

The Seeing Eye® GUIDE

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE SEEING EYE



INSIDE:
A Tale of Two Sisters

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ON THE COVER:

Lindsay Long, left, with her Seeing Eye® dog, a yellow Labrador retriever named Quigley, and Lauren Long, with her Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Virginia.

Photo by Brenda Long

This issue of The Guide is underwritten, in part, by income from a special bequest by Margaret Ann Barbour, May 13, 1931–Jan. 15, 2003, in support of the mission of The Seeing Eye.

The Seeing Eye® GUIDE

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE SEEING EYE

A Seeing Eye Perspective

Summer is a wonderful time here at The Seeing Eye, especially after the long, snowy winter we endured here in the Northeast. The flowers are blooming, the sun is shining, and the dogs are happy. What could be better?

During the summer we have many young people coming here to be matched with their very first Seeing Eye® dogs. This is the best time of year for high school and college students to come and spend the nearly four weeks on campus to learn the skills necessary to become a guide dog user. And it really is a skill, like learning to drive a car or play an instrument. Even after learning the basics here at The Seeing Eye, it still takes six months to a year before handler and dog really click and begin working as a fully integrated team.

With all these teenagers and 20-somethings around in the summers, The Seeing Eye sometimes really feels more like a college campus. It's lots of fun to hear the excited conversations of young people sharing their stories and experiences. Many tell us they learn as much from their fellow students as they do from their instructors.

I was trained with my first dog, Sheba, as a 19 year old, having just completed my freshman year at West Virginia University. She was my first Seeing Eye dog, and now I'm with my eighth, a German shepherd named Vegas. Over the last 44 years, I've had a dog at my side for every major milestone in my life. It's truly wonderful to be able to go through life with a dog always at your side!

And just as I return to The Seeing Eye roughly once every eight years for a new dog, many of the high school and college students on campus this summer will come back in the future for successor dogs and retraining. (Although our breeding and genetics program has made tremendous strides in the health and longevity of our dogs, we still haven't been able to produce a dog that will live as long as a human.)

Looking at the changes at The Seeing Eye, in technology, and in society in general – from clicker training and our state-of-the-art breeding program, to nearly silent hybrid and electric cars, to a talking computer you can carry in your pocket – I have no idea what the world will be like for the 19-year-old first-time student here this summer, when she returns in the 2060s for her eighth dog.

But I do know that thanks to your support of The Seeing Eye, we will be here for her and for everyone else who needs a Seeing Eye dog. Your generosity has made this life-changing experience possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,
James A. Kutsch, Jr., President & CEO, The Seeing Eye



Letters

TO THE SEEING EYE

Dear Seeing Eye:

My husband and I came to The Seeing Eye in May to pick up a prize we had won in the online auction (a marvelous assortment of Cabot cheeses). As we waited in the lobby, we were blessed to see a parade of new teams of dogs and people – apparently we had arrived on the first day that this month's group of folks and dogs had been matched up and they were taking on the basic task of going for a walk together.

We were awed. Both partners of each team stepped out strongly, heads up; both appeared ready to get on with a walk and a life together. Most human faces radiated confidence; a few looked amazed to be hurtling down the hallway with only a leather harness in their hands and a furry guardian beside them. The dogs – now they had a mission and they were on it! Thank you for allowing us to share this mission with those dogs! May all your graduates, canine and human, march ahead in life with the enthusiasm and confidence that we saw!

Christine and Albert Roemer

Dear Seeing Eye:

Thank you very much for my Puppy Raiser scholarship. I will be attending the University of California at Davis and will study animal science with a pre-veterinary focus.

Ever since I discovered that I could have a job working with animals when I grew up, I have been working hard in school and trying to learn as much as I can about animals as well. I have been particularly interested in animal health and behavior, and have been reading about animal nutrition and training since elementary school. I have also tried to apply what I learned to my own pets. I would spend my free time training my dog to do tricks. I also switched my dogs' food and even noticed my then 6-year-old Lab had a noticeable increase in energy.

Participating in The Seeing Eye puppy raising program was a very important experience for me. I learned a lot about how to handle animals. The difference in focus between raising a service dog as opposed to a family pet helped me realize the importance of being a leader, and how this benefits the behavior of both pets and service animals.

Natalia Sachs

Dear Seeing Eye:

In the middle of a very bad day, I went to our local Y. I walked in there with my Seeing Eye dog, Walden, and went to get a soda, only to discover my wallet was missing. "Oh perfect!" We went back outside and into the parking lot. The Great Waldini walked about 10 feet, then stopped and looked up at me. I reached down and found my wallet lying near my feet. Words cannot describe my relief. It was totally intact and undisturbed as well. There is a God! Needless to say Walden got a lot of praise and an extra scoop of food that evening, more really for me than him. Thanks for doing what you do!

*Shelley Magnussen
Seeing Eye graduate*

Being graduates of The Seeing Eye is just one of many things that sisters **Lauren and Lindsay Long** have in common.

They were both high school cheerleaders, they both attended Texas A&M University, and they both want to follow careers as therapists. And both came to The Seeing Eye as high school students. Lauren first came to The Seeing Eye in June 2006 as a 16-year-old and was matched with her first dog, a male black Labrador retriever named Julius, and returned last summer she returned to be teamed with her second, a female German shepherd named Virginia. Lindsay came to The Seeing Eye as a 17-year-old in June 2012 and was matched with Quigley, a male yellow Labrador retriever.

Both girls, residents of League City, Texas, were diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa as children. The inherited eye disease is degenerative, causing each girl to lose the center of her field of vision, and over time more and more peripheral vision is lost as well.

“With no central vision, you walk into a lot of poles,” Lindsay said. “Poles were a big problem!”

But that’s not to say little sister Lindsay is a carbon copy.

“We have such different personalities – some people say we have completely opposite personalities,” Lindsay said.

During her first two years at Deer Park High School, Lauren had been navigating the busy hallways – there were more than 900 students in her graduating class – with a cane.

“It’s not easy having a cane in high school,” Lauren said. “Having a cane makes everyone stand far away from you. I really needed to use it, but I didn’t, just because I didn’t want to stand out. People would stay out of my way, or try to help me, but it made me feel like I was different. Then when I got Julius, it was more like – hey, how come she gets to bring her dog to school?”

Lauren decided to get a Seeing Eye dog after she made the varsity cheerleading squad. She knew she’d need the mobility and independence a Seeing Eye dog would offer as she traveled to away games in unfamiliar stadiums.



Lauren with her first dog, Julius.



Photo by Brenda Long

"If you're a little girl in Texas, you want to be a cheerleader," Lauren explained. "I started cheerleading in third grade, and I was doing gymnastics classes and other things even earlier." Even as her vision continued to deteriorate, she stuck with the sport, as did Lindsay.

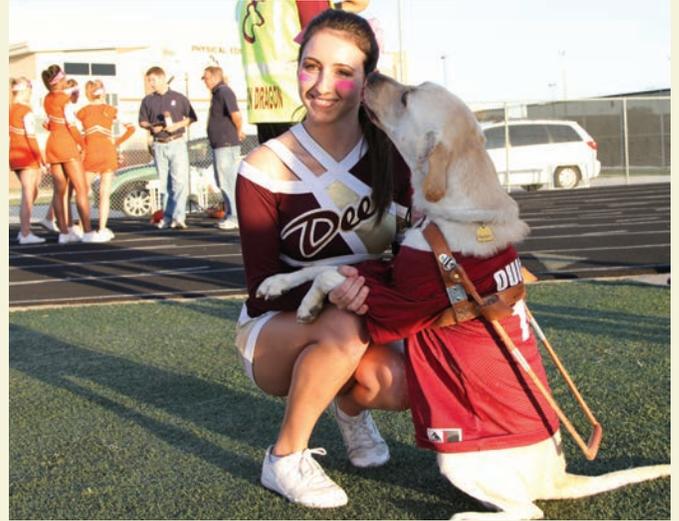
"The only thing we couldn't do was throw girls in the air. Well, we could throw them, just not catch them!" Lauren joked. "But everything else – the dancing, the jumping, the cheering, the backflips – we did."

Lindsay made the same decision after she became a varsity cheerleader.

"I would bring Quigley to our games, and people would think he was our mascot," Lindsay said. "Even though our mascot is a deer!"

continued >>>

Lindsay with her dog, Quigley.



A Tale of TWO SISTERS

>> To watch an interview
with Lauren Long, go to:
SeeingEye.org/Lauren

cover story *continued*

Lauren Long and Virginia during a recent cruise to Alaska.



After graduating from high school, Lauren went on to Texas A&M, graduating in three years with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and joining Kappa Delta sorority. She then earned a certificate in nonprofit management at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, and in May she completed her studies for her Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is now completing her master's program with an internship at the Center for Couples and Families and Brazoria County Alliance for Children, counseling children who were abused or witnessed traumatic events. After she completes the program, she's considering getting her doctorate.

"It really does help to have Virginia there," she said. "Sometimes she's there helping them feel more comfortable, and sometimes she's just at my side in harness so we can focus on the therapy. But I have had kids who come in wanting no part in the therapy, but they stay because they want to see Virginia!"

Lindsay is now a student at Texas A&M, where she's majoring in psychology – though hers will be a bachelor of science degree – with a minor in sociology. She said she would like to specialize in marriage and family counseling.



She is a member of Delta Gamma, a national sorority that has focused its philanthropic efforts on preventing blindness and helping those who are blind or visually impaired. Each year, members of the sorority hold fundraisers and volunteer to benefit numerous charities related to blindness, including The Seeing Eye.

"The Seeing Eye is awesome," Lindsay said. "Out of everything I've done, The Seeing Eye is probably what has helped me the most to become a mature adult. You're there with people of all ages, you have your own room, you do your own laundry.

You're treated like an adult, and you're expected to act like an adult. You're on your own, but there are people there who are willing to do anything for you. It was great preparation for college."

In addition to all she learned from her instructors, Lindsay said, it was also great learning from her fellow students.

"Even though I grew up with a sister with the same exact condition, I still felt sometimes like I was all alone and no one else in the world is going through what I'm going through," Lindsay said. "But then you come to The Seeing Eye and you get connected to so many people who are going through the same thing you are."

THE SEEING EYE CELEBRATES ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY



A Gala 85 Years in the Making

FRIENDS AND GRADUATES OF THE SEEING EYE CAME TO THE CAMPUS IN MAY TO CELEBRATE OUR 85TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A GALA, OUR FIRST IN 10 YEARS. THE EVENT DREW MORE THAN 230 PEOPLE AND RAISED MORE THAN \$350,000 FOR THE SEEING EYE.

The event was held in the Main House, then moved to a gigantic tent on the lawn. A covered walkway was in place to protect guests from a heavy downpour that night.

"We didn't let the rain dampen our spirits," said Jim Kutsch, Seeing Eye President & CEO. "Instructors and students work every day regardless of the weather, so perhaps it was fitting."

The honorary chairman was former New Jersey Governor Tom Kean, who also is a member of The Seeing Eye's Board of Trustees. He called Seeing Eye dogs "one of New Jersey's greatest exports."

"Almost everyone is familiar with the phrase 'Seeing Eye dog,' but many do not realize that every single Seeing Eye dog comes from right here in New Jersey," he said.

"It's amazing when you think about the thousands of Seeing Eye dogs that have been trained on the streets of Morristown over the years."

continued >>>



Clockwise from top: Seeing Eye President and CEO Jim Kutsch and his Seeing Eye dog, Vegas; Women's Association members Susan Gnall, left, and Kay Crnkovich, greet a yellow Labrador retriever puppy; and The Hon. Thomas Kean, Seeing Eye Trustee and former New Jersey governor, poses with a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross.

Photos by Ron Wyatt

85TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Hugh D'Andrade, who was a member of The Seeing Eye Board of Trustees from 2000 through 2012 and remains an Honorary Trustee, was honored with The Seeing Eye's highest honor, the Dorothy Harrison Eustis Humanitarian Award. D'Andrade, who retired as vice chairman, chief administrative officer of Schering Plough Corporation, said every visit to The Seeing Eye inspired him, both because of his love for dogs but also seeing the interaction between the school's staff and students. The Dorothy Harrison Eustis Award, named after our co-founder, recognizes individuals who have the vision, the persistence, and the generosity to make the world a better place, without seeking recognition.

Donna Chambers, a long-time volunteer and a member of The Seeing Eye Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2013, and Warren Casey, who has been The Seeing Eye's general counsel for more than 35 years, were honored with the Buddy Award, which is presented to individuals who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to The Seeing Eye mission.

Funds at the event were raised through ticket sales as well as sponsorships, a silent auction, and a live auction of various items and experiences, including a visit to the "puppy playroom" at our breeding station and an opportunity to spend a day with a Seeing Eye instructor, either in Morristown or in New York City.

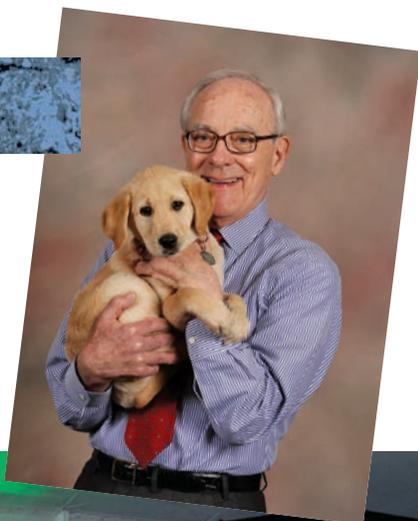
Thanks for the Memories...

Guests at the gala received a memory book titled *The Seeing Eye: Celebrating 85 Years*. This hardcover, 52-page coffee table-style book is full of pictures from The Seeing Eye's past and present, and tells our history and about our school today. (Seeing Eye graduates received a CD that had a PDF of the book as well as a Word file containing the text and descriptions of every photograph.) The book is now being sold for \$30.

To order a copy, call (800) 539-4425 and ask for the Donor and Public Relations Department, or email info@seeingeye.org. Thank you!

THE SEEING EYE
Celebrating 85 Years

From top: Eustis Award winner Hugh D'Andrade; a winning bidder is congratulated by auctioneer Bob Milligan during the live auction; Buddy Award winners Donna Chambers, left, and Warren Casey; and a gala attendee looks over the memory book.



Photos by Ron Wyatt

in memoriam

Roger Taylor



Roger Taylor with Princess Nori of Japan.

Roger Taylor, a Seeing Eye employee for 43 years, died February 4 at the age of 81.

Taylor, who retired from The Seeing Eye in 1994, estimated he created more than 500 Seeing Eye dog teams when he hung up his leash as an instructor in 1978 to oversee facilities management at The Seeing Eye.

But he missed teaching, and returned to Instruction & Training doing field work, logging 60,000 miles each year – and that’s just in the air, not the countless miles he spent in the car or on foot! He worked with graduates in every state except Hawaii and every province except Newfoundland. He also went to Japan to deliver a Labrador retriever born at The Seeing Eye to a

guide dog school in Japan, where he met Princess Nori, the daughter of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. After his retirement he remained at The Seeing Eye for another seven years as a consultant, working with graduates.

Taylor’s influence goes far beyond the number of students and dogs he worked with, however, as he was a mentor to several generations of instructors.

"Every instructor who worked here in the 60s, 70s, 80s, or 90s learned from Roger," Director of Instruction and Training David Johnson said. "Well after his retirement he continued coming back to The Seeing Eye to share his wisdom. We’re all going to miss him."

donor profile

Andi and Mitch Becker

A PERFECT FIT

Andi and Mitch Becker of Woodland Park, New Jersey, have dedicated time and money to two major causes: animals and people with disabilities.

"The Seeing Eye is right up our alley," Mitch Becker said.

Mitch, a retired chemical engineer, and Andi, a retired audiologist, have volunteered for years at the Bergen County Zoo, and also with the Mental Health Players of the Mental Health Association of New Jersey.

Andi Becker attended a Seeing Eye outreach presentation where a graduate spoke about the difference having a Seeing Eye dog has made in her life. Andi

was so moved she went home and spoke to her husband about it. The Seeing Eye was added to their list of charitable causes.

The Beckers are members of The Seeing Eye’s Heritage Society, as they have named the school as a beneficiary in their wills. They also are Sustaining Members, having signed up for scheduled monthly contributions.

"It’s very convenient, very easy," Mitch said.

The Beckers came to The Seeing Eye for a visit, and happened to arrive on the same day that students had just been matched with their dogs. They watched as the new partnerships took their first tentative steps.

"We did a lot of crying," Andi said. "It was just so emotional."

"We also had the opportunity to do a blindfold walk, and that is an amazing experience," Mitch said. "Walking with the dog is just an incredible feeling. You are relying on that dog, and that dog is relying on you. When you think about it, it truly is a partnership."

And The Seeing Eye also has proven to be a great match for the Beckers.

"We love what they do. It’s a fabulous organization," Andi said.

"When you come to The Seeing Eye, and you see not only the incredible skill it takes to train these dogs, but also the way the people there really care about the mission, it’s amazing. Everything is so organized and efficient, but the people who work there really want to be there and really want to help. It’s a wonderful place."

How you can help. If you would like to sign up to make recurring gifts to The Seeing Eye, either from a credit card or a bank account, please call our Donor and Public Relations Department at (800) 539-4425 or email donate@seeingeye.org. Thank you!

news highlights

The Doggy Dash is Back!

The Seeing Eye is inviting everyone to attend its Doggy Dash, a one-mile dog walk (leashed and well-behaved dogs are welcome!) to raise funds to support the mission of The Seeing Eye.



The walk will take place on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014 (rain date October 12), on the streets of Morristown, New Jersey. In addition to the walk, there will be a dog pageant with prizes for best costumed dog, best trick, and more! There also will

be raffles for a 50/50 cash prize, the chance to name a Seeing Eye puppy, and to have a blindfold walk with a Seeing Eye instructor.

The cost is \$30 for adults, \$20 for children between the ages of 5-12, and it's free for dogs and children under 5. For more information or to register, go to DoggyDash.EventBrite.com.

Remember, this is a fundraiser, and we're encouraging people to get sponsors and fundraise for The Seeing Eye at this event! To sign up as a fundraiser, go to CrowdRise.com/DoggyDash2014. Fundraisers can earn free registration, a free T-shirt, and more

For more information, email events@seeingeye.org or go to SeeingEye.org/DoggyDash

THE SEEING EYE ANNOUNCES TD BANK AFFINITY PROGRAM

The Seeing Eye and TD Bank have teamed up on a new program for U.S. residents who have (or open) an individual or business checking account, savings account, money market account, CD, or retirement account. All you have to do is inform the bank that you would like to join the Affinity Program for The Seeing Eye. That's it! It doesn't cost you anything, but each year TD Bank will make a contribution to The Seeing Eye based on the number of people in the program.

If you have an existing checking account, TD Bank will donate \$10 to The Seeing Eye. If you open a new checking



account, they will donate \$50. For other types of accounts, they will contribute 1/10th of 1% based upon the participants' annual average balances.

To join the program, simply call TD Bank toll-free at (888) 751-9000 or stop in at a local branch and tell them you would like to join the Affinity Program for The Seeing Eye. Our code number is AF501.



Do You Like Us? Then 'Like' Us!

Join the more than 50,000 followers of The Seeing Eye on Facebook

The Seeing Eye's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SeeingEye, has news about our graduates, puppy raisers, and other friends of The Seeing Eye; information about upcoming Seeing Eye events; contests for our Seeing Eye fans; and lots of pictures of our puppies and Seeing Eye dogs in training!

It's an easy way to keep up with us and get your puppy fix.

You can also **follow us on Twitter at @SeeingEyeInc.**

Are You Ready to Ride?

The Seeing Eye is participating in the Gran Fondo NJ for the fourth straight year. This bicycle tour through the picturesque New Jersey Highlands is expected to feature 2,000 riders, including Seeing Eye employees, volunteers, supporters, and graduates on tandem bicycles!

Many riders choose to support The Seeing Eye directly by getting sponsors for their ride. In addition, the organizers of the Gran Fondo NJ donate to local charities, and each year The Seeing Eye has been one of the beneficiaries. The Seeing Eye also staffs a rest stop, where volunteers offer drinks, snacks, and of course... kisses from puppies.

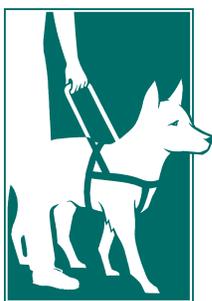
Gran Fondo NJ will be held this year on Sunday, September 7, 2014, and will have four routes: the 18-mile Breve Fondo, the 43-mile Piccolo Fondo, the 63-mile Medio Fondo, and the 107-mile



Gran Fondo. Be warned: Even the shortest route features some tough hill climbs!

The Seeing Eye is looking for people who want to ride in the event, sponsor those who are riding on behalf of The Seeing Eye, or volunteer to work at our rest stop.

For more information or to register, go to SeeingEye.org/Ride, call Tracy Crimmins at (800) 539-4425 ext. 1751, or email tcrimmins@SeeingEye.org.



The Seeing Eye®

The Seeing Eye is proud to recognize our corporate partners who have made a significant commitment to providing independence for people who are blind or visually impaired through Seeing Eye® dogs.

If your company would like to get involved, please visit SeeingEye.org/Partner for more information.



www.SeeingEye.org



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Morristown, NJ 07963-0375

Too early to start your holiday shopping?

It may be summer, but it's already time to start thinking about ordering your 2014 Holiday Cards from The Seeing Eye! This year's photo features two dogs – an adult golden retriever in harness and a yellow Labrador retriever puppy – on a large red doggy bed in front of a blazing fire. Next to them is a green pine tree just waiting to be decorated with ornaments. Propped up against a chair is a harness that one day the little Lab will be big enough to wear when he becomes a Seeing Eye dog. The caption inside reads: Wishing you the comforts of a joyous holiday season and a peaceful New Year!



To order holiday cards or other items from The Seeing Eye, please visit our online store at SeeingEye.org/store or call the Donor and Public Relations Department at (800) 539-4425.

The Seeing Eye

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Permission to reprint may be obtained by contacting The Seeing Eye.



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The Seeing Eye follows the guidelines recommended by the Council of U.S. Dog Guide Schools for the humane care and training of dogs to be guides, and the instruction and graduate services offered to people who are blind or visually impaired.

The Seeing Eye is an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation.

The mission of The Seeing Eye is to enhance the independence, dignity and self-confidence of people who are blind, through the use of specially trained Seeing Eye dogs.

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