**ALUMNI NEWS**

Volume 29 – Number 1

Marcia Wick, AA Board Chair and Theresa Stern, Vice President of Outreach, Admissions and Alumni Services, Editors

Audio version voiced by Michele Spitz, Woman of Her Word

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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# A Message from the CEO

**Operational Updates: From Breeding To Serving Clients**

When shelter in place started, all breeding was paused for 2 months (end of March, all April and 1st part of May). And, with breeding planned months in advance, the Puppy Center on our California Campus was still home to 170 moms, babies and older puppies. The births continued through the beginning of May resulting in mom and puppy care required through the end of June. And, with the breeding pause, in July there were no moms or puppies on campus enabling the Canine Welfare Neonatal team to focus on creating additional safety protocols and further developing the new puppy center. In the end of May, we began breeding 4 litters/month and have welcomed 27 new litters to date. With recalls starting back up, we are excited to ramp up breeding numbers in May to pre-COVID levels in order to provide dogs to match with clients at the end of FY22 and all of FY23.

GDB is committed to giving every dog in our program the best chance to succeed and we want to honor the significant investment our puppy raisers have made in loving, socializing, and developing our dogs, especially during this unparalleled time. Because our operations have been significantly impacted, this has meant the puppy raisers have kept guide dog puppies in their homes for a longer period of time, and extended their efforts to prepare each dog for service. Our dogs are typically between 15-18 months when they are recalled and enter training. Due to the limitations on our ability to operate during the pandemic, however, the average age of dogs coming in for recall is closer to 20-24 months. As such, there will be a period where dogs may be up to three years old when issued as guides. During this time, we will be recalling the oldest dogs first and anticipate a return to a recall age of 15-18 months by the end of the calendar year.

As we all know, GDB is a large, complex organization and we are excited that our operations are starting to return to pre-COVID levels. This means a return to many of the processes that help create a stable foundation for serving clients. The following are some of the exciting elements of returning to full operations:

* Regularly scheduled recalls at both campuses
* A standard dog training schedule and dogs moving through the training as normal complete with phase reports
* While there are new challenges in the time of the pandemic, our instructors are a resourceful, motivated and talented group and have made the necessary adjustments!
* Regularly scheduled back-to-back classes with smaller numbers of clients in each class
* Staggered class schedules between the two campuses which facilitates smoother recall coordination
* A higher number of in-homes occurring throughout the United States, which will be overseen by instructional staff and Field Service Managers. These in-homes will occur in areas of the country that are within driving distance of our FSMs.
* All clients have a virtual meet and greet with their puppy raisers via Zoom as they conclude their training.

These efforts are intended to help us meet our goal of serving the same number of clients we usually serve in the second half of the year.

Orientation and Mobility Immersion classes will also continue on campus and in surrounding areas. We are excited to help more clients enhance their travel skills.

We are excited to return to a level of operations that is closer to normal, using all of the creative innovations and learning developed over the past 11 months. We realize that you may have questions and, with this in mind, we will be holding a Client Town Hall in March, providing an opportunity for additional information sharing and Q&A. Stay tuned for details and call-in instructions coming soon!

Warm regards,

Christine Benninger, President and CEO

# FROM YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Seeking Candidates for the Alumni Association Board of Directors

By: Amy Salger with *Marsala*

Attention All GDB Alumni!

The GDB Alumni Association Board of Directors (AA Board) announces we will begin accepting applications for positions on the AA Board opening July 1,2021.  We are soliciting for volunteers who are hardworking, dedicated and focused, and can help to represent the diverse range of views and experiences of GDB alumni.

 More information about the AA Board and instructions on how to be considered for an open position on the Board are outlined below.  If you have any questions, please direct them to Amy Salger, Nominations Committee Chair, at [asalger@guidedogs.com](mailto:asalger@guidedogs.com) or by phone at 319-350-1049.

 Please note, we will begin accepting applications on March 1, 2021, and the deadline to apply is March 15, 2021.

 We look forward to hearing from you!

 Responsibilities of Directors of the GDB Alumni Association Board:

 In support of our mission, each board member is expected to serve on several project teams and complete various tasks independently outside of meetings. The project teams vary dependent on visions of the AA Board. Each project team identifies and works to achieve goals within the AA Board’s focus.

Board meetings are held quarterly on Saturday morning. Project team meetings vary in frequency, days and times but are scheduled among team members according to their availability. Most project team meetings are held via conference call or zoom. Once or twice a year, the AA Board may meet in-person at the San Rafael or Oregon campus. Most communication is handled via email and phone. (Transportation and accommodation costs for in person meetings are covered by GDB).

 Board members are elected to serve a 3-year term which may be renewed for a second 3-year term, with Board approval.

 We work hard, but we have a terrific time doing it.

Eligibility:

 Any GDB Graduate with at least two years' experience working a Guide Dog is eligible to apply.

 Open Period for Applications:

 Applications will be accepted from March 1 through March 15, 2021. Any application received after March 15, 2021 will not be considered.

How to Apply:

1. In an email, send a resume and audio or video recording/ file, containing a brief description of yourself and your reasons for applying to the Board. Audio or Video files should not exceed 1 minute in length.
2. For the subject line of the email, use: "2021 AAB App”.
3. Submit your resume and audio or video file as two separate attachments, (or 1 file for the resume and a web link for the audio or video). Each file should be titled with your name and the type of information it contains. For example, if your name is Jane Smith, your attached documents would be titled: “Smith,

Jane Resume” and “Smith, Jane Video”.

Send your application to: Nominations Committee Chair, Amy Salger at: [asalger@guidedogs.com](mailto:asalger@guidedogs.com) and to Theresa Stern at: [tstern@guidedogs.com](mailto:tstern@guidedogs.com) .

NOTE --If you have applied for a position on the board in the past and were not selected, we encourage you to apply again. Each year we receive many outstanding applications for a limited number of open positions. Please apply again if you are interested.

## New Year, New Ideas

By, Marcia Wick, Alumni Association Board Chair, with *Vivianne*

OK, so we made a lot of resolutions for the new year despite our better judgment and I’m not even going to ask about the status of those, right? But the GDB Alumni Association board did make one resolve for the new year that we do intend to keep. We really want to know how we can serve you better, and how we can better utilize the resource of GDB grads.

So, like all good researchers, we started to construct a survey. Ugh! Haven’t we all been surveyed to death? So another resolve we intend to keep is that we won’t put you through a survey, at least not now! So what will we do?

We really do want to give GDB grads an opportunity to tell us what AA Board services and resources are working for you, which ones are not, what new things could we do to be helpful, and what resources you have to offer that we might not be aware of. Those are very broad questions and we’ll probably focus a little in some areas, but in general we want your feedback.

We currently offer this newsletter, periodic Speaker Series or Town Hall calls, support for the various alumni chapters, in person reunions, and much more. But we need to periodically talk with you about whether what we’re doing is right for the times especially since so many things have changed during this past year. For example, does your chapter need assistance to move your meetings into a virtual environment? Do you have ideas for future Speaker series or Town Hall meetings? Have you had a great program that you could share with other chapters? The possibilities are endless for resources, events and technical assistance just to name a few.

A few weeks ago several AA Board members met with the GDB Alumni chapter Presidents and offered to visit each chapter to learn what you’re doing and how we might be of help. We know that many of you are not part of an Alumni chapter, so we also plan to have an open call for grads who we won’t reach through those meetings.

We will of course share the results, and will incorporate your thoughts, ideas and resources as we shape our work plans and goals.

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## New Regulations for Flying with your Guide Dog

By: Lauren Kenney, Director of Client Services, GDB

We are reaching out today to share important information on Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) regulation updates that took effect January 11th, 2021. These updates directly impact the steps necessary to fly with your guide dog.

Changes include the following:

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has aligned their definition of “Service Animal” with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), limiting the designation to dogs only. There are no breed restrictions.

Emotional Support Animals will no longer be considered Service Animals by the ACAA and will need to travel as pets during flights. Psychiatric Services Animals will continue to be recognized as legitimate service animals.

If you would like to read the final rule amending travelling by air with a service animal in its entirety, please access the document on the Department of Transportation website.

As part of the new regulations, the U.S. Department of Transportation has developed two forms travelers with service animals must submit when flying (Please be aware that these forms do NOT need to be completed or signed by a Veterinarian):

A Combined Attestation form of dog behavior and dog health for all flights.

A Dog Relief form for flights lasting longer than 8 hours.

In addition to a signed declaration of responsibility for your dog, the forms require 2 critical pieces of information:

Your current Veterinarian’s name.

The expiration date of your dog’s Rabies vaccine.

When the ACAA final ruling was made public, GDB President and CEO, Christine Benninger, released the following statement: “While we applaud this long-awaited victory for people who rely on legitimate service dogs, there are challenges ahead because the ruling requires handlers to provide more pre-boarding paperwork and validation, and the addition of extra steps for those traveling with a disability is not equal access. However, this is a move in the right direction, and we look forward to working closely with the airlines to help simplify the process around service animal documentation.”

Guide Dogs for the Blind is in communication with representatives from the airline industry exploring possibilities for streamlining form submission; we will keep you updated on developments. In the interim, we offer the following information and suggestions:

The DOT forms are to be used by all U.S. airlines as well as foreign airlines on flights originating in or ending in the United States. Airlines have the right to deny boarding if the required, signed forms are not submitted.

It should be noted that the form is required if your round-trip flight started before January 11th, 2021 but your return flight is after January 11th. This applies to all domestic flights as well as international flights originating or ending in the U.S.

The two required forms are official federal government forms issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Although they may initially seem intimidating, they are very simple one-page forms

Travelers who book their flight 48 hours or more in advance of travel should complete their forms online. We recommend also bringing a printed copy with you for peace of mind.

If booking a flight departing within less than 48-hours, you can provide your completed form at the gate rather than submitting it online if needed.

Air carriers are mandated to post accessible versions of the required forms on their website.

As always, it is best to check your airline’s website for detailed directions on form submission guidelines and policies.

Please note that the new regulations do not require The Department of Transportation or airlines to save a copy of your completed forms for future flights.

If you need to appeal an airline employee’s decision when booking or checking in for your flight, speak with the airline’s Complaints Resolution Official (CRO).

Should you have questions, please don’t hesitate to call the GDB Support Center at (800) 295-4050. We are available Monday-Friday from 8 AM- 5PM Pacific Standard Time and look forward to talking with you.

If you missed our Speakers Series featuring Ray Prentice from Alaska Airlines regarding these changes you can check it out here: <https://www.guidedogs.com/explore-resources/alumni-resources>

# CHAPTER CHAT

## Let's Talk Travel—Even If We Can’t!

By Marcia Yale, President, Paws Around the World

For those of you who don’t know about us, Paws Around the World is GDB’s special interest alumni chapter focused on travel. Usually, we spend our monthly meetings (the second Thursday at 4:00 Pacific) talking about places we’ve been to and places we’re going, but during the last 10 months, we’ve managed to find a way to stay relevant, even though travel has stopped.

When everything shut down in March 2020 due to Covid-19, we had already had our monthly meeting with a few of our members talking about Portugal--one of my own favourite countries! The discussion was lively and we were all looking forward to learning about other countries in future months. Then the bomb dropped and no one was travelling anymore, unless it was to get back home as soon as possible!

I suggested our chapter talk about other aspects of travel for our April meeting. I had no idea whether anyone would show up but they did, and we spent a very worthwhile hour discussing coping strategies in times of limited travel. Someone suggested that, instead of "social distancing,” we consider it a time of "physical distancing, social and personal rapprochement and rekindling.” It was encouraging!

Every month since, I’ve tried to find a different angle to present. In May, we discussed our world without travel and dreamed about where we'd go if the world were back to normal. In June, we talked about what has changed, whether we were any closer to being willing to travel again, and anything we might do differently when we do flex our wings. July was Convention month, so we decided wisely to let them have their virtual hold on us.

In August, we chatted about how we had spent this unusual summer; we puzzled over the question of when travel would be possible, and if we were in fact ready for it. In September, we tackled the new hurdles we would likely encounter when we start to travel again. During that meeting, one of our members mentioned that she was living in Japan. We jumped at the chance to hear about her experiences there, and we invited her to speak at our October meeting. She told us about the fascinating culture, and some surprising attitudes and barriers she faced living in Japan with her guide dog. We gained insights into the Japanese people, and we all realized that we had some major misconceptions. Click the following link to obtain the recording:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ycmy8qg43lakgp5/GDB%20Paws%20Around%20the%20World%20Japan%2010-8-2020.m4a?dl=0>

I couldn't believe how quickly November arrived. We discussed holding elections for chapter offices, but members decided they'd rather talk travel! We looked ahead to December and planned our annual holiday pawty, where we celebrated the good times and I handed out GDB swag.

Looking back, I never thought our group would find a way to keep positive, but we did! It will be interesting to see how 2021 pans out. We may still have to travel around in our PJs and heads, but we’ll remain strong and hopeful.

# AS WE SEE IT

## Second Wind: Powerful Partnerships with Retired Guides.

Maia Scott with *Gleam*

“You just know.” Many seasoned handlers spoke these three words to describe that moment when you know it’s time to consider retiring a trusted guide. Even though I just knew, I second-guessed myself until it hurt. I felt selfish and self-centered, a product of an era technicolored with big hair, neon spandex and disposable appliances. I plummeted into a deep, dark spiral imagining myself a spoiled child or billionaire eccentric throwing away her playthings because they broke.

Each time, I asked myself, “Can’t I change my ways to work my dog a little longer or to keep him at home for retirement? Do I have to work two jobs and live in San Francisco if it means being with my dog a little longer?” Witnessing other handlers at work reminded me that I have the freedom and confidence to enjoy this lifestyle BECAUSE of partnering with a guide dog.

I also asked myself, “Who am I to make this huge decision for the hero in harness who worked tirelessly at my side?” With an open heart and deep listening, “You just know” and, with the support of client services and counseling, we made these big decisions together. A parting of the ways was best for both of us. New synergies formed, creating beautiful connections and life-affirming changes even after the harness came off for the last time and each dog walked away from me at the left side of another.

LAUREN & MARK SCOTT

“When Maia made the decision to retire Selma, her first guide dog, we all knew that Selma had to stay in the family, she was our family!  Mark and I were so happy to welcome her to our home full time.”  Lauren Scott, my mother remembered that time long ago. My first guide, a very shiny and wiggly black Labrador named Selma, trotted off with my parents to the mountains, nose to the ground ready for new adventures.

Lauren deeply connected with my former guide. “Selma filled my heart with joy and love and I remember saying to whoever would listen, ‘Selma's not just a dog’.  I'm not at all sure what I meant by that statement. But I knew she was more, of what, I'm not sure.”  She went on to say that, “Selma was my Zen dog.” This statement deeply exemplifies their connection since Zen practice is an important part of Lauren’s lifestyle and holistic wellbeing.

Dainty little Golden Retriever Tessa pranced away next, finishing her life with my parents. In the end, Tessa lived with terminal cancer that hit her hard and fast. “At the time, I didn't know that Tessa was to be my teacher.”, Lauren explained, “We enjoyed a month of fun. Tessa played with abandon until the moment that she didn't.”

Lauren felt the moment when Tessa started her transition. “I sat down with her, took her onto my lap and held her.  We stayed that way for hours, talking, praying, being together.” Lauren told Tessa that she was such a good girl, thanked her for all her work as my guide dog and asked her to say hi to Selma when she crossed over.

“When Tessa took her last breath, I felt an overwhelming love for her and for us and I realized she had honored me with her dying.” That experience inspired Lauren to become a hospice volunteer, offering solace, gentle presence and compassion for individuals and families facing death.

TRICIA HUVANE

When big, fluffy, handsome Golden Retriever Fiddler retired, I went through a whole different level of separation anxiety. His majestic plume of a tail waved goodbye to me as he not only left my side but left the family entirely. I didn’t know if I would see or hear of him ever again. Dog placement reached out to his puppy raiser, Chris, whose good friend, Tricia Huvane, had approached her only a couple weeks prior asking for support finding a new dog.

“I specifically requested an older dog with some special needs as I felt we could both benefit from a reciprocal relationship as I needed the support and companionship after losing my husband.  Fiddler is attentive, patient and such a joy to have around.” Tricia not only lost her husband, their golden also passed away, leaving the home office way too quiet.

Fiddler has filled her life with a robust sense of community and connection. “He’s been a blessing not only for me and my sons but for my mom who was never really a dog person and my in-laws who so enjoy his quiet company.” Tricia shared how she hoped for a dog that would be gentle around her elderly relatives.

Tricia and Fiddler’s adventures expanded. “Part of me bought the condo in Tahoe after my husband died for me and my two sons to enjoy and the other part for Fiddler to enjoy! Happy he can see Chris too as he loves going across the driveway to their condo.”

Even in his retirement, Fiddler remained steadfast with purpose. “I am thankful every morning when he sighs next to my bed to wake me and greet the day. Getting Fiddler has been such a gift as he’s my constant companion after losing my husband.” Tricia goes on to say, “I can’t Imagine not having Fiddler now as he’s such a big part of our lives and daily routine.”

It took some years for me to realize that my dogs’ careers as guide dogs at my side may well have concluded but their work was certainly not done. That edge I mentioned, it turns out to be a stopping place for me alone to pause in celebration and gratitude while looking forward to exciting potential ahead. My dogs moved on to become guides of a different sort, gently and confidently helping new people navigate from point A to point B in their own lives. In fact, these amazing dogs actually altered the way their new partners see the world, bringing deeper clarity to the Vision, in these cases, of the sighted.

## Going for a Wander

By: Jo Elizabeth Pinto

*Editor’s Note: Please Enjoy this essay written by Jo Elizabeth Pinto, a member of GDB’s Creative Tails writing chapter.*

I trained with my first guide dog in the spring of 1993. Having a leash or a harness handle in my left hand has become almost second nature to me over the last twenty-seven years. It was something I didn't even think about anymore—at least till I unexpectedly had to give it up.

When I suddenly had to retire Anlyn, my sweet yellow Labrador, right before her seventh birthday last spring, I felt as if I’d lost a piece of my heart, and strangely, a piece of my body as well. There was a gaping emotional hole where my dog had been, and my independence was gone. But beyond that, it actually seemed like part of my left side was missing. I reached out to pet Anlyn and felt nothing. I talked to empty air and heard only silence.

At first, the plan was to get me into training with a new guide in a few months. But the Coronavirus put the whole world in a tailspin. Winter is upon us now, and it may be another year or more before I'll get to meet my next guide dog.

I hadn't intended to make room in my life for another dog besides my guide, especially not a shelter dog. I've taken in rescues before, and I know how much work they are. I prefer broken-in models, if it’s all the same. Guide dogs come to their handlers very well behaved, thanks to the puppy raisers who take on the arduous tasks of housebreaking, obedience training, and socialization. I'm too old for all that drama.

But there's nothing on this planet like canine love. And after months of starving for it, I began following the listings at the local animal shelter. I wasn't really looking, I assured myself. If nothing came of the search, that was fine. But if the right dog turned up, our family would be open to the possibilities.

The week after Thanksgiving, Mindi--a ravishing little Labrador bull terrier mix--pranced into our lives. She's got the sleek black Labrador coat with white on her belly and the strong shoulders, long neck and nose, egg-shaped head, and perky ears of a bull terrier. She weighs thirty pounds right now and stands about knee high. Judging by the size of her paws, she might not grow much taller, but she'll fill out a bit more and put on another fifteen or twenty pounds over the next year or so.

The shelter definitely fudged Mindi's credentials to get her into a home. She's housebroken, but only just. She may have learned a few obedience commands somewhere along the way, but she's pretty much forgotten them. She does know how to walk on a leash, which is a plus. Mostly that's because of her sweet nature, though, not because of any training she's had. She began life as a stray, and her love of all things outdoors is still strong.

On the positive side, she's playful, affectionate, eager to please, and incredibly smart. Everything else can be worked out. My husband and I both have a good deal of dog training experience, and neither of us are about to back out on what we’ve begun. We might not have signed up for the job if we’d known what we were getting into before we started. But Mindi has stolen our hearts, and as we told our daughter, once you make a promise, there are very few reasons to go back on your word.

One sunny morning about a week after Mindi joined the family, the two of us went for a walk. I snapped on her leash, grabbed a jacket, and stepped out onto the front porch.

"Let's do this, Mindi girl!" I encouraged her as we approached the steps. "It's a beautiful day ..."

Then I froze. I was so accustomed to the feeling of a leash in my hand that I'd forgotten Mindi wasn't a trained guide dog. She wouldn't stop to show me where the porch steps were. She wouldn't pause at curbs or be mindful of traffic.

"Uh oh!" I turned back toward the house, causing the dog to whine and tug at the leash. "Wait a second. I better grab a cane. I forgot; you don't have the right skill set to keep me safe out here."

A moment later, white cane in my right hand and leash in my left, I made my way down the porch steps. Mindi and I followed the short sidewalk to the street, turned right and proceeded to the corner, then turned right again. That's when I learned my next lesson--from a snowy evergreen bush that brushed against my elbow. I avoided the bush as an obstacle to hurry past. But Mindi paused to sniff at its lower branches, snorting as she was rewarded with a snout full of snow and juniper needles.

When you travel with a guide dog, your focus is on getting from one point to the next. Short time, straight line, all business. Guide dogs are taught not to sniff, not to be distracted, not to mess around.  They've got work to do. But as I walked with Mindi, my cane did the job of preventing me from tripping on cracks in the sidewalk or bumping into obstacles. The whole point of the trip was for my dog to sniff fences, bushes, sign poles, and anything else that grabbed her interest as we enjoyed the day.

We only strolled halfway around the block and back home. We took our time. The sun was warm; the breeze was fresh. We stopped to say hello to a woman with a Chihuahua and two men admiring a new car one of them had just bought. Mindi sniffed and meandered, and I let my mind wander.

The dedicated people who raise and train guide dogs perform miracles, teaching those shepherds, retrievers, and other pooches to ignore their natural instincts so they can make sure blind people get where they need to go safely and quickly. As Mindi explored, it struck me what a daunting job those puppy raisers and trainers have before them. It’s in the very fiber of the being of dogs to sniff everything they encounter and often urinate on it besides; it’s what they do. Then too, it’s in the nature of many human beings to be driven, anxious, and in pursuit of empty goals. Sometimes, it's good for human beings to put aside their inclinations to hurry and worry as well.

Two-legged creatures ought to take a hint from their four-legged counterparts now and then: Why not grab twenty minutes on a pleasant afternoon to stroll in the sunshine, check out the day, and see who you meet along the way? Oh, and catch a nap afterward. Life is good!

Check out my author Web site at

<http://www.brightsideauthor.com>.

# OUTREACH UPDATE

## Camp GDB Prepares Youth for Guide Dog Lifestyle

By: Jane Flower, Youth Outreach Specialist, with *Pilaf*

As I help plan Camp GDB programs for 2021, I find myself reflecting on my own summer camp experiences as a young person, and the positive impact summer camp had on my life.

As a child with a visual impairment, I wanted nothing more than to fit in and feel included in school activities, games on the playground, and extracurricular activities. Often, I sat alone on the lunch bench while my friends and classmates ran around freely playing whatever fun game was popular at the time. I couldn’t wait for summer to attend Braille Institute’s youth day camp, and the highly anticipated week-long trip to Camp Edwards!

At summer camp, I felt like I belonged, everyone understood about being visually impaired or blind. I was invited, in fact encouraged, to participate and try fun new activities. I made new friends, some of whom I am still friends with today. Many of my favorite childhood memories took place at summer camp - horseback riding, roller skating, swimming, arts & crafts, trips to the beach, hiking, campfires, canoeing, and tandem bike riding. Only now as an adult looking back, I realize how many opportunities summer camp provided for my personal growth and development.

From home to school to extracurricular, every environment contributes to a child’s development. GDB’s summer program is no exception. Our camp features a week packed full of fun activities along with an opportunity for hands on learning about the guide dog lifestyle. Camp GDB better prepares teens to step into a future partnership with a guide dog.

For some young people, Camp GDB may provide their first experience away from home and the opportunity to develop independence. Campers are encouraged to try new activities to help boost confidence, for example, walking with a guide dog in harness for the first time. Some GDB campers also connect with other kids who are blind or visually impaired for the first time. Campers practice Orientation & Mobility skills, and develop independent living skills while preparing snacks, pouring and measuring, practicing time management, and maintaining personal hygiene. Campers who are more independent with O&M and IL skills assist other campers which teaches empathy and compassion.

As GDB’s summer camp program grows, I am grateful to have the opportunity to be part of something that as a child and teenager gave me so much!

For more information about GDB’s youth programs, contact Jane Flower at [jflower@guidedogs.com](mailto:jflower@guidedogs.com)

Here’s a link to GDB’s youth page where you can view our virtual 2020 Camp GDB video:

<https://www.guidedogs.com/get-a-guide-dog/youth-programs/camp-gdb>

# ALUMNI BULLETIN BOARD

Congratulations to GDB graduate Barbara Sjpear for completing the 12th annual Westin Wright Lighting the Way 5K/10K Run/Walk benefiting the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind!

Kudos to Carl Belnap who retired along with His faithful guide dog Emidio. Mr. Belnap has worked at a Dental equipment company, in Newberg Oregon for 43 years. Five GDB dogs have been by his side through thick and thin. Abu, 1996 Farrell, 1999 Jordana, 2005 Beata, 2012, and Emidio 2017.Interestingly Mr. Belnap is not only totally Blind but mostly Deaf now. He says: My Guide dogs all of them have been so special. It still amazes Me how loyal and Faithful they were and are. They have been a special part of my working life, He says." Mr. Belnap 65 of Dayton, Oregon is now spending His time with His Wife of 43 years who has a terminal illness. He also signed up to become an Independent Amsoil dealer, selling Motor oil and Lubes, for He loves cars and trucks. Emidio and I take walks every day Belnap says. I will always be a huge fan of the Guide dog Movement and I thank GDB for every one of my sweet dogs.

Congratulations Dorianne Pollack for her article on the impact of the pandemic on those of us who are living with visual impairments which appeared in the January Huffington Post – you can check it out here: <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/blind-visually-impaired-coronavirus-pandemic-impact_n_60019b5ac5b6ffcab963c825>

# IN MEMORIAM, IN MEMORY, IN TRIBUTE

*Editor’s Note: It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of GDB staff member and graduate, Sergio Lopez Hernandez.*

*Sergio Hernandez was a long-time resident of the Bay Area and lived in Berkeley. He worked as a Resident Assistant on our CA campus and loved working with Guide Dogs for the Blind.*

*He was born to Guadalupe Lopez and Margarita Hernandez in 1989. He is survived by his Mother and Father, his sisters' Veronica Cruz, Ariana Lopez and Marlene Esquivel as well as 3 brothers Omar Lopez, Salvador Lopez and Marlon Esquivel, and his guide dog Moira. He will be loved and missed by many friends and his family.*

*Sergio’s family has set up a website and they invite you to leave a kind memory or story about Sergio on the tribute page as to his impact on your life, or you can honor his memory by planting a Tree.*

[*https://www.lmfac.online/obituary/Sergio-Hernandez*](https://www.lmfac.online/obituary/Sergio-Hernandez)

*If you wish to submit a blog post to GDB’s reflection blog, we welcome you to send your submission to* [*marketing@guidedogs.com*](mailto:marketing@guidedogs.com)*. We kindly request that submissions be 500 words or less.*

In Memoriam – Remembering GDB alumni who have passed.

Sergio Lopez Hernandez of Berkeley, CA with female Yellow Lab guide *Moira,* (CA 816 – August 2015)

IN MEMORY - Remembering guides who have passed.

*Clipper,* male Yellow Lab guide for Jen Ferris of Ottawa, ON (OR 141 – Dec. 2007)

*Michael*, male Yellow Lab guide for Gary Beck of Poulsbo, WA (OR 152 – Sept. 2008)

*Jamison*, male Black Lab guide for Elizabeth Hurdman of Toronto, ON, (OR 212 – Oct. 2011)

*Saunders,* male Yellow Lab guide for Jessica Diaz of Alexandria, VA (OR 172 – May 2010)

IN Tribute – Honoring guides who have retired.

*Nimbus,* male Yellow Lab guide for Bruce Breslauer of Great Falls, MT(CA 789 – July 2017)

GIFT SHOP NEWS ***- February 2021***

By: Michelle McNew, Gift Shop Manager

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

# 3 Pups Visor

Embroidered with 3 pups on the front and guidedogs.com on the back. Easy adjustable Velcro. Available in Khaki and Navy. **$10.00, NOW $6Bottom of Form.00**

# 3 Stages of a Guide Dog Hat

 This is an unstructured 6 panel brushed cotton twill cap,  with pre-curved bill.Decorated with the 3 stages of a guide dog. This design consists of 3 dogs, a puppy in play pose, a young adult sitting and a guide dogs in harness.  The back of the hat is fully adjustable and has guidedogs.com embroidered. Fully adjustable. Available in navy with green design or sand with orange design. $15.00

# Adult Full Zip Hoodie

Keep warm this winter in this soft and cozy Adult Zip Hoodie. Made of 50% cotton, 50% polyester with a drawstring hood, pouch pockets and a metal zipper. Available in Dark Heather with a green GDB logo on the left chest. Available in size Extra small through 4XL. Get them while they last! This has a unisex fit. $38.00

# Adult Logo Tee

Get into summer with this super soft and lightweight t-shirt! Preshrunk 50/50 cotton/poly. Adorned with a white GDB logo on the left chest. Available in heather olive in X small thru 3XL. **$22.00,** **NOW $10.00**

# Adult Pup with Purpose Tee

Another great GDB tee designed by our client, JR. This crew neck tee is a totally perfect blend of cotton and poly.  Featuring 4.3-ounce, 50/50 combed ring spun cotton/poly. The front design features the GDB logo in white, located on the left chest. The back design features a puppy in a green training jacket, looking in the mirror at a guide dog in harness. Pup with a purpose is written above the design and the GDB logo is below the design.  The shirt is available in heather brown is sizes XS thru 4xl - while supplies last! **NOW $10.00**

# Adult Warhol Tee

The design on the front includes 4 small boxes, inside each box displays a picture of a guide dog in harness. Each box has a different color background.  guidedogs.com is printed under the design and the right sleeve features  the GDB logo in white.  The tees are available in garnet (100% cotton) or charcoal (50/50). **$22.00,** **NOW $10.00**

# Audible Beacon Safety Light

This safety light uses audible signals to indicate on/off, low battery, charging, and charge complete. The Audible Beacon is waterproof and rechargeable, using bright LED lights to boost visibility in all directions. A silicone mount attaches easily and securely to guide dog harnesses and the Quick Clip™ can clip to backpacks, coats, or other gear. With up to 12 hours of run-time, the Audible Beacon is a dependable added layer of safety for both dog and handler The 280mAh LiPo battery is rechargeable with the included 15 cm micro USB cable and charge time is approximately 1.5 hrs. Available in red $34.95

# Biodogradable Poop Bags - 3pk

bioDogradable waste pick-up bags. 3 rolls/45 bags **$5.00, NOW $3.00**

# Face Covering

GDB has got your face covered! This 2 ply face mask for everyday use to protect yourself and others. Easy to use, with an over the ear design that allows for superior comfort. Featuring black seams, a teal colored background and a repeated white GDB logo.  Made of polyester. Get them while they last!! Machine Wash Cold or Hand Wash. Hang Dry. Do Not: Bleach, Press, Iron or Steam. This face covering is not a medical device. $8.00

# GDB 3 Guide Tote Bag

There is plenty of room to hold the day's essentials in this must-have tote that comes in three colors and features a secure zippered top closure. Featuring an over-the-shoulder length handles and two large end pockets - great for water bottles.  Dimensions: 12.5 h x 13.5 w x 6.5 d. The design on the front includes 3 guide dogs -  A golden retriever, a yellow labrador and a black labrador in harness. guidedogs.com is printed under the design. Available in marina blue and dark charcoal. **$15.00,** **NOW $8.00**

# GDB Dry Erase Board with marker

Use this dry erase board for reminders about puppy club outings, grocery lists, notes for roommates, etc., you name it! The board features a dry erase marker in a clear holder. The design features repeating guides and puppies in gray a white background and the GDB logo in black.  Measuring 8 1/2 x 11" **$4.00,** **NOW $2.00**

# GDB Fingerless Gloves

These super soft fingerless gloves are perfect for walking the dog on a brisk morning. Adorned with the GDB stacked logo in teal. One Size fits all. Available in black. **$8.00,** **NOW $4.00**

# GDB Garden Flag 12.5x18

Show your GDB spirit in the garden. This adorable and colorful flag will brighten up your yard and/or garden. Pictured on the flag are three dogs sitting in a row, a yellow labrador in harness, a golden puppy in a puppy jacket and a black labrador in harness. Get yours while they last! Flagpole NOT included. **$15.00,** **NOW $8.00**

# Glass Cutting Board

Bring GDB into your kitchen with this adorable glass cutting board. Measuring at 11" x 15" and featuring a tempered glass with textured top and smooth back with protective non-slip feet.Decorated with a pictiure of a golden retriever, yellow and black **L**abrador retriever and a blue and white gingham background. $25.00, NOW $15.00

# Infinity Scarf

This lightweight GDB summer scarf is perfect for warmer weather outings! This white scarf design has GDB logo in orange and paw print and bones in gray. Get yours today! **$18.00, NOW $5.00**

# "Leader of the Pack" Backpack

The " Leader of the Pack" backpack is the only backpack you will ever need! Designed with two large zip compartments; the back compartment includes padded laptop and tablet sleeves with a notch to feed though hydration tube or headphones. Front section features internal organization pockets. Easy access zip front pocket for phone or glasses and two external water bottle pockets. External bungee cords for stowing additional gear or layers; side cinch straps for easy compression; and sternum strap with hydration system support. Air Mesh padded straps and cushioned neck panel with spine channel for comfort. Reflective front detailing for safety. made with durable 420D material for long wear. Fits Most 15"-17" laptops. Available in black with gray accents. Adorned with the GDB logo embroidered in teal blue.  measures width: 13.5", length 6" and height 20". $60.00

# Messenger Bag - Vertical

This GDB Vertical messenger bag is the best! This is a functional briefcase with the attitude of a messenger bag! So many features: multi-function pocket features earphone exit, adjustable shoulder strap and top grab handle and a side hookand loop pocket to store your mobile phone. Black and gray with a teal GDB Logo. Material is 420D dobby / 600D polyester, measuring  11.75"L 13"H 4"W. **$28.00, NOW $15.00**

# Men's 1/4 Zip Sport Pullover

Perfect for your next hike! Layer up with this breathable moisture wicking long sleeve. Featuring a quarter zip with 100% polyester. Available in deep navy in sizes Extra Small through 4 Extra Large. $33.00

# Men's All-Weather Jacket

This all-weather jacket can handle it all! Made of 100% polyester with DWR finish and featuring a 7-ounce, polyester fleece inner body lining. It has a 3000MM fabric waterproof rating and 3000G/M2 fabric breathability rating. In addition to the above, it also features an adjustable hood with locking drawcord, to help customize the perfect hit, a waterproof chest pocket with locking zipper pull and front zippered pockets. With a full length exterior storm flap with snap closures, you will be sure to stay dry. Adorned with the GDB stacked logo in silver. Available in Black in Sizes Small through Extra Extra Large. **$73.00, NOW $56.00**

# Men's Guide, Live, Love Crew Neck Tee

This dry blend tee is made of 50% cotton and 50% polyester.  The design on the back was created by Client, JR Quevedo. It features the words "Guide, Live, Love." They words are surrounded by dots, hearts, bones, leaves and paw prints.Available in sand in sizes Small through 5XL. $25.00

# Men's Puffer Vest

Stay cozy this winter in this GDB puffer vest with a detachable hood.  Featuring a removable hood with draw cords and water resistant and wind resistant nylon shell.  Outer shell is 100% woven nylon and the lining is 100% polyester and the insulation is 100% polyester.  Available in charcoal in sizes Small thru XXL. **$75.00, NOW $55.00**

# Men's Rain Slicker

Stay dry this winter in this super soft rain slicker! With an attached hood, mesh lining and adjustable tab cuff sleeves. Featuring two front pockets and reflective detail on the front and back. No overheating in this jacket, as it has grommets under the arm to keep the air flowing thru your jacket. Adorned with and embroidered and sealed GDB Logo on left chest. Available in gray, sizes Extra Small through Extra Extra Large. **$58.00, NOW $35.00**

# Men's Raise a Hero Crew Neck Tee

This pre-shrunk shirt was designed by Client, JR Quevedo. The back design features the words "Raise a hero, puppy love included." An illustration of a black labrador, yellow labrador and golden retireiver in green puppy coats are included in the design. The front includes a GDB logo on the left chest in white. Made of 65% polyester and 35% cotton. Available in military heather in sizes Small through 4XL. $25.00

# Men's Reflective Windbreaker

Add this windbreaker to your GDB apparel collection! With eye-catching reflective hits and colorblocking details, this unlined jacket is wind- and water-resistance. Featuring a 100% polyester shell with interior wind flaps, open front pockets, reflective details and elastic at cuffs and hems. Available in steel gray in sizes Small through 2XL. **$38.00,** **NOW $26.00**

# Men's Wordy Dog Tee

Another awesome design from our GDB team! This v neck tee features a white GDB logo on the left chest.  The dog design on the back consists of words that represent what a GDB dog means to our communities.  Some words include love, adventure, companion, etc. This tee is a blend of 65% polyester and 35% cotton.  This is a GDB Exclusive design, get them while they last! Available in charcoal in sizes Small through 3 Extra Large. **$25.00**, **Now$10.00**

# Multi-use Headwear

Get into the GDB Spirit with this Multi-use headwear! Featuring a dark blue background with designs of paw prints and bones.  The GDB logo is located around the top in white, while the rest of the headwear is sprinkled with illustrations of the faces of black labs, yellow labs, golden retrievers, orange paw prints and white bones.  So many ways to wear!! Made of 100% polyester and measuring at 9.45 inches by 18.9 inches.  Get them while they last!  Machine Wash Cold or Hand Wash. Hang Dry. Do Not: Bleach, Press, Iron or Steam $10.00

# Trucker Hat

This Mid profile crown structured hat features breathable mesh and 100% cotton twill front panels; 100% polyester mesh mid and back panels. Fully adjustable with a 7 position adjustable snap**. $15.00,** **NOW $10.00**

# Twist Lit

A great light for nighttime. Made for a bicycle, but works great on the harness. Click on view larger for photo of light on harness. Product info: With a quick turn of the wrist, the versatile, visible Nite Ize Twist, it attaches to anything, making it easy to spot in every kind of light. Featuring a long-lasting LED module encased in specially formed housings, the TwistLit is designed with a curved back that rests snugly against the round surfaces on your harness and sturdy, flexible rubber gear ties - twist closed, and you're done.The bright, long-lasting, battery-powered LED is activated with a simple push of a button--white in front illuminates your path and tells people you're heading their way. Endlessly versatile, secure, and easy to re-position, the TwistLit is perfect for harnesses,bikes, scooters, jogging strollers-anything on wheels you want people to see. **$10.00, NOW $5.00**

# Water Bottle with Dual Openings

This 20oz bottle opens in two places - making it easy to add ice and to clean!  With a blue lid and blue band accent, this is decorated with the GDB logo in orange. Tritan plastic - BPA free.  Hand wash only. Use liquid dish washing detergent only. For best results, wash with non-abrasive sponge or cloth to prevent scratching. Do not place in dishwasher or microwave. $10.00

# Waterproof Hat – black

##### Don't let the rain stop you! This three-layer technical performance waterproof fabric is constructed with sealed seams.   Featuring breathability and an adjustable reflective web strapping facilitate perfect comfort and sizing. Adorned with the GDB logo in light gray. Available in black. One size fits all. $26.00

# Women's 1/4 Zip Sport PulloverPerfect for your next hike! Layer up with this breathable moisture wicking long sleeve. Featuring a quarter zip with 100% polyester. Available in black heather in sizes Extra Small through 4 Extra Large.$33.00

Women's All-Weather Jacket This all**-**weather jacket can handle it all! Made of 100% polyester with DWR finish and featuring a 7-ounce, polyester fleece inner body lining. It has a 3000MM fabric waterproof rating and 3000G/M2 fabric breathability rating. In addition to the above, it also features an adjustable hood with locking drawcord, to help customize the perfect hit, a waterproof chest pocket with locking zipper pull and front zippered pockets. With a full length exterior storm flap with snap closures, you will be sure to stay dry. Adorned with the GDB stacked logo in silver. Available in Direct blue in sizes Small through Extra Extra Large. $73.00, NOW $56.00

# Women's Blossom Design Tee

Our client, JR hits it out of the park with this beautiful floral design.This tee features a lovely illustration of a dog face. The dog ears are present and a dog nose, the rest of the dog face is created with many different kinds of flowers.This 50/50 tee is perfect for summer weather. $22.00, NOW $10.00

# Women's Full Zip Two Tone Fleece

Layer up with this twotone full zip fleece jacket. Made of 100% polyester microfleece and featuring a handy arm pocket. Available in fuscha/gray in sizes Extra Small through 4 extra-large. $38.00

# Women's GDB Letters V Neck Tee

Be green with this EXCLUSIVE recycled fabric tee!!! Our women's vee neck tee features a white gdb logo on the left chest. The back design contains the letters GDB. Inside each of the letters are various illustrated items: bowls, bones, paw prints, collars and hearts. At 5.3-ounce, Made from 100% recyclde fabrics: 60% recycled cotton/40% post-consumer recycled polyester. Available in red in sizes Extra Small thru 4 Extra Large. Limited quantities, get them will they last. $25.00

# Women's Guide, Live, Love Crew neck Tee

This crew neck tee is made of 100% cotton.  The design on the back was created by Client, JR Quevedo. It features the words "Guide, Live, Love." They words are surrounded by dots, hearts, bones, leaves and paw prints. Available in maroon in sizes Small through 3xL $25.00

# Women's Guide, Live, Love V Neck Tee

This tee is made of 100% cotton.  The design on the back was created by Client, JR Quevedo. It features the words "Guide, Live, Love." They words are surrounded by dots, hearts, bones, leaves and paw prints. Available in navy or white in sizes Small through 3xL. $25.00

# Women's Lightweight Pullover Hoodie

Slip into this super soft and lightweight long sleeve hooded pullover. Featuring a split v neck with marrow edge. At 4.5-ounce and 50/25/25 poly/combed ring spun cotton/rayon, it lends to a comfortable and carefree style.  Adorned with the GDB logo in white, on the left chest. Available in deep royal in sizes XS - 4XL. $30.00

# Women's Lightweight Zip Hoodie

Layer up in this lightweight zip hoodie.  Made of 60/40 ring spun combed cotton/poly and featuring a drawstring hood. Available in black with a lavender GDB logo on the left chest. Care instructions: machine wash cold. tumble dry low. $30.00

# Women's Puffer Vest

Stay cozy this winter in this GDB puffer vest with a detachable hood.  Featuring a removable hood with draw cords, water resistant and wind resistant nylon shell.  Outer shell is 100% woven nylon, the lining is 100% polyester and the insulation is 100% polyester.  Available in denim blue in sizes XS thru XXL. **$75.00,** **NOW $55.00**

# Women's Rain Slicker

Stay dry this winter in this super soft rain slicker! With an attached hood, mesh lining and adjustable tab cuff sleeves. Featuring two front pockets and reflective detail on the front and back. No overheating in this jacket, as it has grommets under the arm to keep the air flowing thru your jacket. Adorned with and embroidered and sealed GDB Logo on the left chest. Available in island blue, sizes Extra Small through Extra Extra Large **$58.00, NOW $35.00**

# Women's Raise a Hero Crew Neck Tee

This 100% cotton tee was designed by Client, JR Quevedo. The back design features the words "Raise a hero, puppy love included." An illustration of a black labrador, yellow labrador and golden retireiver in green puppy coats are included in the design. The front includes a GDB logo on the left chest in white. Available in purple in sizes XS through 4XL. $25.00

# Women's Raise a Hero V Neck Tee

This summer tee was designed by Client, JR Quevedo. The back design features the words "Raise a hero, puppy love included." An illustration of a black labrador, yellow labrador and golden retireiver in green puppy coats are included in the design. The front includes a GDB logo on the left chest in white. Made of 100% cotton:$25.00

# Women's Reflective Windbreaker

Add this windbreaker to your GDB apparel collection! With eye-catching reflective hits and colorblocking details, this unlined jacket is wind- and water-resistance. Featuring a 100% polyester shell with interior wind flaps, open front pockets, reflective details and elastic at cuffs and hems. Available in royal blue/black in sizes Small through 2XL. **$38.00,** **NOW $26.00**

# Women's Varsity V Tee

4.5 oz., 50/37/13 pre-shrunk polyester/cotton/rayon jersey Soft, lightweight jersey with moisture management Contrast collar and varsity striping on sleeves 1x1 ribbed collar with mitered v-neck construction **$25.00, NOW $10.00**

# Women's Wordy Dog V Neck Tee

Another awesome design from our GDB team! This v neck tee features a white GDB logo on the left chest.  The dog design on the back consists of words that represent what a GDB dog means to our communities.  Some words include, adventure,companion , etc. This tee is 50/50 cotton/poly.  This is a GDB Exclusive design, get them while they last! Available in charcoal in sizes Extra Small through 4 Extra Large.

Available in gray in sizes XS-4XL. **$25.00,** **NOW $10.00**

# Youth Tee - Change a Life

Another amazing design from our client, JR Quevedo! The design on the back of this tee reads, "raise a puppy, change a life'. Followed with guidedogs.com under the design. There is also a GDB logo on the front left chest. The tee is 50/50 cotton/poly. Available in gray in sizes Extra Small through Extra Large. **$15.00, NOW $7.00**

# Youth Tee - inside every dog tee

Another amazing design from our client, JR Quevedo! This crew tee features a design of a yellow guide in harness, looking up. From the dogs mouth is a heart shaped conversation bubble.  The text inside the bubble reads 'inside every guide dog is the heart of a puppy raiser'.  Followed with guidedogs.com under the design. The tee is 50/50 cotton/poly. Available in purple in sizes Extra Small through Extra large **$15.00, NOW $7.00**

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 cannot be redeemed online. Please have your gift card number handy, when redeeming over the phone.

Please check our website periodically for new merchandise updates.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Guiding Emily

For those of you looking for your next great read, we’re excited to present a title to you called [**Guiding Emily: A Tale of Love, Loss, and Courage**](https://www.audible.com/pd/Guiding-Emily-Audiobook/177424814X?qid=1607970446&sr=1-1&ref=a_search_c3_lProduct_1_1&pf_rd_p=83218cca-c308-412f-bfcf-90198b687a2f&pf_rd_r=0WN9DR3J40TWTQN90W78)by Barbara Hinske. Produced by leading independent audiobook publisher [**Podium Audio**](https://podiumaudio.com/), the audiobook is performed by Fred Berman and Julia Whelan.

The story follows Emily Main, a woman who had it all: a high-powered career with a leading technology giant and a handsome fiancé bounding up the corporate ladder. After an accident, she slips into blindness, and the story follows her as she works to adapt with her new normal. Meanwhile, a black Lab puppy named Garth fulfills his destiny to become that most esteemed of all creatures: a guide dog.

***Guiding Emily*** is a heartwarming tale of love, loss, and courage as Garth and Emily make their way to each other. **The audiobook is available now on Audible (**[**link here**](https://www.audible.com/pd/Guiding-Emily-Audiobook/177424814X?qid=1607970446&sr=1-1&ref=a_search_c3_lProduct_1_1&pf_rd_p=83218cca-c308-412f-bfcf-90198b687a2f&pf_rd_r=0WN9DR3J40TWTQN90W78)**), but if you would like to check out a sample of it,** [**click here**](https://youtu.be/gIErNfmIdUk) **to listen to the prologue.**

## CAGDU Fundraiser

GDB Alumni Brookelyn Rodden would like folks to know about an opportunity to do a little shopping and support the California Association of Guide Dog Users – follow this link to check out all the goodies!  <https://www.customprintingandawards.com/cagdu>

# 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 / *Hope*

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@ucsb.edu](mailto:aahuja@ucsb.edu)

ROSTER OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS

Last updated: Monday, November 02, 2020

USA

Arizona

*Desert Dogs of Phoenix*

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

*Northern Arizona High Country Walkers*

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

California

*Foggy Doggies*

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

*OC Guide Dogs Alumni Chapter*

* Location: Orange County, California
* Web Site: [ocguidedogs.com](http://ocguidedogs.com/)
* President: Scott Quinlan, [scott.quinlan@hotmail.com](mailto:scott.quinlan@hotmail.com)
* Vice-president: Melinda Wulff, [minwulff@gmail.com](mailto:minwulff@gmail.com)

*Paws of Fame*

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

*Sacramento GDB Alumni*

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

*San Diego Alumni Chapter of Guide Dog Handlers*

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

Colorado

*Colorado Rocky Rovers*

* Location: Denver, Colorado
* Email: [CoRockyrovers@gmail.com](mailto:CoRockyrovers@gmail.com)
* President: Beth Gustin, [bethglpc@gmail.com](mailto:bethglpc@gmail.com)
* Vice-president: Veronica Rodriguez, [Veronicarodriguez1954@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mjbukala@yahoo.com)
* Vice-president: Jim East, [jim.east.mhs@gmail.com](mailto:jim.east.mhs@gmail.com)
* Secretary: Reggie Alvarado, [reggie.alvarado@gmail.com](mailto:reggie.alvarado@gmail.com)

Illinois

*Windy City GDB Alumni*

* Location: Chicago, Illinois
* Description: Chicago and Northern Illinois
* President: Roxanne Calibraro, [rcalibraro@earthlink.net](mailto:rcalibraro@earthlink.net)
* Vice-president: Terry Ann Saurman, [saurmann@access4less.net](mailto:saurmann@access4less.net)

Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio

*Guide Dog Handlers of the Midwest*

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

Oregon

*Reigning Canines*

* Location: Portland, Oregon
* Web Site: [https://www.facebook.com/Reigning-Canines-777050619078740/](http://https/www.facebook.com/Reigning-Canines-777050619078740/)
* President: Bobi Earp, [bobiearp@gmail.com](mailto:bobiearp@gmail.com)

Utah

*Greatest Paws on Earth*

* Location: Utah
* President: Sandy Ruconich, [sruconich@gmail.com](mailto:sruconich@gmail.com)
* Vice-president: Patty Mueller, [plmueller@q.com](mailto: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](mailto:wagdbalumni+subscribe@groups.io)
* President: Danette Dixon, [danettedixon63@gmail.com](mailto:danettedixon63@gmail.com)
* Vice-president: Jeanne Jacobs, [Jeannelavernejacobs@gmail.com](mailto:Jeannelavernejacobs@gmail.com)

Canada

British Columbia

*BC Dogwoods GDB Alumni*

* Location: British Columbia
* Email: [BC Dogwoods Alumni Group talkadvocacy@hooh.ca](mailto:BC%20Dogwoods%20Alumni%20Group%20%20%20%20talkadvocacy@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](mailto:kimholdbrook3@gmail.com)

Special Interest

GDB Creative Tails

* Description: Writing
* President: Lisa Gilmartin, [lsg1144.lg@gmail.com](mailto:lsg1144.lg@gmail.com)
* Vice-president: Dorianne Pollack, [Doriannepollack@gmail.com](mailto:Doriannepollack@gmail.com)

Secretary: Launa Hardy, [launahardy@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:kimjkilpatrick@gmail.com)
* Co-president: Jo Elizabeth Pinto, [jopinto@msn.com](mailto:jopinto@msn.com)
* Vice-president: Sarah Gales
* Secretary: Deanna Lewis

GDB Mommies with Guides

* Description: Focus on parenting
* President: Tara Chavez, [tmatzick06@gmail.com](mailto:tmatzick06@gmail.com)

GDB Paws Around the World

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

GDB Raisers and Handlers

* Description: Bringing raisers and handlers together.
* President: Danette Dixon, [Danettedixon63@gmail.com](mailto:Danettedixon63@gmail.com)
* Vice-president: Paul Walker, [herospaw2002@gmail.com](mailto:herospaw2002@gmail.com)
* Secretary: Mary Flynn
* Outreach: Andrea Barnhurst, [atl\_braves1fan@yahoo.com](mailto:atl_braves1fan@yahoo.com)

GDB Stitch and Bit\*\*

* Description: Knitters, Croche, etc w/ socializing and fun!
* Contact: Dorianne Pollack – [dpollack@guidedogs.com](mailto:dpollack@guidedogs.com)

GDB Tech Dogs

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

**Please send updates to** [**jheim@guidedogs.com**](mailto:jheim@guidedogs.com)