ALUMNI NEWS

Volume 30 – Number 2

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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!

NEW! Alumni News is now available as a podcast, you can find it at Apple Podcasts, search for Alumni Updates. Please note that the recording of the newsletter takes some time so issues will post at a later date than the email version.

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

## Meet Our New Alumni Association Board Members!

By: Lui Greco w/ Reed

The Alumni Association Board of Directors is thrilled to announce our two new members, Claire Stanley and Peter Berg. We also want to express our extreme gratitude to John Heim and Deanna Lewis for their six years of volunteerism on the board!

Claire Stanley

The alumni board is pleased to welcome Claire Stanley as one of our 2 new members. Claire works as a policy analyst with the National Disability Rights Network based in Washington.

Clare is no stranger to the guide dog life, with Tulane, a yellow lab, being her 3rd. Her first exposure to working with a guide dog was at an ACB convention, where one of the GDB staff working a booth offered a Juno walk; from that point she was hooked!

Claire’s career path has enabled her to bring her passion for public speaking and advocacy together so, she works at what she loves! Based in Washington DC, her childhood dream of living in the nation’s capital was the ribbon on the package of her career.

In her free time, Claire is a self described “arts and crafts junky”. Her crafts include quilting, knitting, jewellery making; she’ll try any arts and crafts project once.

Asked why she volunteered to join the alumni board, Claire said, from her first meeting GDB at an ACB convention years back she’s been impressed with the staff and, the dogs graduated by the school. Her first exposure to a guide dog was taking a Juno walk with a GDB instructor at the ACB convention.

Peter Berg:

Peter is this year’s 2nd new Alumni board member. Peter with his first guide, Lloyd, hales from Naperville, Illinois. He has worked the past

21 and ½ years at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). Peter recently became the UIC ADA Coordinator.

When asked why the guide dog life, Peter, as with most of us, simply put it as, I want to be able to move around freely, with confidence and at a good clip. Being a more confident and efficient traveler are the things he enjoys most about having a guide dog at his side.

In the short time Peter and his guide have been working together, he’s visited several baseball parks across the states. His most memorable game with Lloyd in hand was a trip to Truist Park in Atlanta last July during Hank Aaron weekend.

Asked who was going to win the world series in 2022, he said, emphatically, Los Angeles Dodgers. Besides being an enthusiastic baseball fan, Peter enjoys attending concerts and audio described theater performances with friends, real crime podcasts and Radio Classics on Sirius/XM radio.

## GDB Connecting Clients with Puppy Clubs

## By: The Alumni Association Board Puppy Relations Project Team

One of the most poignant moments on graduation day happens before we even get on stage to celebrate new beginnings.  It's that moment when many of us have the chance to meet the amazing people who raise our dogs, making them ready for the BigTime.

Have you ever wondered what goes into raising a guide dog puppy?

Have you ever wondered how you can connect directly to your dog's club or puppy clubs at large?

The Alumni Board's Puppy Relations Committee is working with GDB's Puppy Raising Team to develop a database of information to help puppy clubs connect with working teams.  Whether you have a local club in your area, live outside GDB's puppy raising limits, or travel to the Western States on occasion; there are ways to share your experience as a working team.

In a forthcoming survey, you will be asked if and how you would like to offer your support.  You may consider options such as :

* Visiting a puppy club meeting to witness how they train and answer questions about how you manage your guide.
* Joining a puppy club outing, enabling raisers to see a team at work.
* Attending a virtual Q&A or panel to answer questions about different aspects of the guide dog lifestyle such as living in extreme weather, college life, outdoors and athletics or international travel.
* Supporting a club fundraiser or special event as a volunteer, participating artisan or simply as an attendee.

Many puppy raising volunteers don't have the opportunity to witness teams at work, let alone talk openly about sight loss and guide dog lifestyle.  Offering the chance for them to see and hear how and why we do what we do can further empower our raisers' amazing work.

If you want to be included in a database where puppy clubs may match with a client who can enhance their meetings and experiences, please fill out the survey so they can find the wonderful team that is you and Juno.

For any questions, please email Theresa Stern at tstern@guidedogs.com. Once the survey has been completed, you can expect to hear back from us when we find a match!

To access the survey go to: [www.guidedogs.com/gdbconnections](http://www.guidedogs.com/gdbconnections)

## 2022 GDB Virtual Reunion – Call for Participation! Deadline Extended!

By: The Alumni Association Board Events Project Team

Attention all GDB alumni, OMI and K9 Buddy clients, puppy raisers and staff. Unleash your talents at the GDB Virtual Reunion by participating in our GDB Tails and Talent Showcase and/or as a vendor in our Re-Tail Therapy Virtual Exhibit Hall! Read below for more details!

Tails and Talent Showcase

Whether you are internationally known or just waiting to be discovered, we want to hear from you and experience your wonderful talents.

Musical performances and poetry reading are examples of what we are hoping for, but you can also be creative with silly pet tricks, comedy routines, etc. We are especially eager to hear your original work.

This will be audio/video so we prefer that you make a high quality video of your performance and send a link to us from any cloud based file storage such as Dropbox, Google Drive etc.

Your fabulous performance should be no longer than 3 minutes from start to finish.

Please include your name, email address, a description of what you are doing and something about where you are if that’s important to the performance.

If you are not able to produce a video, we will also accept high quality audio. If that is the case, please also send a good picture of yourself (may include your furry friend).

And finally, remember that this is family friendly entertainment, puppies and children will be present.

Please send links to your submissions to Theresa Stern no later than August 15, 2022!

Re-Tail Therapy Virtual Exhibit Hall

Share your Wares

Do you make, sell or work for a company creating that perfect thing to enhance the Guide Dog Lifestyle?  We want to hear from you.

Here’s your chance to tell the Guide Dog Community at large about your amazing products and services during our week-long eightieth anniversary virtual reunion, Oct. 15 – 21, 2022.

Our Reunion Re-Tail space is open to GDB Alumni, Puppy Raisers, Puppy Clubs and guide dog lifestyle related businesses who are interested in showing, describing and selling products and services during a fixed period of time over Zoom. Please note that we are only able to include those companies or individuals who have a current business / sellers’ license.

If you would like to submit your own business or a company selling a dog product you trust for consideration, please send your information and company details along with products you would like to feature to: tstern@guidedogs.com by August15th, 2022.

# SUMMER FUN AND YUMM!

## Centerfield

By: Peter Berg with Lloyd

*Oh, put me in coach, I'm ready to play today*

*Put me in coach, I'm ready to play today*

*Look at me, I can be centerfield*

* John Fogerty

Now that summer has arrived it is time to get out to the old ballpark and enjoy some baseball. Major League Baseball (MLB) has taken steps to improve the experience for visitors with disabilities including those that are blind. Going to a ballgame with your guide can be a wonderful experience for you and your dog.

I have enjoyed three games with my guide Lloyd, Target Field, Truist Park and Oakland Coliseum, over the past two seasons. There are plans for Minute Maid Park and Wrigley Field later this year.

Purchasing Tickets

MLB has improved the accessibility of its web site and Ballpark ap for those that use assistive technology including those that use screen readers. Searching for and purchasing tickets can be accomplished online and through the ap. Both the web site and Ballpark ap allow one to search for seats with results being displayed in a list. Once the tickets you want are located purchasing tickets can be done easily. Contacting the ballclub and purchasing tickets by phone is also a great option. When entering the stadium fans must display tickets on the Ballpark ap.

Accessible Seating

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires stadiums, theaters, arenas, and other places with fixed seating to provide accessible seating locations. Tickets for accessible areas may be purchased by anyone needing the features of the seating area. This includes handlers so there is plenty of room for your guide dog. These spaces are located on an accessible route meaning there are no stairs to navigate. If purchasing tickets by phone one needs to indicate that you are interested in accessible seating because you need the room for your guide dog. When searching on the web or on the Ballpark ap you may select accessible seating as a search option.

Entering the Ballpark

Check the web site or Ballpark ap to learn what you can and cannot take into the stadium. MLB has restrictions on the size of the bag you are allowed to bring into the stadium. The ADA requires ballclubs to make modifications to these policies if related to one’s disability and if it is reasonable. For example, you may bring in your medications and items for your pup such as a collapsible water bowl and a towel for the dog to lay.

There are several ways to contact the ballclub prior to arriving at the ballpark. This includes through the web site and Ballpark ap as well as calling the Club. MLB has required all teams to have a designated employee that has completed ADA training provided by the ADA National Network, so you can ask to speak with this person.

Listening to the Game

There are ways to follow the action on the field when at the game. You may make a request in advance for an assistive listening device. Through the device you will be able to listen to the home team radio broadcast. You can also locate an old fashion transistor radio on Amazon that will also allow you to listen to the home broadcast. There are aps and services, such as Sirius/XM, that allow you to stream the radio broadcast. However, because you are streaming the broadcast the play by play is usually a couple of minutes behind the action on the field.

Attending the Game and Planning Ahead

No need to worry about if your guide will need a break to do their business. Most ballparks now offer grassy relief areas near every gate or entrance. Ask a ballpark staff member to allow you to exit for your pup to take a bathroom break, then come back in and enjoy the rest of the game.

As with many outings a trip to an MLB game takes planning in advance. It is useful to check out the Ballpark ap, the teams web site or calling the team prior to game day. It provides you with a good idea of what to expect and allows you to ask questions you may have about attending a game.

## Martinez and Friends: Summer Adventure

By Cheri Owen with Martinez

Martinez stood waiting patiently while the back passenger door of the SUV slowly opened. “Hop up,” Cheri told him. Martinez hopped up in the back seat and sat obediently. He turned around and saw that the liftgate was open and watched Maria, the hummingbird, buzz around the entrance.

“You follow us, okay? We will take the back roads. Meet us at the park,” Martinez whispered.

 “Okay. There are plenty of salvia I can check out along the way,” Maria replied.

Martinez settled in on the seat, but then spotted Ralph, the ground squirrel, grinning from ear-to-ear. He leaned over and exhaled, blowing warm air on Ralph’s head.

“No. You cannot come with us to the picnic.”

Ralph sat back on his hind legs, chewing rapidly, gulping down a strawberry from the garden.

He scrambled up to the top of the seat, in an attempt to be eye level with Martinez.

“Oh Martinez, I wouldn’t miss this for the world,” he retorted. Before Martinez could react, Ralph leapt wildly, flying over the seat and making a soft landing in the picnic basket.

Martinez sighed, rolled his eyes, and lay down as the liftgate closed and the van lurched forward.

As it drove, Ralph recited, over and over, like a mantra.

“I will not eat the cheese from the sandwiches. I will not eat the cheese from the sandwiches. Must be gouda. Yummy. Maybe Swiss. Yummy. Or cheddar. Extra yummy.”

When the van started to slow down, Martinez stood and hung his head over the seat and looked at Ralph reproachfully. “You better not have eaten anything in that picnic basket.”

Ralph replied, “Oh, it’s been so hard. You have no idea. I can barely stand it.”

The SUV came to a halt, and the seatbelts came off. Martinez sat up tall, anticipating his exit from the vehicle.

Cheri came around and opened the car door. Martinez hopped out, patiently waiting for the placement of his harness. He enjoyed his work.

The liftgate opened, and Jenni came around back. Ralph froze, barely breathing, as she lifted up the picnic basket. Maria hovered quietly nearby. “Ralph, I’ll tell you when to get out of there.” Cheri yelled out to Jenni, “Make sure we find a shady spot on the grass.

We don’t want Martinez to overheat.”

When they entered the park, there were families playing all over the grass, barbecues flaming hot and everyone in swimsuits playing in the sand and the ocean.

They found a spot under a huge palm tree and put the blanket down. Cheri removed Martinez’s harness, gave him a treat, and commanded him. “Lay down.”

Martinez did a long downward dog stretch and laid down on the blanket.

Jenni put the picnic basket down and turned away to find an available barbecue grill.

Martinez and Maria said in unison: “Ralph, now! It’s your only chance!”

Ralph scurried his way to the top of the picnic basket, the towel draped over his head. He peeped out, looking side-to-side and sniffing wildly. “Holy smokes, what smells so good? Is that corn on the cob and chicken skewers?” He jumped and shook himself, standing up on his hind legs with his nose in the air. “I’ve died and gone to heaven. You guys smell that? You want to join me, Martinez?”

Martinez stretched his legs out behind him and crossed his front paws and looked over.

“No. I’m fine right here with my person.”

Ralph shrugged. “Okay. Your loss, Dude.” He scurried over to a corn cob left on the ground by a barbecue pit and started chomping away at the kernels.

“Absolutely delicious,” he howled, smacking his lips.

Maria fluttered over Martinez, hovering near his ear. “Ralph needs to be careful. Once he is done with that corn on the cob, a dog could come get that and eat it, and it can be dangerous.” Martinez agreed. “Not only that, but if he tries to eat food dropped right off the grill he will burn himself too. It’s really dangerous. I’m staying right here.”

“Martinez, I’m going to go try and find some delicious honeysuckle. I’m feeling faint.

I’ll be back,” Maria said, buzzing off.

Martinez nodded, cradling his head on his paws. He curled up, enjoying the breeze.

When Ralph finished eating every last kernel on the corn on the cob, he pushed the cob aside and set his sights on a chicken kabob that had been dropped on the ground. He scurried over. But right before he could sink his teeth into it, Maria swooped in overhead.

“Stop Ralph! That is too hot. That will burn you. We need to make noise so someone will pick it up before a different dog eats that, and burns themselves, or worse yet, eats the wooden skewer.”

Ralph dropped the skewer, and sat up on his hind legs. He let out a piercing chirp. People turned around and yelled at him. “Hey, get away from the barbecue!”

Ralph ran for his life toward Martinez’s direction, cowering behind the palm tree. Maria floated high up in the air, watching. A man rushed over, and picked up the skewer right before his pet dog got to it. Maria came to rest near Ralph, praising him.

“Good job! I didn’t know you could be so kind.”

 “I must be delirious,” Ralph grumbled. They both looked over at Martinez, who opened one eye and nodded in agreement.

Across the way, Betty Sue, a GDB career-changed guide dog, was lying nearby on a different blanket. She was missing her owner, Betty White. She scratched herself, got up, and turned around several times, adjusting her angle. This time Martinez was directly in her sights. She raised her nose in the air and sniffed, delicately. She inhaled again, her eyes widening.

She said to herself eagerly: “Oh boy, Betty Sue likes you.”

Betty Sue watched Martinez lying in the shade, so happy to be with his person in the fresh air. She decided to army crawl closer to Martinez, to get to know him better.

“Hey. Hey. Wake up!” Betty Sue hissed.

Martinez raised his head and yawned lazily, blinking at her. “Hi. Do I know you?”

 “No,” she replied, “but I find you extremely handsome.”

If Martinez could have blushed, he would have. Instead, he began blinking rapidly.

Betty Sue got closer and leaned her head over his.

Squinting, she read what was on Martinez’s harness and exclaimed excitedly,

“Wow, you are a GDB dog! My owner, Betty White, loved GDB!”

Martinez perked up, “Your person was Betty White? Were you her guide?”

Betty Sue smiled and lowered her head ruefully, “No. I was career-changed. But I lived with Betty until she passed. I loved her so much. And she loved me too.”

Martinez replied: “She was the Golden Girl right?”

“Yes, she was, *and* she had a heart of gold.”

Martinez army-crawled a little toward Betty Sue. Maria buzzed ahead and Ralph had closed in. Betty Sue spotted Ralph and gave him the once over, suspiciously eyeing him.

Martinez noticed. “Betty Sue, it’s okay. I know he is a considered a pest but—And I’m choking on this when I say it—He is my friend.”

Ralph relaxed. There was a friendly silence between all the animals.

Then, Martinez, Ralph and Maria said in unison: “We know you miss her. We are sorry.”

Betty Sue, with a tear in her eye, put her paw over one side of her face and replied gently, “Thank you. We will all miss Betty.”

*This short story is dedicated to the late, great Betty White (1922-2021), friend of Guide Dogs for the Blind.*

## Martinez’s Blueberry Frozen Summer Treats (for dogs)

By: Cheri Owen with Martinez

Ingredients

¾ cup of fresh blueberries (or frozen but have them thawed)

¾ cup of low fat Greek yogurt

¾ cup rip banana

Instructions

1. Place all the above ingredients in a food processor or blender. Blend until all the ingredients are completely mixed. I do this for approximately 2 minutes. The texture should be similar to a milkshake.
2. Pour your mixture into either an ice-cube tray or a silicone mold that you have purchased. (If you desire, there are a variety of silicone molds you can purchase on different web sites that have shapes of dog treats, paws, etc.)
3. Once you pour your mixture into your mold, place the mold into the freezer until the treats freeze and become solid. For me, this is usually 6 hours.
4. Remove the molds once frozen, pop out a few treats, and your guide will be salivating beneath you on a warm summer day!
5. These treats will not last long, but they will store up to 6 weeks in the freezer.

## Martinez’s Summer Pecan Blueberry White Chocolate Cookies (For Humans)

By: Cheri Owen with Martinez

**Ingredients**

1 cup all-purpose flour

½ teaspoon baking powder

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup salted softened butter

1/3 cup granulated sugar

¾ cup frozen blueberries (thawed and soft)

¾ cup white chocolate chips

Pecans (either chopped or whole)

**Instructions**

1. Pre-heat your oven to 400 degrees.
2. In a bowl, mix together your flour, baking powder and salt.
3. Cream together your butter and sugar until the mixture is very fluffy. For me, with an electric mixer, this is usually 3 to 4 minutes on medium speed.
4. Add the blueberries to your butter and sugar mixture and combine at high speed so that the blueberries are thoroughly combined into the butter and sugar mixture.
5. Fold the dry ingredients in your bowl into the wet ingredients that will create a dough. Mix in your white chocolate chips.
6. Put the dough in the refrigerator for an hour to chill.
7. Place parchment paper down on your cookie sheet or sheets.
8. Remove the dough from the refrigerator and shape into balls and place on your cookie sheet.
9. Place as many pecans as you like slightly into the top of the dough ball.
10. Back the cookies for 12-14 minutes. The longer you leave them, the crispier they will be!
11. Remove from oven and let cool and enjoy!

# CHAPTER CHAT

## Paws Around the World – Hits the Road for the Summer!

By: Susan Wilkening with Tumnus

The GDB Alumni Association travel chapter, “Paws Around the World” meets monthly on the second Thursday. We gather to share our own personal travel experiences, but learn from each other and broaden our horizons when traveling with our precious guides. To increase our possibilities for summer fun, we have heard from the organization, Wilderness Inquiry, how to hike and canoe in different areas of the United States, but also internationally. Our own, Jack Heim, shared his rock climbing experiences through Adaptive Adventures. This organization also provides opportunities for kayaking and bike riding. Our June meeting will be an opportunity for everyone to share their must have app or device that they take with them when they travel. In July we will hear about taking a cruise with our guides. Each of these meetings have given us all wonderful opportunities for great trips this summer.

Some of the trips members are taking this summer include: Stephanie just returned from LA participating in a banjo/fiddle contest. Stephanie received Honorable Mention for her fiddling. We are all so proud of you, Stephanie. We all enjoyed hearing about your adventures. Lillian will be traveling to Wisconsin in August to participate in a triathlon. We will all be anxious to hear about that trip. Good luck Lillian. All GDB alumni are welcome to join in on the “Paws Around the World” monthly meetings. You do not have to join the group to participate. Just click on the Zoom link in the e-calendar, and you can join in the summer fun.

## Veteran’s Corner

By: Cheri Owen with Martinez

We would like to welcome all veterans to join our GDB Veterans Chapter. This group will focus on the many benefits that veterans may be entitled to receive but aren’t aware of, group discussion, stories, ideas, and camaraderie.

As alumni of GDB, we know that GDB has an excellent veterinarian care and financial services program for graduates of GDB. However, alumni who are veterans are *also* entitled to 100% coverage for their guide dogs through the Department of Veteran Affairs through the U.S. Veteran Service Dog Program

The Veterans Administration acknowledges the vital role of Service Dogs in the lives of the Veterans they serve. By providing veterinary services, the VA recognizes the importance of the team’s well-being. Therefore Trupanion, in 2014, was honored to partner with the United States Department of Veteran Affairs.

Trupanion covers 100% health care for your guide dog throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. There is no age limit for veteran-owned service dogs to participate. The program covers: treatment for pre-existing, hereditary, and congenital disorders, diagnostic tests, surgeries, medications, chronic or recurring conditions, wellness, preventative exams, and vaccinations. The insurance does not cover grooming, boarding, non-prescribed dog food associated with owning a dog. Trupanion also had a dedicated email and telephone contact for veterans.

For more information about the Veterans Service Dog program, please contact your local VA healthcare and speak to your Visual Impairment Service Coordinator about signing up for the program.

This is just one of the many topics we will be discussing in our monthly GDB Veterans Chapter, so please join us the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6PM PST. Look for the zoom link in the monthly e-news coming your way!

# ­­AS WE SEE IT

## Retired Guides Bring Joy

By Bryanne Muench

I love keeping up with the GDB community. Regularly reading articles about the way this wonderful organization interacts with the community of Guide dog users and puppy raisers. This article is about the opposite of puppy raising, adopting retired guide dogs, and the incredible joy they have brought to my family.

We started out newly married in early 2017. It was around this time that my Uncle’s first Guide Dog, Balsam was about to retire. My Uncle lives in Long Beach, CA., and he knew he would need another Guide Dog and wouldn’t be able to keep Balsam, his retired dog as well.

We knew Balsam was the guy for us. He was 9 years old and since he was my Uncle’s and we are close to my Uncle, Balsam had spent his previous working years attending all sorts of our fun family adventures and holidays. Balsam went to New Orleans on a family vacation, Balsam attended my bachelorette party in Las Vegas, and of course Balsam was an honored guest at our wedding . We hoped to continue the fun adventures, and offer him the best retirement years in San Diego.

What incredible fun it’s been. Balsam is 14 now and has done everything from doggie surf competitions to beach camping, but his favorite is a tie between relaxing on the front porch in the sun as he watches the world go by, and sniffing dinner time preparations in the neighborhood. He also enjoys blueberries, bananas and apples.

In late 2019, I was thinking of adopting another retired Guide Dog. I placed an application online with GDB. Honestly, I expected the waiting list for a retired guide to be long and arduous. So, I didn’t immediately tell my husband Id submitted the application, thinking I would have some time for the down the line. GDB called me within two weeks. Time to come clean to my husband!

Once all our paperwork was in order, my husband, (who luckily didn’t divorce me), and I traveled with Balsam to the GDB campus in San Rafael to meet Nile. Nile is a retired Guide Dog who spent his working life in Florida. He is kind, sweet, gentle and very bright. Nile has been a wonderful welcome addition to our family.

We are beyond grateful for both Balsam and Nile and couldn’t imagine our family without each of them. Adopting a retired guide can be so incredibly fun and rewarding. Strangers are always so impressed with how well behaved they are!

# IN MEMRY, IN MEMORIAM, IN TRIBUTE

*Editors’ Note: Unfortunately, I had a computer “mis-hap” and lost some data, I know that more of you had submitted items for this section and they are now lost. Please resubmit them to* *tstern@guidedogs.com* *and I will make sure they appear in our next issue.*

## IN Memoriam – Remembering GDB Clients Who Have Died

George Tice of Bonita Springs, FL with Kelvin

 Craig Heaps of Austin, TX with Chase

## In Memory – Remembering Guides Who Have Died

Brogan, male Black Lab guide for Chelsey Kostick of Susanville CA (CA 688 – November 2008)

Jacobi, male Black Lab guide for Perry Dancsok of Yorkton, SK (OR 204 – July 2011)

Langston, male Black Lab guide for Debra Hamilton of Eugene, OR (OR 308 – November 2015)

# Gift Shop News

By: Michelle McNew

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

20 ounce Vacuum Insulated Stainless Steel Mug with Handle $19

Get your hands on this 20 ounce stainless steel travel mug with handle.  Adorned with an orange GDB logo. Clear plastic press on lid with sliding drink opening. Available in Gray. Keeps beverages hot for 6 hours and cold for 8 hours. Hand wash only. Size: 2-7/8" dia. x 6-3/8"

8 inch Round Car Magnet $6

Be a part of our Pack!!! This 8 inch round car magnet features an illustration of a yellow labrador head, golden retriever head and a black labrador head above a bone reading Member of the Pack and a GDB logo in white underneath. This design is printed on a teal blue background.

Adult Relaxed Fit Life is Better Zip Hoodie $38

This Zip Hoodie is an 8 ounce Triblend French Terry. It is made of 55/35/10 Cotton/Poly/Rayon
Adorned on the back with a gray dog silhouette with the words" Life is better with a dog" and paw print inside the dog silhouette in white. Also featuring pouch pockets with a phone slot. This sweatshirt has everything! The front of the sweatshirt has the GDB logo on the left chest in white. Available in denim heather in sizes XS - 3XL

Adult Relaxed Fit Life is Better Tee $25

Yes! Life is Better with a Dog! The perfect shirt for this summer! The front of the shirt is adorned with a gray dog shape with the words Life is Better with a Dog in white and it is also spelled out in white braille underneath with the GDB logo under that in white. The back of the shirt is blank. This Tee is made of ring spun 52 percent cotton and 48 percent polyester.

Available in Heather Sea Green in sizes XS through 4XL. See size scale below to ensure a great fit!

Adult Relaxed Fit Pride Tee $30

Guide with Pride! Celebrate Pride month with this limited edition tee, featuring a custom illustration on the full front of the shirt by GDB client Paul Castle, whose beloved guide dog, Maple, helped by being a handsome model. The artwork features three characters, two of whom are depicted with guide dogs, and the third with a guide dog puppy. All of the Pride rainbow colors, as well as the trans and inclusive flag colors, are represented in the design. The words "Guide with Pride" appear on the front of the shirt along with the GDB logo, and the URL for GDB's website is on the back of the shirt across the shoulders. The tee is made of a super soft cotton/poly blend (52% airlume combed and ring spun cotton, 48% polyester), weighing in at 4.2 ounces. Available in heather gray in adult relaxed fit, sizes Extra Small through 5XL.

Onesie Life is Better $18

Even out smallest GDB fans can show their support! The front of the shirt is adorned with a gray dog shape with the words Life is Better with a Dog in white, also spelled out in white braille underneath and the GDB logo under that in white. The back of the shirt is blank. Available in Kelly Green in sizes Newborn, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months and 24 months.

Toddler Life is Better Tee $18

Even Toddlers can show their support for GDB! The front of the shirt is adorned with a gray dog shape with the words Life is Better with a Dog in white, also spelled out in white braille underneath and the GDB logo under that in white. The back of the shirt is blank. Available in Caribbean Blue in sizes 2T, 3T,4T and 5/6.

Waterproof Pride Sticker

Guide with Pride! Celebrate Pride month with this limited edition waterproof sticker, featuring a custom illustration by GDB client Paul Castle, whose beloved guide dog, Maple, helped by being a handsome model. The artwork features three characters, two of whom are depicted with guide dogs, and the third with a guide dog puppy. All of the Pride rainbow colors, as well as the trans and inclusive flag colors, are represented in the design. The words "Guide with Pride" appear  along with the GDB logo. Great for water bottles too!

Youth Life is Better Tee $20

GDB Youth can show their support for GDB with this tee! The front of the shirt is adorned with a gray dog shape with the words Life is Better with a Dog in white, also spelled out in white braille underneath and the GDB logo under that in white. The back of the shirt is blank. Available in red in sizes XS through XL.

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 online, as well as in person and over the phone.

Please check our website periodically for new merchandise updates.

# Announcements:

Expanded Availability of Accessible COVID Tests for People who are Blind or Low Vision

Last month, the Biden-Harris Administration launched an initiative to expand the availability of at-home testing options that are more accessible for people who are blind or have low vision. The tests work with a Bluetooth-enabled smartphone app to provide users with audible instructions and test results. [Read more about the tests](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.connect.hhs.gov%2F%3Fqs%3D45ec0da453f6d0cb7e9156ee16fb8a2c21831ffb8d9f5023c336922a686658dc479cc4af97e661377540fb9a391d1353&data=05%7C01%7CKelly.Mack%40acl.hhs.gov%7C2ca80debd97e45450c4a08da611860e5%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C637929054574266228%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pSKHVhqty5qdALPz2aQqZMxr%2BxXJcFx4k%2BtE2o7LRmk%3D&reserved=0).

Due to very limited supplies when the program began, each order included only two test kits. People were asked to order these tests only if they did not have options for using the traditional kits. Starting today, the program is expanding. People will now receive 12 test kits with each order. In addition, anyone who is blind or who has low vision is now encouraged to order the more-accessible tests.

If you placed an order before July 7 and received only two tests, you may place another order now to receive 12 additional tests. (Your name and shipping information are not retained after your order is filled, so there is no way to automatically ship additional tests.)

**How to get the tests:**

Order [online](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.connect.hhs.gov%2F%3Fqs%3D45ec0da453f6d0cbfd9a86f10b1f3dae27516e1140242b135dd1586b7c634088f4b81f99f89b137ebc23ef2d72c02a67&data=05%7C01%7CKelly.Mack%40acl.hhs.gov%7C2ca80debd97e45450c4a08da611860e5%7Cd58addea50534a808499ba4d944910df%7C0%7C0%7C637929054574266228%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QXUURClfE8zg32j3MfQ2GE9x%2Fhp%2F%2F3W7j4qcbZy1iKk%3D&reserved=0) or by calling 1-800-232-0233.

* Each order now includes 12 rapid-antigen tests that are more accessible for people who are blind or have low vision. These will ship in six separate packages, each with two tests. Each package will have a separate tracking number.
* Orders will ship free, while supplies last

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Officers:**

**Chair – Amy Salger/*Marsala***

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**tstern@guidedogs.com**

# ROSTER OF GDB 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**