

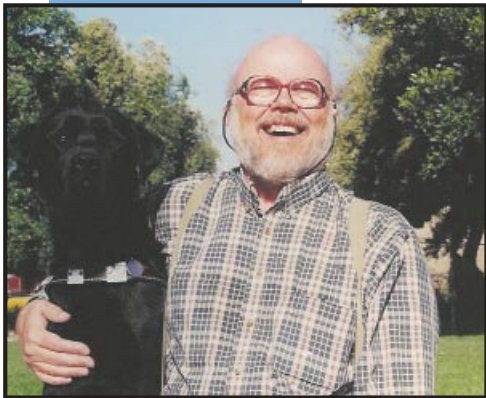


GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

Partners

VOLUME 18
NUMBER 2
SUMMER 2003

A Physical Therapist On Four Legs



Dave Bates with his guide, Stanley

"The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue."

Anonymous

Dave Bates had a great many expectations of what his life might be like with a guide dog, but it never occurred to him that Stanley might be a great physical therapist.

For nearly 40 years, since losing most of his sight to retinitis pigmentosa as a young man, Dave had gotten around with a cane. But as more and more of his vision faded, he began to think about getting a guide dog. He didn't know of any guide dogs schools, or know anyone who had a guide dog, but his brother Matthew, who worked as a journalist for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers,

said to him, "Hey, we have a guide dog school that we support!"

Dave remembers when he first contacted GDA. "What I liked about GDA was that when I called them, they seemed really interested in me as a person. They asked great questions about my lifestyle and why I wanted a dog. And they never came across with a 'We know the way,' attitude. I didn't even apply anywhere else, and I was thrilled when they accepted me.

"The training was tough and sharp, but I had the time of my life! I think the world of the staff at GDA."

The surprise benefit of having Stanley in his life is that Stanley has been like a four-legged physical therapist for Dave. Forty years of walking with a cane left Dave with

a slight stoop, a sore back, and aching ankles. Now, after two years of walking upright with Stanley, Dave says his back and ankle pain is gone. He and Stanley walk a couple of miles a day and Dave says his circulation, breathing, muscle tone, balance, and stride have all improved.

"Because of Stanley, I'm much less concerned about getting around. I just go places! And my wife, Julianna, worries about me less. Stanley keeps me out of trouble."

Dave, who lives in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, teaches sociology part-time at Wilmington College in New Castle, Delaware. Stanley has no trouble guiding Dave around the campus right to the different classrooms he uses. While Dave lectures, Stanley sleeps at his feet. Stanley also goes with Dave to visit his old friends in Philadelphia. "Stanley isn't the least put off by the traffic. In fact, he seems to love the city. He's great!"

It comes as no surprise to Blaine and Jeanette Humbert that Stanley has made such a change in Dave's life. Blaine and Jeanette have been professional dog trainers for decades, but when they attended a GDA graduation they were so impressed that they wanted to be a part of our mission. Being a puppy raiser seemed a logical choice, and Stanley was their first effort.

Blaine and Jeanette have since raised another dog, Presley, for GDA, who graduated this

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past January, and are now working on their third. All of them very good dogs, but as a second generation dog trainer and Director of the Glendale, CA Humane Society, Blaine has been around animals all his life. "Stanley was really special. I'll never forget the day he let my granddaughter, who was a little over a year old at the time, lead him on a leash. In all my years of training dogs and being around animals, Stanley is the one that sticks out. He is the highlight of my life with animals. Sometimes I wish he hadn't made it as a guide dog, so I could have

continued to work with him, but I always knew there was no chance he'd fail. He is incredible."

Dave Bates couldn't agree more. "It gets better every day. From the first, he has been a healthy, happy, affectionate, loyal, obedient, bright and very capable guide. He loves to work and the greater the challenge the happier he is. He makes me laugh and lifts my spirits!"

And on top of all that, Stanley doesn't even charge for the physical therapy sessions! 🐾

A Message Of Gratitude From President Jay Bormann

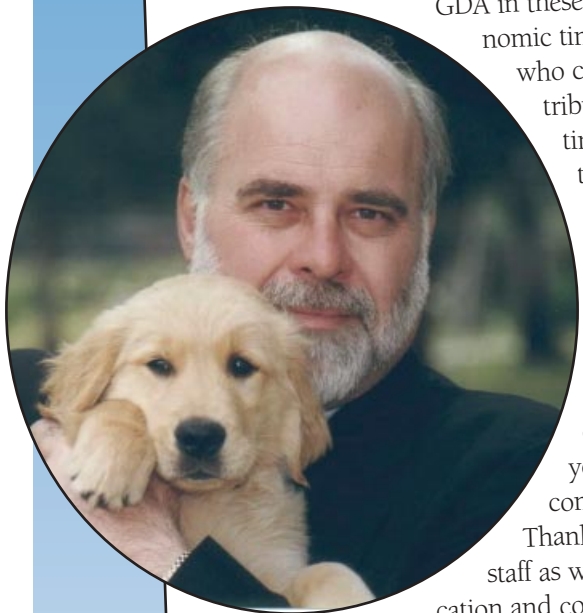
It is in difficult times when the loyalty of friends is most appreciated. That's why I want to express my special thanks to all who have stuck by

GDA in these uncertain economic times. The people, who continue to contribute during this time, whether through donations, volunteering, or just believing in our cause, are our truest friends.

We will need to continue to rely on your help in the coming months.

Thank you all, and GDA's staff as well, for your dedication and commitment to

breeding and training some exceptional guide dogs, and giving people who are blind a chance for independence and companionship. 🐾



IN MEMORY

We note with sadness the passing of the following members of the GDA family:



- Guide Dog "Ciji" – Class 287
- Guide Dog "Carson" – Class 287
- Guide Dog "Dirby" – Class 294
- Guide Dog "Spencer" – Class 296
- Guide Dog "Whisper" – Class 302
- Guide Dog "Ginger" – Class 302
- Jerry – resident kennel cat

Partners In Trust Forever

The following **Partners in Trust Society** members recently informed us that they have named GDA as a beneficiary in their will or trust. We are very grateful to them for their thoughtful generosity:

- Delores Brucklmaier
- Sally Cairns
- Maxine & Stephen Mitchell
- Margaret Van Ostrand
- Dorothy Owens
- Jocelyn G. Shannon



If you have named GDA in your will or trust, or plan to please call Rhonda Bissell at (818) 362-5834, ext. 229 to make certain that you are thanked and recognized for your support.

PARTNERS NEWSLETTER



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GRADUATE GUIDE LINES

Welcome to Graduate Guide Lines, featuring news and information about GDA graduates and their dogs, who are out and about realizing their dreams of independence.



Bill And Benny, Back In Black

by William F. Schley

When my second guide dog passed away in February, 2002, I found my solo mobility skills challenged. I relied on others for my travel needs, to the detriment of my own independence. I decided I really needed a new guide dog.

I called Guide Dogs of America, where I got my first dog in 1983. Because of diabetic complications that caused numbness in my feet (as well as my blindness), it was clear from the personal assessment that I needed a very special canine partner. A place was soon reserved for me in last October's class.

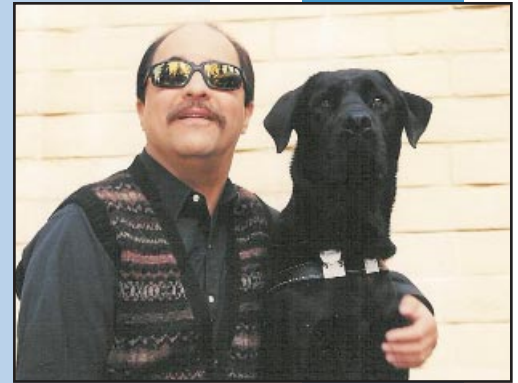
At the school, the trainers spent two days assessing students' gaits, skill levels, potential health problems, and balance issues. Then on Wednesday, I heard those words: "Bill Schley, your dog is black lab Benny. He is 2 1/2 years old, 25 inches high at the shoulder, and weighs 80 pounds."

Imagine weeks of travel with a new dog at your side, encountering virtually every obstacle, dis-

traction, and danger associated with blind mobility. Stray dogs, overhead obstacles, pedestrians by the hundreds, trainers bouncing tennis balls and laying strips of bacon right in front of the dogs, and up to 10 lanes of mid-day traffic were some of the difficulties we faced together.

Our mutual trust and affection grew steadily. The first day we played together we ended up in a heap of legs, arms, and paws – just a couple of boys being boys. Our bond was established; we became a team.

As with all good things, the class finally reached its end, but for Benny and me the real love affair was only beginning. There's nothing like a best friend to tell you it is unsafe to cross a street, fetch a toy for you, or provide warm company when it's snowing and you find yourself on the wrong block. When he lays a gentle paw on my knee to say, "You're the best thing that ever happened to me!" I simply reply, "Ditto, Benny!" 🐾



Bill Schley with his guide, Benny

The First Gift and Those that Followed

The first gift came last July when Melissa Barry graduated from GDA with her new guide dog, a two-year-old Yellow Labrador named Charlie. Melissa's parents, Cathy and Michael saw their daughter flourish with a never-before imagined level of independence, including a move by 19-year-old Melissa and Charlie to Santa Barbara where the team began college this past September. The couple was so thankful to GDA (and Charlie) that wanted to somehow give back to GDA so others could experience the independence and confidence Melissa had gained. But how? The Barry's came up with an idea and knew it was the right one when Cathy's friend asked, before she had told her, "Have you given any thought to telling others about Melissa and Charlie? You should do an end-of-the-year letter." The Barry's wrote, designed, printed, and mailed hundreds of holiday letters to their friends and associates. They told of Melissa's deteriorating vision and her need for assistance. They told of the dramatic difference Charlie and GDA made in Melissa's life. They shared the story of Melissa's first evening out with Charlie, when an excited Melissa said how happy she was because it was the first time she didn't have to ask anyone for assistance. Their letter asked for "financial support of GDA to help allow other visually impaired and blind individuals enjoy the opportunity for independence that so many of us take for granted." GDA would like to express its gratitude to the Barry's. Their gift to GDA was their ready and enthusiastic willingness to tell their daughter's story to so many people. The generous gifts GDA received in response to the Barry's holiday letter have been overwhelming. We find it extremely gratifying to hear from so many who want to encourage our work.



Melissa Barry with her guide, Charlie





GDA Foundation News

By Randy Brooks, President

The International Guiding Eyes Foundation formally changed their name to "Guide Dogs of America Foundation." This new name better reflects the fact that this foundation raises money to help Guide Dogs of America carry out its mission. The Foundation board members and volunteers are busy working on two upcoming fundraising events. Please join us.

The Annual Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 29 at North Ranch Country Club in Westlake Village, Calif. The entry fee includes golf and golf cart, continental breakfast, driving range balls, lunch, banquet awards

reception, tee gift package and various on-course contests. We are currently seeking local businesses and friends to help sponsor the tournament. For further information, please call (818) 362-5834, ext. 300.

The annual Bowl-A-Thon will be held on Sunday, October 12. Whether you are a novice bowler or an expert, we would love for you to join the Foundation members, GDA staff, puppy raisers and guide dog handlers for this fun event held at Canoga Park Bowl, Canoga Park, Calif. For information please contact Mark Moreaux (818) 993-9495. 🐾

CAN WE KEEP HER?

Lindsay Robb, a veteran puppy raiser at nine years old, knows the answer to that question quite well. The answer is "yes" and "no." Remi, an 18-month female black Labrador, is the third puppy to be raised by the Robb family for GDA, and it's just about time for Remi to return to GDA for her

training. During Remi's puppy raising, it was Lindsay who has been Remi's primary puppy raiser, which makes them a popular pair with Lindsay's third grade class and Girl Scout Troop. Lindsay's responsibilities started with naming Remi and continued with grooming, walking, feeding, and the all-important

obedience training. Along with the work that Lindsay puts in to Remi's training, there also is a lot of fun, since she can take Remi everywhere she goes.

Lindsay says that one of Remi's favorite outings is to Disneyland where she loves the big costume characters and

enjoys the rides. According to Lindsay, "It's a Small World" is Remi's favorite. Asked about how she'll feel when Remi returns to GDA for training, Lindsay said, "I'm really going to miss Remi. She is a sweet, intelligent, and just amazing dog. But

it feels loving and caring because you are helping someone else who really needs her more than you." As for whether she would recommend to other kids playing a big role in raising a GDA puppy, she says, "yes" and gives her requirements: "You've got to have a love for dogs...that's one of the musts. You also need to be caring and compassionate." 🐾



Puppy Raiser Lindsay Robb with puppy-in-training, Remi, and her brother Mitchell.



Around the Town with Ed & Erin



Martha Elliott, wife of GDA graduate Ed Elliott, wrote a brief article for their neighborhood newsletter about Ed and his guide dog partner, Erin that focused on Ed's career as a professor of music and guide dog etiquette. The local community television news channel saw the article and now Ed and Erin are scheduled to meet more neighbors "on the air." 🐾

Some Cozy Dog Items... To Decorate Your Den

A throw or pillow featuring your favorite dog breed is a classic as well as comfortable addition to your home décor.

The throws feature beautifully life-like images of GDA's favorite breeds in 100% cotton for cozy, yet practical use. The throws depicting a single

dog measure 47" x 60" and are available for \$40. The throws depicting two or more dogs measure 51" x 68" and are \$45. Machine washable.

The pillows will add a comfortable touch to your favorite chair or sofa and are \$20.

They are made of 100% cotton and filled with polyester fiberfill. Dry or spot clean.

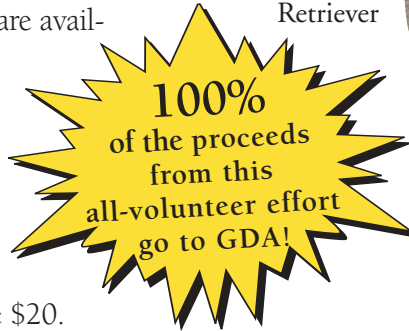
* other breeds available upon request



YLR
Yellow
Labrador
Retriever



BLR
Black Labrador Retriever



CLR
Chocolate
Labrador
Retriever

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Do Not Mail Your Order to GDA.

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and mail to:

Teri Chang
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| SIZE | COST | YLR Yellow Labrador Retriever | BLR Black Labrador Retriever | CLR Chocolate Labrador Retriever | 3LABS Three Labrador Retrievers | GS German Shepherd | GR Golden Retrievers | AMOUNT |
|-----------------|---------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Throw 47" x 60" | \$40.00 | | | | | | | |
| Throw 51" x 68" | \$45.00 | | | | | | | |
| Pillow | \$20.00 | | | | | | | |

*Shipping: \$5.00 per pillow
\$7.50 per throw

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Shipping*

TOTAL

Call (818)362-5834, ext. 309
if you have any questions about
the products or your order.



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Retrievers



GS
German
Shepherd



**All
products
are made
in the
U.S.A.!**



GR
Golden
Retrievers
(no pillow
available)



TAKING A PAWS FOR THANKS

In addition to the many friends who make regular contributions by mail or payroll deduction, GDA is grateful to those who conduct special events or donate goods or services to help us carry out our work.

Cruisin' Around the Campus

We have a new set of wheels thanks to Barber Ford of Ventura, Calif. Bill Hicks, General Manager of the dealership, arranged for an electric golf cart to be donated to GDA. Mr. Hicks learned about GDA from Ms. Blane Goldwater, who serves as secretary to the Guide Dogs of America Foundation board of directors. The little electric car comes in handy for offering tours of the GDA campus to people with disabilities. It's also been spotted transporting small, but awkward, items around campus. Our thanks to board member, Blane Goldwater for her enthusiasm about GDA which helped to encourage the donation. And special thanks are due to Bill Hicks of Barber Ford for his extraordinarily generous gift.



GDA staff members take turns getting a ride in the electric cart donated by Barber Ford.

A Dad Honors His Daughter and Her Guide Dog

Wally Berman's daughter, Lorri Bernson, is both a graduate and a consultant for GDA. In honor of his beloved daughter and her partner Nigel, Wally recently made a large donation to GDA to pay for a permanent shade cover for our dog runs as well as room and board for four future students, harnesses and kits for their guide dogs. Wally tells us that his gift is in gratitude for the difference GDA has made in Lorri's life. We're very thankful for Wally's gracious and thoughtful contribution.

And the Winner is . . .

GDA graduate Rayna Henry, guide dog Berlin, and her Have a Heart Foundation! With the able assistance of April Givens of Twentieth Century Fox, Rayna arranged for a shopping

spree at the Fox studios where they were giving away a warehouseful of promotional items. Our popular Silent Auction at this year's Open House will offer Fox studio T-shirts, toys, videos and lots of fun collectibles (though we're still trying to figure out what to do with the rubber gorilla feet!). The Have a Heart Foundation coordinates the donation of goods and services to charitable organizations. We offer our sincere thanks to Rayna and Twentieth Century Fox for arranging the shopping spree. Their generosity will help GDA raise more funds to carry out our work.

Friends of GDA Are Everywhere!

We finally found the perfect place for a new student lounge, where our students and guide dogs can take a break and relax during training in San Fernando, CA. The only problem was that the orthodontist next door was already negotiating to expand into the space. But when we asked Dr. Wiedman about his plans, it turned out that he knew of GDA. In fact, his wife, Terry Wiedman, has raised three dogs for GDA. The bad news is that Dr. Wiedman rented the space, and is now renovating it as an employee lounge. The good news is that he has offered to let us use it anytime we want without having to pay rent. He even gave us a key. Our thanks to Dr. Wiedman and Terry for their generous offer to share this perfect location with our students and their dogs!

A Stitch in Time Saves Canines

Our special thanks to Carolyn Martin, mother of Yvonne Martin, a GDA trainer. For the last five years, Carolyn has diligently sewn and repaired the D-rings and straps on thousands of the special jackets our puppies wear. Her help has been invaluable, and we thank her for her dedication to this essential task that helps make our pups look their best all the time.

A Golden Couple

Goldens, Goldens, Goldens. That's what you see when you go to the Rice home. Bob and Gordanna are breeders of champion Golden Retrievers. But there's more golden. The Rices have a heart of gold when it comes to GDA. Gordanna is always around to lend the puppy nursery a hand when a new litter is born. She is also assisting GDA with our Golden Retriever

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WISH LIST

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

Always in Need

- Sterilized bones in all sizes
- Twin/full size 50% polyester/50% nylon blankets
- Dog & Puppy toys – all shapes and sizes

For the Dormitory

- 26 sturdy chairs for dining room with wide open bottoms for dogs to fit under
- Mini-refrigerators for dorms rooms (6)

For the Training Department

- Hard plastic wading pools
- Rawhide bones

For the Breeding Department

- Portable generator to keep heaters operating in puppy nursery in an emergency
- Xcam cameras – wireless cameras to monitor puppies and brood bitches after birth (available at www.x10.com)
- Snuggle safe – microwavable heating disks
- Therapet Pipe Dreams pet bed – large size (27" x 39")
- Storage shed – Tuff Shed (10' x 12' or larger)
- Labrador wall clock



Sending a Pup into the World—continued from page 6

breeding program. And you can often find Bob, a computer wizard, after working a full day at his regular job, here at GDA, upgrading our computers, installing software, and troubleshooting technical problems.

To top it all off, they've given us a great kennel technician, their daughter, Angela Rice. Our grateful thanks go out to the Rices for being such good friends to GDA. They're golden!

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

Staying Up-To-Date With GDA
www.guidedogsofamerica.org/calendar.html

How We Spend Your Gift

We're careful to keep our fundraising and administrative costs as low as possible so your contribution goes directly to support our breeding and training programs.

Thanks for believing in our work!

2001-2002 FISCAL YEAR

Program Services

86.75%

- Kennel
- Guide Dogs Training
- Student Relations
- Breeding
- Puppy Program

Administrative

Costs
8.82%

Fundraising

Costs
4.43%



Shapely Dogs — How to Keep our Dogs Trim

Whether your favorite pooch is a GDA guide dog, a future guide dog puppy, or your family pet, keeping them in good shape is important to their health, happiness and a long life. Ideally, your dog should have a noticeable waistline. If not, he or she may be overweight. You can also ask your vet to check your dog's plumpness. If your dog needs to slim down, you could increase activity level, and/or reduce the amount of food. The amount of food your dog needs depends on his or her size, activity level and age (just like us humans!). A young energetic and actively growing puppy may need twice as much food as an older dog. And don't forget that treats also have calories, so if you give a lot of biscuits, reduce the dog's meals to compensate.

Remember, our dogs are like athletes. For them to be top performers, it's important for them to keep trim and fit. 🐾

The Puppy Corner

So far this year we've welcomed seven new litters. Congratulations to their parents, to the puppy breeding staff, and to the puppy raisers who welcome them into their homes.



GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

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Sylmar, CA 91342

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| Breed | Number of Puppies | Date of Birth |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Black/ yellow Labradors | 5 pups | 1/16/03 |
| Black/ yellow Labradors | 7 pups | 2/11/03 |
| Black Labradors | 7 pups | 2/26/03 |
| Black/ yellow Labradors | 7 pups | 3/2/03 |
| Black/ yellow Labradors | 7 pups | 3/7/03 |
| Black Labrador | 1 pup | 4/3/03 |
| Black Labradors | 2 pups | 4/22/03 |

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



Graduation Day

Class #338

Front row, graduates and guide dogs from left to right: Ramsina Betsarkis & **Brogan**, Vivian Conger & **Blaze**, Debbie Robinson & **Flint**, Bob Stricklin & **Sam**, Linda Zelaya & **Gage**, Bob Blank & **Franklin**, Julia Winstead & **Hubble**, Robert Bracy & **Dutch**, Cathy Lewis & **Shania**, Charlotte Wilkerson & **Breezy**. (Not pictured: Sheila Huggins & **Takara**.) Back row, GDA trainers: Robin Gurule and Kristen Schmidt

Puppy Raisers:

Brogan – The Meale Family,
Blaze – Donna & David Fernandez,
Flint – Nancy & Dave Haslam,
Sam – Barbara & Dave Reed,
Gage – Barbara Vogel,
Franklin – Leslie Parker,
Hubble – Linda & David Wiltz,
Dutch – Jim & Ghislaine Schaefer,
Shania – The Husted Family,
Breezy – Ramona Audette,
Takara – Amy Thaler



"If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."
Will Rogers