



GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND MONTGOMERY REGION

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Feature Stories:

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Raiser of the Month

September-October 2011

With Harry being the eighth black male GEB lab I have raised, one would think there would not be much to distinguish this experience from others. However, there were several differences this time around.

First, I would like to thank Keara Van Nevel and her family for taking him the first week he arrived, getting him off to a great start, until I got back from vacation.

Harry is a “*special-name*” puppy in honor of my late husband. They shared the qualities of being extremely smart, handsome and loving. In both cases, my time with them was shorter than I would have liked; but, I will always be thankful I have had them in my life.

This was the first puppy that my granddaughter, Kara, helped me train. Kara worked with him in class, on field trips and anytime we were together. I feel this unique experience of having Harry going through all of his commands with someone so different from his primary handler will only help prepare him to increase his potential. *A special thanks to Kara for that!*

Harry learned early on that one of the most comfortable spots to lie down, or sit, was on top of Louie. When he first came here, he would climb on top of Louie and fall asleep. When he got bigger, he would often take advantage of Louie lying on his side by sitting on him like he was a comfortable chair. Louie tolerated this well. After all, it was his eighth GEB puppy, too!



Harry has extremely long legs and is very dexterous with his front legs and paws. He “boxed” with other dogs, used a long leg to gingerly steal a chew toy from Louie, and could lie on his back and play with a toy with his front paws.

He also learned to let the other dogs out of their crates after watching me open it. He could open both an up and down latch, and could also slide two sideways latches. Often he would be letting the first one out while I was still putting the second one in their crate. It is really frustrating to have my GEB puppy outsmart me. He was easy to train, being as smart as he is, and learned new commands quickly.

While I will miss Harry terribly, I am excited about his potential and look forward to hearing about his progress. I think it is awesome that all four of the pups in his class will be going through IFT on the same date, and I wish them success in whatever career they choose.



*I love you Harry and will
always have a special place
in my heart.*

Jody McCain

CLASS DATES - Refer to Montgomery Region Website

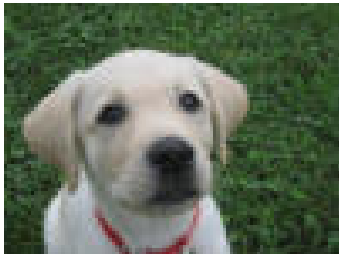
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Raiser of the Month

Savannah is a beautiful yellow Labrador retriever. She has been “kind of crazy” at times, like when playing. She is very cute and curls up on my feet, and we call them *Savannah Slippers*.

We have taken her to sports games, the Metro, down to Washington, DC, and many more places during training.

Savannah is a king, loyal and loving dog



Love, Claire



Raising Savannah has been an honor. Thank you to the Montgomery Region, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Montgomery Village Animal Hospital, and the entire Montgomery County Community who contributed to Savannah’s ability to be raised as a future guide dog.

Love, John

Welcome Repeat Raiser

Just saying good-bye to Savannah, John Kennedy is not letting his GEB puppy raising leash get cold.

Daughter Claire and John will be working hard to raise their fifth GEB puppy, Fauna



Roberta Huey presenting John Kennedy and Claire with their fifth GEB puppy

Schwartz Family Generously Supports GEB Mission

In 2004, my very close friend Richard Schwartz donated \$40,000 to GEB in honor of Marcie and me for being puppy raisers. Approximately a year and a half ago, Richard's mother donated \$40,000 to GEB.

Richard and I visited GEB recently to see the renovations at the breeding center, view the plaque constructed at the training center for his mother's donation, and attend a graduation.

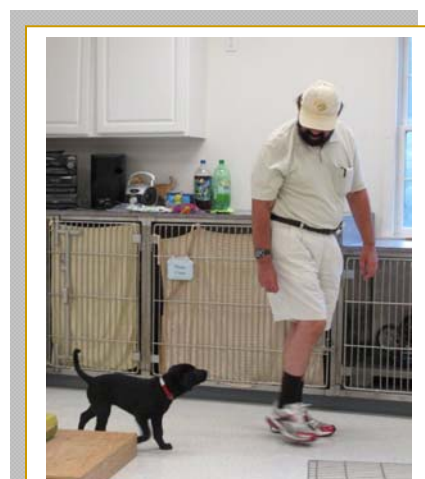
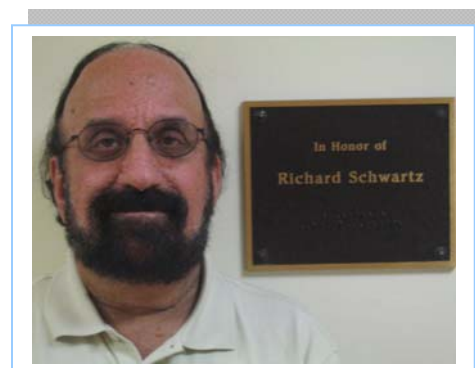
When we were at dinner with Lisa Deutsch and Nancy Lothrop, the GEB Development team, Richard presented them with 2 checks (one from his mother for \$45,000 and one from himself for \$5,000). Richard also made a 3 year pledge of an additional \$50,000. This brings the Schwartz family donation in support of the GEB mission to \$180,000.

I know I speak for the entire Montgomery County Region when I say thank you so very much to Richard and his mother for their incredible generosity and continued support of Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

Terry Cohen



Richard, far right, attending the July graduation and viewing the plaques on display at the training center



Richard strolling through the recently renovated breeding center

Oak Graduates September 2011

Jacquie Bukolt and Oak

Jacquie Bukolt is a native New Yorker. Black Lab Oak is her fourth guide dog.

An insulin dependent diabetic since the age of three, diabetic retinopathy and a moderate concussion caused her sight impairment. She was introduced to Guiding Eyes at a presentation during rehab training. After more mobility training, Jacquie had a tendency to veer. After finding herself in the middle of an intersection, she realized how helpful a dog would be, and she applied before returning to college.

Jacquie majored in social work and holds a bachelor's degree from Buffalo State College and a master's degree from the University of Buffalo. She was employed for 16 years with the Erie County Health Department as a case worker, but was laid off last December when the program's funding was eliminated.

She is an avid hockey fan and creates latch hook rugs and other small items. She enjoys reading and time with family. She has a brother, sister-in-law and two nephews. Her retired dog is with her cousins while she bonds with Oak.

Jacquie is looking forward to the freedom of getting around safely with Oak.



I took the train to Connecticut and my sister and I attended Oak's graduation together. I have always been impressed with how professionally GEB goes about its business. But, visiting the campus is really amazing. I cried along with the graduates, staff, and other puppy raisers and was so glad to have shared the day with Oak and everyone there.

Oak behaved very well throughout and it was nice to see him settle so quietly next to the other dogs. He knew his commands and was a great dog in most settings before he left DC, but being calm around other dogs was still a challenge. Oak is Jacquie Bukolt's 4th guide dog. She seems to be a confident and warm handler. She and Oak look like they belong together and I think they will do well. When I asked Jackie if Oak stays near by when off leash, she seemed to be very pleased that he indeed does...*he is a snuggler!*

I was sad, but also proud and happy.



Susan Loewen welcomes Oak to Montgomery Region for formal training



Thank you for all of your help. GEB is a wonderful organization.

Susan



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

In Loving Memory of Alpha

Although Alpha only came to the Montgomery Region a year and a-half ago, she had a long lasting impact on the pups and the people in this region.

Alpha was born on January 10, 2000 and was raised by Sue and Bobby Oakley from the Virginia Beach GEB puppy raising region. After her successful guide dog training and graduation, she guided her dear friend Terri Nettles for nearly nine years.

After Alpha told Terri she needed to retire, Terri and Roberta found her a loving home with Beverly Camalier and Keith Wilson.

From that point on, Alpha enjoyed not only retirement but a second career as GEB consultant to all the Montgomery pups when they would come to her house for a sit, or when she came and observed puppy classes. Ever patient, Alpha gently, *although sometimes loudly*, reminded puppies in training to mind their manners and respect their elders.

When Alpha came to live with Beverly and Keith, all three of them had some adjusting to do. Beverly and Keith had to remember that Alpha wasn't like the puppies they would sit for – Alpha needed peace and quiet. And to Beverly's great amusement, Alpha had to learn her new family members weren't blind. Over her years as a guide, smart-smart Alpha had figured out that Terri couldn't see!

Alpha, we in the Montgomery Region thank you for all of your love and help. While we miss you, we loved our time with you and we will always cherish our memories of you.

*Love from
Miriam
Grogan and
the
Montgomery
Region Family*



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



PUPS ON THE MOVE

In Training: Alma, Ambi, Arlo, Ballard, Felicity, Hildy, Keller, Oak, Ward
Healing Autism: Genie
MSA Detection: Einhorn

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

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