mantooth of Palo Alto, CA with male German Shepherd, *Zephyr* (CA 685 – November 2008)

*Note: Betty was a long time GDB alumna she graduated from our second class in 1942!*

Bob Buchanan of Columbia, SC with male Yellow Lab guide *Paolo* (OR 385 – March 2019)

Cliff Harris of Norfolk, NE with male Black Lab guide *Nate* (CA 901 – May 2019)

In Memory **– Remembering Guides Who Have Died**

*Jeep,* male Yellow Lab guide for Frank Welte of San Leandro, CA (OR 182 – July 2010)

*Charleston*, male Yellow Lab guide for Rebecca Tiegen of Olympia, WA (OR 320 – May 2016)

*Forester*, male Yellow Lab guide for Sharon Ruttan of Hamilton, ON (CA 685 – June 2008)

*Barstow*, male Black Lab guide for Calynn Hendrickson of Hopkins MS (OR 338 – April 2017)

*Medley*, female Yellow Lab guide for Kellie Walders of Long Beach, CA (CA 692 – March 2009)

*Arquette*, female Black Lab guide for Christine Delmonico of Bakersfield, CA (OR 166 – October 2009)

# GIFT SHOP NEWS – May 2021

By: Michelle McNew

Listed below are new items that have arrived in the gift shop recently:

**Adult Pup & Guide Tee**

Another fun design! This is a great illustration of our mission! This 100% cotton tee is 4.5 ounces and super soft.  Adorned with the GDB logo on the left chest in white.  The back design features a black labrador retriever puppy in a green training jacket facing a yellow labrador retriever guide in harness. Available in royal in sizes S-5XL in limited quantities! **$25.00**

**Adult Pup & Guide FRONT design tee**

This super soft 50/50 preshrunk cotton/poly tee has it all! The design is located on the front of the tee.  Featuring a black labrador retriever puppy in a green training jacket facing a yellow labrador retriever guide in harness. The GDB logo is displayed underneath in black. Available in light steel in sizes Small thru 3XL. Limited quantities!**$25.00**

**Adult Pullover Hoodie**

this super soft sweatshirt at a 55/45 cotton/poly blend. Colorblock design with army green sleeves and charcoal chest and back. Features two pockets and a pullcord for the hood. Decorated with a white GDB logo on the left chest , available in Small through Extra Extra Large. **$35.00**

**Adult Two Tone Sweatshirt**

This Lightweight Raglan Crew is a lightweight fleece blend (55% cotton/45%polyester) in a 2-tone color combination of navy and gray. Featuring the GDB logo on theft chest in blue. Available in sizes Small through Extra Large.. Limited quantities. \* For men, this wears a tad fitted. For women, order a size down**\* $30.00**

**Dog Bone Photo Holder**

This white GDB Bone Shape features a slot to hold a photo, business card, memo, table place cards, appointment cards and more! Adorned with the GDB logo in teal and packaged in a decorative kraft box. Get them while they last!

measures 4 3/4" x 2"  **$6.00**

**Paw Shape Bottle opener Keyring**

This paw shaped bottle opener features and orange paw, outlined in silver. A GDB logo in located in the center paw pad in silver.  A silver key ring attached.

measures 2.5 x 1.5 inches **$8.00**

**Women’s Guide Dog Love Long Sleeve Tee**

Show your guide dog love with this design created by a GDB Client, Eryn Stubblefield. The design is located on the front of a long sleeve vee neck tee. Made of 60/40 combed ring spun cotton/poly, it features  gray sleeves and a white body. The design features an illustration of a yellow labrador in harness with his tongue hanging out. Red hearts surround the design. Below the artwork is a black GDB logo. Available in XS - 3XL in limited quantities. Get them while they last. **$30.00**

**Women’s Pup & Guide Tee**

This 4.5-ounce, 60/40 ring spun cotton/poly tee is a great illustration of our mission! Adorned with the GDB logo on the left chest in white.  The back design features a black labrador retriever puppy in a green training jacket facing a yellow labrador retriever guide in harness.  Available in Heather Green in sizes XS-4XL in limited quantities **$25.00**

**Women’s Pup & Guide FRONT design tee**

This super soft 100% preshrunk cotton tee has it all! The design is located on the front of the tee. Featuring a black labrador retriever puppy in a green training jacket facing a yellow labrador retriever guide in harness. The GDB logo is displayed underneath in black. Available in blue horizon in sizes Small thru XL and 3XL. Limited quantities! **$25.00**

Guide Dogs for the Blind is committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture. We share accountability for creating and maintaining a community where everyone has equitable access to opportunities and feels included, respected, and safe to be their authentic selves. As part of this commitment, the gift shop is excited to debut a Guide with Pride t-shirt later in **May** !

All orders are subject to applicable tax and shipping fees.

You can order Gift Shop merchandise online 24/7 at www.guidedogs.com, or you may call 415-492-4151 and leave us a message. We return phone calls and ship online orders on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, only. For faster service, order 24/7 at [www.guidedogs.com/shop](http://www.guidedogs.com/shop).

Gift cards can be purchased and redeemed over the phone, for your convenience. Please have your gift card number handy, when redeeming over the phone.

Please check our website periodically for new merchandise updates.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Prospect Research Analyst Job Opening at GDB

Let your data-mining skills guide you here.

 GDB is looking for an analytical and detail-oriented self-starter to join us at our San Rafael campus as Prospect Research Analyst. In this key role, you will provide research support to assist in qualifying, screening, and rating potential donors.  
  
Your duties will include: Conducting proactive research to identify new potential major and principal gift donors using push technology, data mining, screening, and other methods. Preparing information on prospects with profiles/biographies, financial capacity, philanthropic interests, and nature of relationship to GDB. Supporting prospect screening and data mining projects

Qualifications: Ability to work independently and collaboratively to handle multiple projects and deadlines. Excellent organizational, interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Ability to respond in a timely manner to common inquiries from donors, their families, and potential donors. Excellent computer skills; must be highly proficient in word processing, spreadsheet, and database programs.

Apply Now <https://app.jobvite.com/j?cj=ooErefwr&s=GDB_Alumni>

At Guide Dogs for the Blind, we respect, value, and appreciate all differences. We welcome all qualified candidates irrespective of your race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status. Individuals with disabilities, especially those who are blind or visually impaired, are encouraged to apply.  If you have a disability and need assistance and/or accommodation with applying for a job, please feel free to contact our Human Resources department.

## Be My Eyes Introduces New Partners!

We have great news for Verizon customers! You can now connect directly with Verizon through Be My Eyes to get your questions about accessibility features for Verizon products and services answered. As one of the leading telecom providers in the US, we’re thrilled to be partnering with Verizon to help you get the most out of your phone plan and all the accessibility features.

The Verizon service is already available through the Be My Eyes app - just enter the Specialized Help menu in the Be My Eyes app, locate Verizon in the Technical category and give them a call. To start, the Verizon Accessibility Support team is available to answer your Be My Eyes calls Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5 PM to 7 PM ET.

But wait, there’s more! To make things even more exciting, we've announced our first Careers partner, [Jobs for Humanity](https://t.sidekickopen70.com/s3t/c/5/f18dQhb0S7kF8bGj_fW1gtn-X59hl3kW7_k2841CXdp3VPwN4M56kCZYW2bzNL93_D-nh101?te=W3R5hFj4cm2zwW4mKLS-3W0gJfW3M66484hJsbbW3T3Sy-3Fbt5Sw3CbGS-48H2&si=8000000002082144&pi=64b6f402faa2f44ebf1a6204501c71ec). With the launch of their new job board, [blind.jobs](https://t.sidekickopen70.com/s3t/c/5/f18dQhb0S7kF8bGj_fW1gtn-X59hl3kW7_k2841CXdp3VPwN4M56kCZYW2bzNL93_D-nh101?te=W3R5hFj4cm2zwW4mKLS-3W0gJfW3M66484hJsbbW3T3Sy-3Fbt5Sw3CbGS-48H2&si=8000000002082144&pi=64b6f402faa2f44ebf1a6204501c71ec), they already have more than 1,000 positions available around the world, where employers have committed to interviewing the top visually impaired candidates. This is pretty amazing stuff, and they're holding open office hours on Specialized Help a few hours per week to help people get familiar with the service they provide.

As a final reminder, we're now up and running with the [Department of Health](https://t.sidekickopen70.com/s3t/c/5/f18dQhb0S7kF8bGj_fW1gtn-X59hl3kW7_k2841CXdp3VPwN4M56kCZYW2bzNL93_D-nh101?te=W3R5hFj4cm2zwW4mKLS-3C7MVLW3KcK9S1JxwY5W1LvFJt3NB_Q7W1GF81r3KcK9SW1GJtk349RcZQW41p0Zz3JF5wJW1GyZbz1GFyG1W1GHbGN3K5445W1GHFyv45SB6dW1GKhpb3QyKgCW1GC2Q33JF3YrW4kFl1V4fGCtq2273&si=8000000002082144&pi=64b6f402faa2f44ebf1a6204501c71ec) in the UK – which means anyone in the UK who needs help with a home COVID test can get it easily with Be My Eyes.

COVID-19 has introduced many new barriers. This study explores the impact of face masks on echolocation and the ability to draw on other environmental cues during independent travel. We want to hear from you, even if you have not encountered barriers. You will have the opportunity to share strategies that have worked for you, which will contribute to the development of recommendations. We invite you to participate and share widely!

## Mobility with Face Masks Study – Need Participants!

Attention to all persons who are #blind, #deafblind or who have #LowVision! We are seeking individuals 18 years or older to complete a short online survey about your experience with face masks or facial protection and with independent travel during COVID-19. This research has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at the University of Montreal. Results from this survey will inform important recommendations to address barriers related to orientation and mobility during COVID-19. Visit <http://ls.sondages.umontreal.ca/835673?lang=en> to learn more or to participate! If you encounter difficulties, you may also call (514) 343-7962 to request assistance by phone.

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GDB Alumni Danny Leung invites you to join a new prayer group. His Friday morning English Speaking Prayer Group (ESPG) invites all individuals, with visual impairments, to participate in this meaningful, supportive ZOOM get-together. Hosted by the Joy Beyond Vision Community (JBVC) and facilitated by Pastor Danny Leung, all Christians and non-Christians are welcome.

If interested and to get more details, please send an email to [ESPG@JBVC.CA](mailto:ESPG@JBVC.CA).

 In community, we are united, stronger, and never alone.

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# Alumni Association Board of Directors

Alumni Association 2021 Board Meetings

March 6, June 5, Sept TBD, Dec 4

Officers

Chair - Marcia Wick / *Viviane*

Colorado Springs, CO

[marciajwick@gmail.com](mailto:marciajwick@gmail.com)

Vice Chair - Amy Salger / *Marsala*

Vinton, IA

[asalger@guidedogs.com](mailto:asalger@guidedogs.com)

Secretary, Deanna Lewis / *Mambo*

Cincinnati, OH

[dlewis@guidedogs.com](mailto:dlewis@guidedogs.com)

Members at Large

Deb Cook Lewis / *Praline*

Clarkston, WA

[dcooklewis@guidedogs.com](mailto:dcooklewis@guidedogs.com)

Kelly Egan / *Caspian*

San Diego, CA

[kegan@guidedogs.com](mailto:kegan@guidedogs.com)

Jack Heim / *Scout*

Madison, WI

[jheim@guidedogs.com](mailto:jheim@guidedogs.com)

Jason Mitschele / *Kailua*

Toronto, ON

[jmitschele@guidedogs.com](mailto:jmitschele@guidedogs.com)

Dorianne Pollack / *Dime*

Flagstaff, AZ

[Dpollack@guidedogs.com](mailto:Dpollack@guidedogs.com)

Maia Scott / *Gleam*

San Francisco, CA

[mscott@guidedogs.com](mailto:mscott@guidedogs.com)

Melba Velez-Ortiz / *Chad*

Grand Rapids, MI

[mvelezortiz@guidedogs.com](mailto:mvelezortiz@guidedogs.com)

Ex-Officio members / board liaisons

Board Liaison

Amit Ahuja / *Tashi*

Santa Barbara, CA

aahuja@ucsd.edu

# GDB Alumni Chapters

To access this list anytime go to: <https://www.guidedogs.com/life-after-graduation/alumni-support/alumni-association>

## 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
* President: Scott Quinlan, scott.quinlan@hotmail.com
* Vice-president: Melinda Wulff, minwulff@gmail.com

Paws of Fame

* Location: Los Angeles County, California
* Web Site: www.pawsoffamela.com
* President: Joseph Landau, jklandau@yahoo.com

Sacramento GDB Alumni

* Location: Sacramento, California
* Email: sacgdbalumni@gmail.com
* Web Site: 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: Roxanne Calibraro, rcalibraro@earthlink.net
* Vice-president: Terry Ann Saurman, saurmann@access4less.net

**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**

Reigning Canines

* Location: Portland, Oregon
* Web Site: https://www.facebook.com/Reigning-Canines-777050619078740/
* President: Bobi Earp, bobiearp@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 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
* 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

Please send updates to jheim@guidedogs.com