



GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND MONTGOMERY REGION

Canine Development Center
361 Route 164
Patterson, NY 12563
845- 878-3330
www.volunteer.guidingeyes.org

Training Center & Offices
611 Granite Springs Road
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
800-942-0149
www.guidingeyes.org

GEB Veterinary Service
845-230-6425
gebvet@guidingeyes.org

GEB-Montgomery Region

GEB Regional Manager

Roberta Huy

Class Coordinator/Instructor

Liz Neubaum
301-977-8929

Newsletter/Publicity

Margie Coccodrilli
301-869-2216

Website

Terry Cohen
240-683-0332

www.guidingeyes-md.org

Feature Stories:

Raiser of the Month

Raiser of the Month

Welcome New & Repeat Raisers

Pups Visit Jewish Primary Day Care

Pups Visit Delta Gamma Sorority

Pups Visit Girl Scout Troop

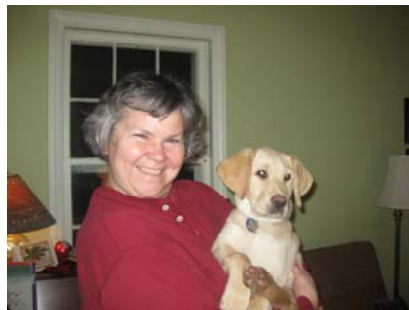
Alma Goes to High School

Pups on the Move

Raiser of the Month

March-April 2011

My reflections on what will be 16 months of living with Hildy are mostly about me and where I've come from. Hildy would be nearly the same in her virtues and limitations (nail clipping!) in another household; I am the one who has been most affected.



One of the questions on the puppy raising application is how you will feel about giving up a puppy that you have had for so long. I said it would probably be like sending kids off to college, gone but not out of your life forever. That perspective now seems so one-dimensional.

I then began to think about the puppy raising as a caretaker role. The pups are not ours; they "belong" to GEB. But, that is also a limited perspective. I know it's not my original revelation, but I read it during the past 16 months in one of the several dog books that came to me that no dog belongs to me. I am just the caretaker, the same way I am for Hunter, our 9-year-old Rhodesian ridgeback/mastiff mix.

We live in a world of possessions, so owning an animal seems consistent with owning a house or car, and having to take responsibility for them. But, to own a dog is impossible, except in the most literal terms. I peer into Hunter's eyes and Hildy's eyes wondering about the particulars of how they perceive our world (a la "*The Art of Racing in the Rain*"). I kept imagining so much more than ever before and have come to believe that it's true. Just because I can't understand how they do it doesn't mean it isn't so.

Hildy's spirit is to share herself with someone in a special way that I can only understand dimly. For quite awhile now I have been thinking of the day we part company. I can be quite objective some days and quite teary on others. But, the underlying sentiment is a feeling of pride for having been a part of Hildy's life and helping her step up to her mission of guiding someone.

From day one, Hildy was never mine. Other GEB raisers understand, but most of the rest of the world can't imagine giving up a beloved pup. *We don't give them up; we just move them along toward their mission.*

So, yes, I will raise again. I'll borrow a puppy for a year or so and happily and tearfully wave her onward, like a metaphor of life.

Carolyn Lauer

CLASS DATES

Refer to the Montgomery Region Website for class dates and locations

www.guidingeyes-md.org

Raiser of the Month

While Keller is our family's fourth dog, He was my first dog where I was the primary raiser for GEB Montgomery.

Since day one it's been a blast raising him. He is so fun to be around and is just a goofy dog.



Bridget Van Nevel – Puppy Raiser

I was surprised at how well behaved he was even as a young pup -- though he did have lots of treats for motivation. He did well in the car on long trips, especially when he was really young and we made a 10-hour car trip to Massachusetts.

When he *heels* he does it with such enthusiasm it's hard not to giggle. It warms my heart every time I see how happy he gets when I and my other brothers and sisters come home from school, or just when we get up in the morning to take him out of his kennel.

I'm sad to see him go, but I know it's for a good cause and that he'll do well.



I'll miss you Keller – Love Bridget

Welcome New and Repeat Raisers

Eric Silverman is first-time raiser and will be raising Sharon. Eric will have a good "coach" as his mom, Jean, is now raising her third pup, Denise.

Welcome aboard Eric



We also welcome the following new pups to the region.

Dallas – being raised by Miriam and Sean Grogan. This will be their 4th GEB pup they have raised.

Dakin – being raised by first-time raiser Kavitha Ganesan and also the brother. Dallas and Dakin are litter mates and staying together in the Montgomery Region

Glossy – being raised by first-time raiser Bobbie Havel

GEB Raisers and Pups Visit Local School

On March 24, John Kennedy with Savannah and Pam Cooper with Ambi spoke to a group of children at the Jewish Primary Day Care school in Washington, DC. The following articles and pictures are from this presentation. Thanks John and Pam for helping out with this Montgomery Region activity.

Montgomery Region Thanks the school for making a \$25.00 donation t

Gan Keshet welcomed to our classroom two volunteers and the two puppies they are raising for the organization *Guiding Eyes for the Blind*. Mr. Kennedy arrived with Savannah, a nine month old and very energetic, yellow Labrador. Mrs. Cooper brought Ambi, a fourteen month old, black Labrador. Ambi is a little older than Savannah and has been trained for longer, and is therefore more obedient. The dogs were so excited to be near each other and the children laughed as the dogs tried hard not to bark and greet each other. The dogs are trained not to greet or play with other dogs or people, because when the dogs are wearing their vests they know they are working and are responsible for their owner's life.

Mr. Kennedy and Mrs. Cooper said that their main job is to help the puppies get used to people and different places so that they will not be afraid in new situations. They showed us different verbal and hand commands that they use to train their dogs. Mr. Kennedy told us that the puppies are housed with puppy raiser volunteers from the time they are 8 weeks old to about 18 months old and afterwards they are sent to dog training school. Mrs. Cooper told us that not every dog graduates to be a guide dog because some of them are just not fit for the job. We learned that training takes lots of time and patience. We also found out how the volunteers care for their dogs by feeding them, cutting their nails, and brushing their teeth in addition to training them to be very obedient.

The students asked questions and made comments about the presentation. For example, Matan G. said, "Dogs sometimes chew on shoes." Mrs. Cooper explained that the puppies are given dog toys to chew on and are taught to chew on their toys instead of shoes. The children also wanted to know how dogs learn where their owner's home and work places are. Mrs. Cooper explained that the dogs memorize routes and can learn commands like "home" and "grocery store." We asked if the trainers miss the dogs when they move on to training school. Mr. Kennedy told us that not only do the volunteers miss the dogs, the dogs also miss them. Mrs. Cooper added that sending a dog away is similar to sending your children off to college.

The students also had the opportunity to pet the dogs. We really enjoyed the visit and learned many new things about Seeing Eye dogs. It is inspiring to see the tremendous time, commitment, love and care that Mr. Kennedy and Mrs. Cooper give to these puppies and we will remember their visit for a long time.

Chana Berliant, Lital Burr, and Zahava Friedman



Dear Mr. Kennedy and Mrs. Cooper,

Thank you for coming to our class. We really liked seeing the dogs. We liked learning about the dogs and petting them. Savannah and Ambi are really great. They really know how to follow directions and are very smart. We are glad that you came to visit us.

Love,
Gan Keshet
Kindergarten Class of the Jewish
Primary Day School of the Nations
Capital

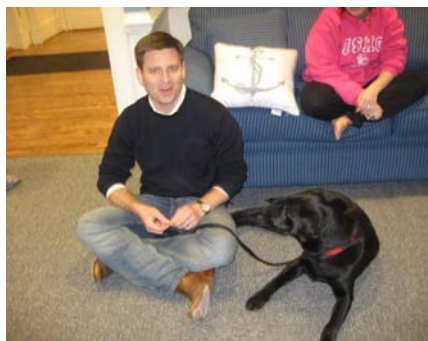


Delta Gamma Sorority Learns about GEB

On March 24, GEB raisers and their pups did a presentation for the Delta Gamma Sorority located on the grounds of the University of Maryland.

The 100 attendees saw a 15-minute video on the puppy raising program and listened to a presentation headed by John Kennedy. Also participating at the event were the following:

- John Kennedy and Savannah, a 9-month old female yellow Labrador Retriever. Saffron and Savannah are sisters.
- Mark Cattrell and Malone, a 9-month old male black Labrador Retriever
- Jean Silverman and Sharon, a 6-month old female black Labrador Retriever
- Jen Cromwell, Brian Reed, Kyra, and Saffron, a 9-month old female yellow Labrador Retriever.



April 16 – 10:00 – 12:00

As a follow-up to this Delta Gamma Sorority activity, GEB-Montgomery will also be participating in the 75th anniversary of the national organization Delta Gamma Beta epsilon that will take place on the campus of American University on Saturday, April 16. The group's philanthropic mission and goal is

"Service for Life"



*Let us know where you like
to take your pup for outings*

GEB Speaks to the Girl Scout Troop

This time of year there is an increase in requests for GEB to speak to girl and boy-scout troops as they conclude with their year's training and work toward receiving specific badges.

On April 3, Brian Reed and Jean Silverman, along with their pups in training, did a presentation to a Girl Scout troop located in Kensington.

Alma goes to School

Alma is getting a fantastic education as she applies her “socialization” and “settling” skill sets. Elliott Aguirre takes Alma to sit in on some of his high school classes several times a week. Elliott was featured in the local high school newspaper and this picture shows how well behaved Alma is.

Thank you Elliott for a job well done!



PUPS ON THE MOVE

*Deadline for submission
of newsletter articles is the
20th of each month*

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Pups in Training: | Einhorn, Forbes, Genie, Hildy, Keller, Leslie, Oak, Ward |
| Graduates: | Otis – raised by Jean Silverman Winsome – raised by Diana and Fen Wang |



This newsletter is for everyone. Please contact me with your suggestions, ideas, and stories...*and send pictures*

Your articles will be included in future n

Margie Coccodrilli

301-869-2216

gebraiser@comcast.net