

The Seeing Eye®

GUIDE

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE SEEING EYE

90 Years of MAGIC!

THE SEEING
WORLD FAMOUS CENT
TRAINING DOGS TO LEA
PERSONS FOUNDED I
DOROTHY HARRISON
AS FIRST DOG GUIDE
IN UNITED STATES P
HEADQUARTERS BUILT



A Seeing Eye Perspective

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

ON THE COVER:

A detail from the new mural painted at The Seeing Eye shows instructors training dogs in Morristown. See story on Page 3! Photo by Cole Beckerman.



This issue of *The Guide* features several items about The Seeing Eye's 90th anniversary. In the center, you'll find an article about our "Half-Century Club," one way we recognize graduates who

have worked with Seeing Eye® dogs for more than 50 years. Although I haven't worked with a Seeing Eye dog for quite 50 years yet, my first introduction to The Seeing Eye did take place over 50 years ago.

In 1967, I watched the Wonderful World of Disney TV feature, *Atta Girl, Kelly!* Little did I know at the time that just a few months later I would be blinded in a chemistry accident... nor that in 1970, as a college student at West Virginia University, my life would significantly change once again after being matched with my first Seeing Eye dog, Sheba. Through The Seeing Eye's outstanding training program, and the aid of a truly magnificent German shepherd dog, I quickly regained the independence and freedom I had once enjoyed as a sighted person. And yes, I too remember the tree in the middle of the sidewalk on Maple Avenue and going to meet Morris Frank at his insurance office on the Green (see the Half-Century Club article). But for me, that was just the beginning of the story.

Twenty-six years later, after a career as a college professor and then as an executive in the telecommunications industry – at that time working with Ulland, my fifth Seeing Eye dog, and also a German shepherd – I was elected to The Seeing Eye's Board of Trustees. Then in

2006, I was honored to be the first graduate of The Seeing Eye to be hired as its President and CEO.

My eight Seeing Eye dogs have been trusted companions as they have led me through daily life for 49 years now. Along the way, we've had some truly amazing experiences, including extensive national and international travel for both business and pleasure, sitting on the White House lawn for the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, ringing the opening bell on the New York Stock Exchange for The Seeing Eye's 80th anniversary, and more recently, ringing the closing bell at NASDAQ for our 90th – not to mention that without The Seeing Eye, I wouldn't have met my wife and best friend, Ginger, who also is a graduate.

Although my tenure will soon end as The Seeing Eye's President and CEO, it will not end my association with this outstanding organization. I will always be a proud Seeing Eye graduate, and am looking forward to my induction in the Half-Century Club next year in 2020. Of course, I will continue to support The Seeing Eye, as I hope you will, too. Together all of us – staff, volunteers, puppy raisers, donors, students, and graduates – have provided increased independence, dignity, and self-confidence to blind people through the use of Seeing Eye® dogs while also strengthening The Seeing Eye's position as the gold standard of excellence for the guide dog industry. It's a legacy we can all be proud of.

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

Dear Seeing Eye:

There is one day as a Seeing Eye graduate you know will come, but you will never be ready for it. This is because of how much our dogs mean to us because they are by our side 24/7. This day is retirement.

Retirement happens when we notice our dogs are slowing down or aren't as motivated to work as much anymore as they used to be. When retiring your Seeing Eye dog, no matter how many you have had, the first is the most difficult.

Dimples, all the lives of others you have touched, such as Laurence at Diablo Valley College, and how every morning we got a ride, you gave him a kiss. You have shown your grandmother (my mother) that a dog benefits me, by not only your working ability, but your goofiness. You have given me a reason to get up in the morning, although after I often go right back to bed. I take you on walks, we play, we laugh. Dimples, you have become my other half. Dimples, you have touched so many hearts besides mine.



*Kammie Dibble
Seeing Eye graduate*

Editor's note: Kammie is returning later this year for her second Seeing Eye dog.

Dear Seeing Eye:

My name is Sue Super and I am one of your 25-year supporters from Philadelphia.

Today I was downtown on a very crowded bus.

The last two to get on was a young man and his Seeing Eye dog. I immediately offered him my seat and couldn't imagine how his large German shepherd guide would fit in. But he did!

I spoke to the man and told him I had been to The Seeing Eye many times and I support them. We got off at the same stop and they were going to cross a very busy street. I told him there was no traffic light there, but he said they would be fine. I watched from a distance and when there was a break they crossed.

I just wanted to let you know how impressed I was to see a team in action. He told me they go all over the country and I said I know you train in New York City, and if you can manage that, I guess you can do anything!

Thank you for all you do.

Sue Super

If you would like to submit a letter to The Seeing Eye, email us at news@SeeingEye.org or mail it to:

*The Seeing Eye
Attn: Craig Garretson
P.O. Box 375
Morristown, NJ 07963*



Daisy, as a newly arrived puppy, with Christina's children Matthew, Grace, and Luke, and their pet dog Sara. Grace is Daisy's puppy raiser.

Photos courtesy of Christina Olson



DAISY BLOSSOMS AT ST. ANDREW'S



Daisy with students at St. Andrew's.

Seeing Eye puppy fits right in with young students

There's a very special student at St. Andrew's Preschool and Kindergarten in New Providence, New Jersey.

"Daisy comes to school with me every day," said Christina Olson, the school's director. "She just fits right in here. When she's not in class, she's in my office, lying in her bed."

Daisy, who turns a year old on June 26, is being raised by Christina and her daughter, Grace, through The Seeing Eye's Puppy Raising program.

"I spoke to all our parents about it, and then I started bringing her to school the first week we got her, when she was seven weeks old, at the end of August," Christina said. "The kids were thrilled. We walk through the classrooms every day. Some of the kids came over right away, others kept their distance at first. Every single child who was initially nervous now comes over to greet her."

One student who was afraid of dogs in September now puts her head on top of Daisy when she's lying down in her classroom, Christina said.

"Daisy has touched so many lives already," Christina said. "Raising a puppy can be a lot of work, but when you see that, you know it's completely worth it."

Daisy is the second puppy being raised by Christina and Grace, a high school senior who will be attending Penn State in the fall. The first, also a German shepherd, was Sara. She didn't make the program, and now lives with Christina and Grace as a family pet.

"You know, going into it, this is not your puppy. This dog is meant to do something. It is hard, it's really hard, but remember these dogs are bred for a purpose. Looking at Daisy, you just know she is going to make someone's life better. Just seeing her at school, you see the impact she makes on all these children's lives, and I know how much she is going to help someone else."

If you're interested in becoming a Seeing Eye puppy raiser, visit www.SeeingEye.org/raise.



Christina Olson, on far right, with Daisy at St. Andrew's holiday luncheon in December.



This section of the completed mural in the visitor's entrance depicts dog instruction.

Volunteers from Benjamin Moore & Company add detail to a scene depicting Seeing Eye graduates with their dogs.



THE COLORFUL HISTORY OF THE SEEING EYE

Sighted visitors to The Seeing Eye will have a colorful welcome – a mural covering the walls of the visitor's entrance outside the Morris Frank Room and the Dorothy Harrison Eustis Lounge.

Those who can't see the mural – or can't make it to campus – can experience it courtesy of an audio-described video, narrated by artist Caren Frost-Olmsted. Also in the works is a brochure explaining the panels of artwork.

"After a visit to Randolph Middle School, we saw the mural that was done there. There are three Seeing Eye puppies in the mural, and that gave us the idea that we should do one here," said Davida Isaacson, The Seeing Eye's senior philanthropic adviser, who served as chair of the mural committee.

"What's great about this space is it is frequented by the public as they come for visits to The Seeing Eye, as well as for elections," as The Seeing Eye serves as a polling place for area residents, Davida said.

The project was funded in part by the New Jersey Council of the Arts via Morris Arts, an organization that provides a number of programs designed to build community through the arts. Benjamin Moore & Company supplied all the paint for the project, and from Randolph Middle School, where it all began, students from the Pet

Awareness With Smiles (P.A.W.S.) club raised money to pay for painting supplies.

Thirty Randolph Middle School students came to campus to help paint the mural, under the guidance of Caren and her assistants, Peggy Doyle and Patrick Healy, along with Seeing Eye staff and trustees; volunteers from Benjamin Moore & Company, Morris Arts, and Wyndham; and graduates of The Seeing Eye.

Morris Arts put The Seeing Eye in connection with Caren, who has created more than 100 murals in schools and other facilities throughout the area and beyond – "from Dallas, Texas, to Buffalo, New York," Caren said.

"The highlight for me was getting to know all of the people that work at The Seeing Eye, and getting to illustrate the story and the history of a really special organization," Caren said. "And a major highlight for me was getting to paint with people who are blind. That was a first for me."

The artist taped off the area to be painted, so the graduate could feel with his or her other hand the outline of what was being painted. "They did wonderful," Caren said. "It was really special for all of us."



From left, Sandee Moreta, The Seeing Eye's senior specialist for information systems, and Davida Isaacson, senior philanthropic adviser and chair of the mural committee, paint a scene showing a student's first meeting with her Seeing Eye dog.

Dorothy Harrison Eustis with a German shepherd at Fortunate Fields.



‘THE HEARING EAR, AND THE SEEING EYE’

DOROTHY HARRISON EUSTIS AND THE ARTICLE THAT STARTED IT ALL

In 1928, when Dorothy Harrison Eustis promised Morris Frank she would train a dog to guide him, there was one little catch.

She’d never done it before.

Dorothy, who had been born in Philadelphia, now lived in Switzerland, where she and her husband were breeding and training German shepherds for use in police and military work. Thrilling tales of her dogs in action had reached the ear of an editor at *The Saturday Evening Post*, and he asked Dorothy to write an article. Instead of writing about her own dog training, she wrote about something remarkable she’d seen at a school in Potsdam – dogs that were being trained to guide German veterans who had been blinded in World War I. For the title of the article, she turned to the Bible – Proverbs 20:12. “The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.”

The article was read to Morris, a 19-year-old college student and door-to-door insurance salesman, who wrote to Dorothy asking her to train him a dog. If she did, he promised to open a school in the United States where more dogs could be trained to guide others.

Dorothy assigned the job of training a dog to guide to Elliott “Jack” Humphrey, an expert animal trainer, breeder, and a self-taught geneticist. Jack had bred sled dogs for Admiral Richard E. Byrd and had developed the Barzona strain of beef cattle; he had trained mules, horses, and, it’s said, even taught a camel to walk backwards – an apparently remarkable feat! If anyone could do it, he could.

Rather than copy what was being done in Germany, Jack devised his own methods. His innovative techniques, including instructing dogs through repetition, rewarding dogs not



‘The Seeing Eye’ article in Nov. 5, 1927, issue of The Saturday Evening Post

with food but with praise, and the concept of “intelligent disobedience” – teaching dogs to carry out a command if it would put the dog or its owner in danger – are still the basis of the training methods used by The Seeing Eye today.

When Morris arrived at Vevey on April 25, 1928, he was paired with Kiss – whom he promptly renamed Buddy. The two became a familiar sight on the streets of the sleepy village, with Jack trailing behind them.

One afternoon, Morris wanted to get his hair cut, and asked someone to take him to the barber. Dorothy suggested he go by himself, with Buddy.

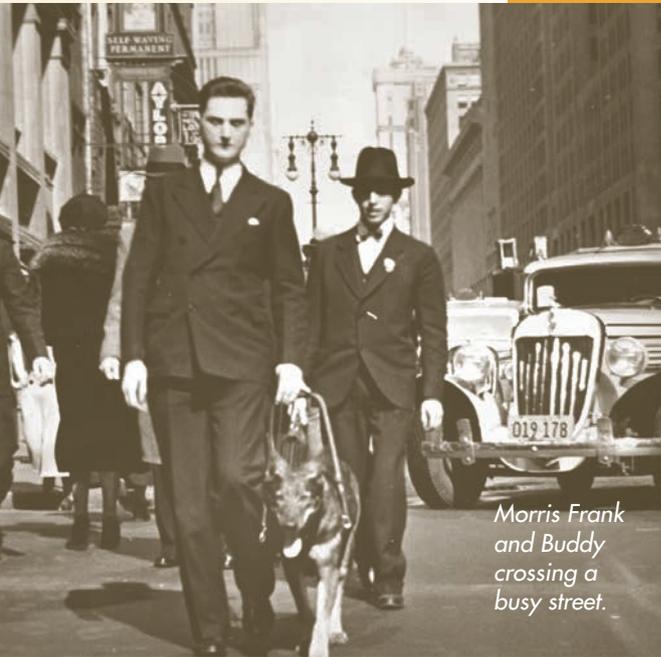
When he returned, he was laughing. Dorothy asked him why.

“For years someone has had to take me to the barbershop,” Morris said. “I’ve been left waiting there like unclaimed baggage for hours at a time. Today when Buddy took me to the barbershop and then brought me back it convinced me, for the first time, that I am really going to be free. That’s why I’m laughing – because I’m free!”



Jack Humphrey, Dorothy Harrison Eustis, and Morris Frank (with Buddy) in the early days of The Seeing Eye.

90 YEARS OF 'SUCCESS'



Morris Frank and Buddy crossing a busy street.

MORRIS FRANK AND THE CROSSING OF A LIFETIME

When Morris Frank arrived in New York City on June 11, 1928, with Buddy at his side, he didn't know how he'd be received. Many people thought it was impossible for a dog to safely guide a person, particularly on the streets of Manhattan.

"You say that dog can take you anywhere?" a skeptical reporter asked.

"Anywhere."

"Could she take you across West Street?"

"Show it to me, brother, and Buddy will take me across it."

Morris didn't know that West Street – which would later be incorporated into the West Side Highway, known today as the Joe DiMaggio Highway – had earned the nickname "Death Street." Every pedestrian was at risk crossing it, as cars and trucks hurtled over the cobblestones, swerving around the slower horse-drawn wagons still a routine sight on Manhattan streets.

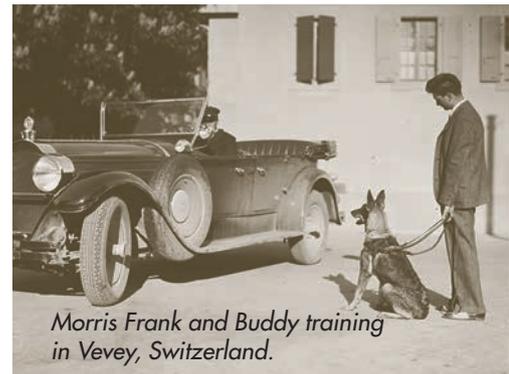
Morris and Buddy – who had first met just seven weeks earlier! – set out across the broad avenue among the cacophony of blaring horns, roaring engines, clattering hooves, and hollering passers-by. He would later recall those next few minutes were the longest of his life. The dream of The Seeing Eye could have ended right there, had that trip ended in a well-publicized disaster.

But Buddy was sure of herself, and Morris – heeding the words he would repeat as advice countless times to new students – would trust his dog. Buddy safely guided them across the street, and flush with victory Morris turned to the reporter... who wasn't there. Rather than attempt to cross himself, he'd hailed a cab!

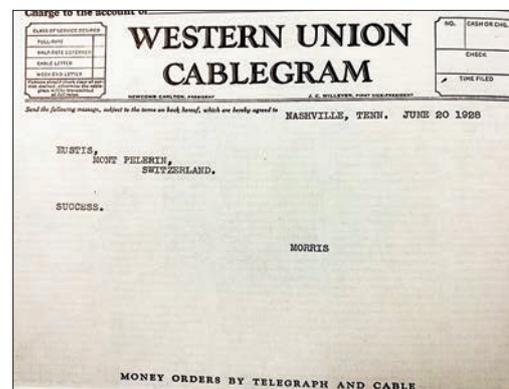
Morris sent to Dorothy Harrison Eustis in Switzerland a one-word telegram: "SUCCESS". Never had one word said so much. Morris and Dorothy had not only founded The Seeing Eye, but had laid the foundation for the service dog movement, and paved the way for equal access for all Americans who are disabled.

Today, The Seeing Eye breeds, raises, and trains dogs to guide people, and also brings people who are blind from across the United States and Canada to live on our campus for up to 25 days to learn how to work with these amazing dogs. When people graduate from our program, they own the dogs, but The Seeing Eye continues to offer follow-up support, at the graduate's request, until the dog retires.

Success!



Morris Frank and Buddy training in Vevey, Switzerland.



Seeing Eye Tales:

Members of the Half-Century Club Share Their Stories

In 1978, Morris Frank became the first person to work with guide dogs for 50 years. He is – retroactively, for it didn't exist at the time – the first member of the Half-Century Club. Each year, The Seeing Eye recognizes those people who have been active Seeing Eye dog users for 50 years or more as members of the Half-Century Club. This year, The Seeing Eye added 10 more members to this elite group, which now totals 62 individuals.



Each one has amazing stories to tell. Here are just a few.

THE WHIPPANY HOUSE

In October 1931, **Dorothy Harrison Eustis** purchased the 50-acre Schneider estate in Whippany, New Jersey, with a large Victorian mansion as well as several smaller buildings on the property, for \$30,000. It would serve as the home of The Seeing Eye until we moved to our current location in 1965.



The Whippany House, The Seeing Eye's first home in New Jersey.

The plan was to renovate the home over a few months and then move the operation there, but that plan quickly changed – on November 30, Dorothy got a tip that the local zoning board was meeting in two days and intended to pass an ordinance banning the use of the estate as a guide dog school. The only way around it was to somehow, in the next 48 hours, become an active guide dog school – and therefore be “grandfathered in” before the ban was passed.

“We moved heaven and earth and moved ourselves into the home and had our first supper there Tuesday night,” **Morris Frank** wrote in a letter to Dorothy, with “eight blind people and eight bright-eyed dogs.”

The **Hon. Davis Duty** came to the Whippany House as a 17 year old in the summer of 1952 between the end of high school and his freshman year at the University of Arkansas.

“I loved that old house,” Davis said. “It was an old Victorian house. The new building, I think, they designed it with some of the features of the old, with a fireplace in the lobby.”

Dr. Louis Leotta Jr. was a 21-year-old student at Colby College when he first came to The Seeing Eye in July 1955.

“It was a big old mansion, with a broad stairway going up to the second floor, a grand home,” Louis said. “But no air conditioning. This was New Jersey in the summer. Boy was it hot. And humid!”



Dorothy Harrison Eustis, a dog breeder and trainer living in Switzerland, writes an article for *The Saturday Evening Post* about how dogs can be trained to guide blind people. The article, “The Seeing Eye”, is read by Morris Frank, a blind teenager living in Nashville, Tennessee. The following year he travels to Switzerland, where he is instructed in the use and care of a Seeing Eye dog, a female German shepherd named Buddy. He returns to the United States intent on founding a school to provide guide dogs to others.



The Seeing Eye moves to New Jersey after Dorothy Harrison Eustis purchases an estate in Whippany to serve as its new headquarters.

The Seeing Eye establishes its fees: \$150 for the first dog, \$50 for a successor dog. They have not been raised since. The fee includes not just the dog, training, and equipment, but room and board for up to



three and a half weeks on campus, round-trip transportation from anywhere in the United States or Canada, and follow-up support for the lifetime of the partnership.

1927



The Seeing Eye is incorporated in Nashville, Tennessee, with Morris Frank listed as Managing Director. The first class begins February 2, with instructors Jack Humphrey, Adelaide Clifford, and Willi Ebeling.

1929

1931

1933

The Seeing Eye begins to serve Canadians who are blind.

1936



MEMORIES OF DICK KROKUS

At one point or another, every member of the Half-Century Club either was instructed by **Dick Krokus** or someone who had been trained by him – he was an instructor, supervisor, and ultimately Director of Instruction and Training at The Seeing Eye from 1946 to 1988.



Dick Krokus shows a model of the campus to a student.

Brian Wallach, who first came to The Seeing Eye as a 27-year-old in 1957, had Dick as his first instructor.

“He was a good man, and an excellent instructor,” Brian said. “He was very tough. An Army man, very G.I. First thing in the morning he’d come in and shout, ‘All right, you mattress hounds, hit the deck!’”

“You sort of wanted to salute when Mr. Krokus came into the room,” Davis agreed.

Louis also had Dick as his first instructor.

“Mr. Krokus taught me how to put the harness on, and then he said, tell her ‘Forward,’ ” Louis said. “So I said, ‘Forward.’ And we take off like a shot! I thought, whoa, if I hit something at this

speed, it’s really going to hurt! We were really moving! But we didn’t hit anything. Then Mr. Krokus says, ‘Now, listen. On this block, there’s a tree right in the middle of the sidewalk. The dog is either going to go left or right. Just follow your dog.’ We start off at another quick pace and I’m thinking, ‘OK, where is that tree?’ We’re flying along. Where’s that tree? The dog takes me to the left, the dog takes me to the right, still moving very quickly, and I call out ‘Where is that tree?’ and Mr. Krokus said, ‘That was the tree!’ I couldn’t believe it. We never slowed down, we never broke stride, we just went right around it. I thought, ‘Wow, this is really going to work!’ We got to the end of the block and I said to Mr. Krokus, ‘That was amazing!’ And he said, ‘Oh, just wait. This is only the beginning.’”

FROM MORRISTOWN TO THE MOON

With their Seeing Eye dogs at their sides, our graduates feel like they can go anywhere. And they do!

“I came to The Seeing Eye to get my mobility back,” said Brian, who had detached both retinas just two years earlier. His first dog was a German shepherd named Fax, which may sound like anachronism for 1957 but was quite apt.



Brian Wallach with his ninth Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Nathan.

“It’s a Latin word, meaning work,” he said. “And this dog, are you kidding, could he work! He was with me for 12 ½ years. Fax came with me to the moonshot, at the Kennedy Space Center in 1969. I was there to do narration for the men going to the moon. When I was down there I took him out to do his business and we heard a hissing from the bushes. It was an alligator! We got out of there in a hurry.”

Dr. Denise Decker first came to The Seeing Eye on a 10th grade field trip. “I always knew I wanted a Seeing Eye dog,” she said. In 1966, she returned as a senior to be matched with her first dog, a German shepherd named Gamin.

Over the next few years, first Gamin and then Denise’s second dog, a German shepherd named Lila, would take Denise to the Sorbonne in Paris, France, where she would study for her Ph.D. as an American Association of University Women Fellow and then as a Fulbright Scholar.

“People have said to me, how did the dog learn French? Well of course the dog didn’t learn French! And fortunately in France they drive on the same side of the road that we do, and they use traffic lights like we do,” Denise said.

She would later be awarded an international fellowship with Partners of the Americas and travel to several Latin American countries, including Brazil, where she would work with instructors from service organizations who help people with disabilities lead independent lives.

Norma Krajczar was partnered with her first Seeing Eye dog – a German shepherd named Patty – in 1953.

“Patty was my liberator,” Norma said. “I’d never had much cane training – it was sort of in its infancy then. Until college I’d had just enough vision to manage, but it deteriorated while I was



The Seeing Eye puppy raising program.

The Seeing Eye opens a women’s dormitory. Blanche Eddy graduated in 1929, becoming the first female graduate, but women were rare in the school’s early days. By 1950, approximately one-third of students were women; today, more than half are.



In the April 1959 issue of *Adventure Comics*, Superboy must wear a blindfold to protect people from his out-of-control super-vision; he uses Krypto the Superdog as a flying Seeing Eye dog!



1941



On December 8, the day after Pearl Harbor, the Board of Trustees passes a resolution “to supply Seeing Eye dogs, without charge, to eligible members of the armed forces who lose their sight in the line of duty.”

1942

1950



1959

1965

The Seeing Eye moves into its new facility in Washington Valley, and opens an exhibit at the World’s Fair.



Norma Krajczar in 1960, on right, with her first Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Patty.



Norma Krajczar with her eighth Seeing Eye dog, a golden retriever named Nifty.

in graduate school. Everywhere I went, I had to go with somebody. With Patty, I could just go."

Norma would return many times over the years, not just as a student, but as an employee – she was the first female field representative for the school, traveling across North America to speak about the school and to meet with prospective applicants.

"I would fly into a city, and there I was. Or there we were, Patty and I. I didn't know the city, I didn't know the people... all I knew was Patty. People would give us directions, and off we would go!"

Davis believes his third Seeing Eye dog, Shane,

was the first to observe a case in the United States Supreme Court.

"I was told I could go into the courtroom, but Shane would have to stay in the Marshal's Office," Davis said. "Other people with guide dogs had come to the Supreme Court before, but their dogs had never been allowed in the courtroom. I said no thank you. 'If I'm going in, the dog's going with me.' They let me in. Maybe they thought he'd bark and growl or jump on a Justice or something. But of course Shane just laid down and went to sleep.



Davis Duty with his ninth Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Ellery.

"As I came out, I was coming down the front steps of the Supreme Court, and somebody took a picture, which was pretty widely distributed. My brother was flying combat missions in Vietnam, and he's off on a base in the jungle somewhere and sees a copy of *Stars & Stripes*... with my picture in it!"

MEETING MORRIS FRANK

Louis was at the Perkins School for the Blind in the early 1950s when Morris Frank came to class to extol the virtues of working with a Seeing Eye dog.

"Mr. Frank spoke to us for an hour," Louis said. "He was a salesman, and he could sell anything. He was such a persuasive speaker. At the end of that hour, he sold me on a Seeing Eye dog."

After becoming The Seeing Eye's field representative, Norma often spoke with Morris Frank. "We would speak almost every morning," Norma said. "He was a special human being. He was kind of gruff, on the outside. But he had a heart of gold, and he cared greatly, of course, for The Seeing Eye and its students. At that time he had his own insurance agency, with an office overlooking the Morristown Green, and he would love it when the instructors would bring the students around."

That's how Davis met him.



Morris Frank with Buddy III.

"My first instructor, Bob O'Neill, asked us if we wanted to meet Morris Frank," Davis said. "Sure we did! He was very gracious. He gave us each a signed copy of his book, *The First Lady of The Seeing Eye*, and he told us some stories about



The Walt Disney Company films *Attie Girl, Kelly!* at The Seeing Eye campus.



1971

William Debatez retires as vice president of training; a bust of him with a German shepherd is dedicated on The Seeing Eye campus.



Disney releases *Love Leads the Way*, a movie starring Timothy Bottoms and Eva Marie Saint about The Seeing Eye.

1984



The U.S. Postal Service issues a 15 cent stamp commemorating the school's 50th anniversary.

The Vincent A. Stabile Canine Health Center opens.



1995



The Seeing Eye announces it has reduced the incidence of hip dysplasia from 30 percent to 5 percent in German shepherds, and from 18 percent to near zero in Labrador retrievers.

1997



Dog training in Morristown. Since moving to New Jersey in 1931, Morristown has been The Seeing Eye's "classroom."

how difficult it had been in those early days to bring Buddy with him everywhere. He told us about this time he was on a train car and a conductor stepped in front of him and said 'You can't come through here with that dog.' Morris said, 'Just watch me,' and walked right past him. The conductor backed down. Morris thought maybe he was intimidated by the dog. I think he was more intimidated by Morris."

John Turner of Highland Park, Texas, was partnered with his first dog as an 18-year-old college student in 1953.

"That third morning at breakfast, there were four of us at our table, and the guy sitting on my right was Morris Frank," John recalled. "A guy across the table from me, a young guy, he said to the server, very politely, 'Ma'am, would you mind cutting my pancakes?' And before she could say a word Morris said, 'We cut our own hotcakes here!'"

"I learned one lesson right there, and that is at The Seeing Eye, you are expected to handle things by yourself. And that is a good lesson for anybody."

THE SEEING EYE ATTITUDE

Brian is turning 90 in June – and is proudly not retired. He still walks at least two miles a day with his current (and ninth) Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Nathan. He also ice skates in winter, rides a tandem bike, and swims every chance he gets!

Davis, whose long legal career included serving as a U.S. Administrative Law Judge with the Social Security Administration, is still practicing at age 84, and is now working with his ninth Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Ellery.

"It's hard to believe a dog can understand as much as this one does. He can practically read your mind. I thought after 60 years I knew it all, but this dog has taught me a few things. He's made me a better dog handler," Davis said. "The attitude I've always had is my current dog is the best dog I've ever had. And that's true."

Denise, who is now working with her sixth Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Wonder, later worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, and currently serves on the Washington, D.C., Commission on People with Disabilities.

"The dog offers ease of movement," she said. "Wonder was just zooming in and out and guiding me around people and past vendors, maneuvering around chairs and tables. I've had many people assume that I must see a little bit. 'Obviously you have some vision.' I do not. But the dog makes it so quick and easy."

Louis returned in 2013 to be matched with his ninth Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Cori. "That trip down Maple Avenue with that first dog, taking me around that tree –

it's gone now, but the old-timers will remember it well – that little event, in the total history of the dogs I've used, has stuck in my mind for 63 years. That one tree I went around, safely, at speed, convinced me I'd made the right choice in coming to The Seeing Eye."

John, a former Seeing Eye trustee, has worked as an independent insurance broker for more than 60 years. In 2017, he was honored with a statue of himself and a Seeing Eye dog in Frisco, Texas. Since 2014 he's been working with his eighth Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Eben. "I've been all over this world with my Seeing Eye dogs. They've guided me 100,000 miles," he said.

Norma, who would marry Seeing Eye instructor Ferenc "Fred" Krajczar, is now working with her eighth Seeing Eye dog, a golden retriever named Nifty.

"I am so very grateful that I got to know most of the pioneers of The Seeing Eye," she said. "It hadn't been around all that long, and many of the original people were still there, including Morris Frank. And from them I soaked up the attitude of those founders, and I'm happy to say, it is still the attitude of The Seeing Eye: The sky is the limit. You can do anything that you want to do, with a dog at your side. There is nothing you can't do if you are willing to work at it."



Instructor Jane Schneiderman with a dog training in Morristown today. Photo by Cole Beckerman.

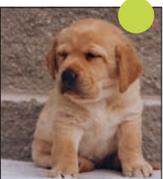


The Jane H. Booker Student Center opens in Downtown Morristown.



The Seeing Eye celebrates its 90th anniversary!

2002



The first puppy, a yellow Labrador retriever aptly named Genesis, is born at the new breeding station in Chester, New Jersey.

2005

A statue of Morris Frank and Buddy by J. Seward Johnson, a gift from The Seeing Eye Board of Trustees, is dedicated on the Morristown Green.

2008



2017

Carlos Taylor and Ewok, the 17000th Seeing Eye team, graduate in November.

2019

A Dog-Gone Great Ride!

Bicyclists pedal for puppies at the 2018 Gran Fondo

Not even rain – or wet dogs – could dampen the spirits of the eighth annual Gran Fondo NJ, a bicycle tour held in the picturesque New Jersey Highlands that raises money for non-profit organizations, including The Seeing Eye. Thousands of riders participate in the annual event, held on September 9th, 2018.

There are numerous Gran Fondos throughout the country, and indeed the world, but Gran Fondo NJ has quickly grown to become one of the biggest and best reviewed in North America. It's renowned not just for the bucolic scenery along the routes of varying lengths – from the 18-mile Breve to the 107-mile Gran – but for its rest stops.

The biggest of those rest stops is staffed by volunteers from The Seeing Eye, and in addition to providing snacks you're more likely to find at a cocktail party than a bicycle race – would anyone like some chocolate-dipped cannoli? – we also had plenty of puppies on hand to greet the riders. In addition, Seeing Eye employees and students turned out to cheer on riders as they passed The Seeing Eye campus shortly after the start of the ride.

This year's event raised \$11,500 for The Seeing Eye, and 17 people signed up to ride to support The Seeing Eye, including Seeing Eye employees and puppy raisers.

Jim Kessler, The Seeing Eye's Assistant Director for Instruction and Training, has ridden in Gran Fondo every year except the first one, and is currently preparing for this year's. He estimates he's logged more than 550 miles on his seven rides, including four "Gran Fondo" routes of 100+ miles.

"I like the cause the ride supports, of course, but I also like the scenery and the camaraderie amongst fellow riders," Jim said. "A truly great ride!"

The Seeing Eye sadly notes the passing of Gran Fondo NJ founder Marty Epstein, who died on May 2. The long-time supporter of The Seeing Eye was introduced prior to the start of last year's ride to a black Labrador retriever puppy named Marty in his honor.

This year's ride – which will be called the Garden State Gran Fondo – will be held September 8, 2019, in Morristown. For more information, go to www.GranFondoNJ.com.



Photos by Victoria Alfonzo.



news highlights

Ring In 90 Years! The Seeing Eye celebrates its anniversary at Nasdaq

Seeing Eye President & CEO Jim Kutsch pushed the button at Nasdaq MarketSite in New York City on January 28, 2019 – the day before the 90th anniversary of our founding – to ring the closing bell at Nasdaq.

Joining him on the dais were Seeing Eye Board of Trustees Chair Thomas Duffy; Trustee (and graduate) Cynthia Bryant with her Seeing Eye dog, Summer; Trustee Ari Benacerraf; Trustee Mark “Duke” Mulvoy; and Seeing Eye puppy raiser and television personality Guy Adami. In addition, approximately 30 members of The Seeing Eye staff attended, including three Seeing Eye dogs, three Seeing Eye dogs in training, and two Seeing Eye puppies.

“Our mission is simple: We provide increased independence, dignity, and self-confidence to people who are blind through the use of Seeing Eye dogs,” Jim said. “We do that by breeding, raising, and training dogs – you see some puppies



The Seeing Eye staff at Nasdaq.

with us today that are in the process of that – and also training blind individuals how to safely and effectively use and care for Seeing Eye dogs. It’s been a great pleasure to lead the organization and to watch all the lives that have been changed through what we do.”

You can see a video of the event at www.SeeingEye.org/blog/happy-90th-birthday.html.

Not only was the event televised, but also was broadcast on Nasdaq’s seven-story video display overlooking Times Square!

‘All The News That’s Fit To Print’



Val Gee of Dayton, Ohio, is guided across a Manhattan street by her Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador/golden cross named Ozma.

Photo courtesy New York Times.

The Seeing Eye was featured in *The New York Times*’s “New York” section on November 6. The article, by Corey Kilgannon, was titled “To Prove Their Chops, Guide Dogs Hit Streets of Midtown”.

The article was about how The Seeing Eye uses New York City as a kind of “final exam” for its Seeing Eye dogs – just like in the Frank Sinatra song, if the dogs can make it there, they can make it anywhere! In addition, many students opt to visit Manhattan during their training at The Seeing Eye, which is three and a half weeks for a first-time student and two and a half weeks for a returning graduate.

The article featured Seeing Eye graduate Kathy Faul of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and her seventh Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Innes; Val Gee of Dayton, Ohio, and her second Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross named Ozma; Seeing Eye instructors Kristen DeMarco, Brian O’Neal, and Kristen Oplinger; and Seeing Eye Director of Instruction and Training Dave Johnson.

news highlights



A worker applies a coat of paint – the color is “Irish Cream” – to the concrete block wall in the Robert H. Harris Canine Pavilion. The five openings along the floor will be dog doors to allow access to the covered outdoor exercise area.

WORK CONTINUES ON HARRIS PAVILION

The Dr. Robert H. Harris Canine Pavilion, an addition to the existing kennels at The Seeing Eye’s Vincent A. Stabile Canine Health Center, is on schedule to be completed later this spring.

This facility will provide 48 dog quarters, each with direct access to outdoor (but covered) all-weather exercise areas; an exam room; a break area for kennel assistants; two dog grooming and food prep areas; and state-of-the-art ventilation and air exchange systems. The pavilion will not only provide better living quarters for our dogs in training, but also make for greater efficiency for our veterinarians, kennel assistants, trainers, and volunteers. It all adds up to happier dogs, and therefore, happier graduates!

The \$7.6 million project was funded by a \$2 million gift from the Golden Dome Foundation in memory of its founder, Dr. Robert H. Harris.

If you would like to support this project, go to <http://www.seeingeye.org/kennel> or call (800) 539-4425 and ask for Donor and Public Relations.



Welcome to Seeing Eye Way!

Two years after our founding in 1929 in Nashville, Tennessee, we moved to Whippany, New Jersey, and remained there until 1965, when we moved to our present location in the historic Washington Valley section of Morris Township.

In February, Morris Township Mayor Jeff Grayzel and the Morris Township Committee presented The Seeing Eye with a proclamation congratulating the school on its 90th anniversary, and a proclamation to Seeing Eye President & CEO James A. Kutsch, Jr., in recognition of his upcoming retirement.

In April, the mayor and township committee voted to approve another honor – officially changing The Seeing Eye’s street address from 10 Washington Valley Road to 1 Seeing Eye Way, Morristown NJ 07960-3378. We will soon be changing the plaque on our front gate to mark the new address.

While our address is changing, we’re still at the same location we have been for the last 54 years, at the corner of Mendham Road and Washington Valley Road. In addition, we will continue to use P.O. Box 375, Morristown NJ 07963-0375 as our mailing address.



Morris Township Mayor Jeff Grayzel, left, presents proclamations to Seeing Eye President & CEO James A. Kutsch, Jr., with his Seeing Eye dog, Vegas, and his wife, Ginger Kutsch, with her Seeing Eye dog, Willow.

The Seeing Eye thanks its corporate partners



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PARTIED OUT!



Irma, a black Labrador/golden retriever cross puppy in the Seeing Eye Puppy Raising program, takes a break at the Morristown St. Patrick's Day Parade, held on March 9.

Photo by Courtney Sminkey.



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.