

The Seeing Eye®

GUIDE

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE SEEING EYE

Hayden Dahmm: WORLD TRAVELER



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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:

Hayden Dahmm and his Seeing Eye dog, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross named Fathom, have been to eight countries. Hayden now works at the United Nations in New York City! See story on Page 2.

Photo by Laurie Manderino.

A Seeing Eye Perspective

We call Dorothy Harrison Eustis and Morris Frank the pioneers of The Seeing Eye – and pioneers they truly were.

Dorothy had written her famous *Saturday Evening Post* article not about training she was doing, but about what she'd seen at a school she'd once visited in Germany. And of course Morris didn't know anyone who had used a Seeing Eye® dog, because they hadn't been invented yet!

Morris and Dorothy embarked into the unknown together, and together they not only founded The Seeing Eye, but launched the worldwide assistance dog movement.

In summer, we see many first-time students, and they too are beginning a journey to an uncertain destination. It may surprise you to learn many of our first-time students haven't spent much time around other guide dog users – in fact, many haven't spent a lot of time around other people who are blind. It's not uncommon for students to share little tips and tricks with each other about how to live life a little more easily as a blind person, whether it's some new phone app they've discovered or how to tell the difference between a packet of sugar and a packet of sugar substitute. (Hint: The sugar packet is a little bit heavier!)

We hear from many students that they didn't know what to expect the first time they worked with a Seeing Eye dog. When you ask new students what that first experience was like, they'll say words you might hear at an amusement park: Terrifying! Thrilling! Amazing!

Way back in 1970, my initial walk with my first Seeing Eye dog was all that and more. With the harness in my hand, I gave the command "Sheba, forward!" and off we went down Maple Avenue... the beginning of the first of many journeys. Nearly 50 years later, my journey continues.

Now it's Vegas by my side, but you are walking alongside us and so are tens of thousands of other people like you. Thanks to your generous support, The Seeing Eye continues to be the pioneers of the guide dog movement. We continue to lead the way when it comes to the breeding and training of guide dogs and the instruction in their use.

Morris and Dorothy didn't know where their partnership would lead, but they'd be very happy to know where we've gone – and continue to go – with your help.

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



letters

TO THE SEEING EYE

Dear Seeing Eye:

On the night of March 30, the fire alarm sounded knocking me from sleep. As I rallied up and started to prep for the trip out, I could hear the commotion in the hall, then the sound of someone kicking my door open! I knew this was no toaster oven smoker like the ones in the past... yikes! I drop everything and bail with my Seeing Eye dog Kelly. We stepped out the door and into a surreal scene from some disaster movie. Instant sensory overload! The piercing of the alarm, the smell of the fire, the hall bristling with first responders... and I'm not even close to the stairwell. I already knew my skills were useless. I surrendered all control to Kelly dog and off we went. She got right on point, no hesitation. She had the same presence she always had, even as she lead me down the stairwell as the fire and EMT were carrying people out. My anxiety level began to peak but then I remembered my mantra, "Just do what the dog is doing." In that moment I could relax and go with the flow.

Outside we were met with an army of responders like ants on a cookie. The streets and walkways were jammed with equipment and people. A voice said to go to the building next door. My normal route was blocked, so we had to cross two open fields. Again the noise overwhelmed me, hearing my main navigation sensor, and no landmarks at all, all I could do was say "forward." Never did Kelly waiver or fail to perform at a level beyond expectation. There are no words to express my gratitude.

John Bauer
Seeing Eye graduate

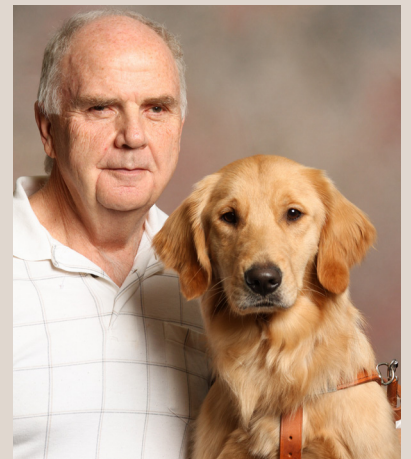


Dear Seeing Eye:

On December 3, Peanut and I have been partners for three years. What wonderful years they have been. I know that I can rely on Peanut to do a great job in all situations. I can't count how many times people have told me what a beautiful dog she is. So many times employees in stores we visit have told me that she is the best behaved of all service dogs that enter their store. Yes sometimes I spoil Miss Princess Peanut... but I wouldn't have it any other way, as she deserves to be spoiled! We are very careful not to call her a dog when she is nearby as Peanut thinks she is a people.

There is no way I can ever totally express my appreciation for what The Seeing Eye has done for me. You have provided me with four wonderful partners over the past 28 years for which I am so grateful.

Donald Hert
Seeing Eye graduate





WORLD TRAVELER

Hayden Dahmm and Fathom have traveled to eight countries... now they're at the United Nations!

Hayden is an analyst with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a global initiative for the United Nations located near Columbia University in Manhattan. Hayden researches how to use data to advance sustainable development, as well as development of the United States Cities SDG Index, providing data to American cities seeking to achieve sustainable development goals related to environmental, social, and economic objectives.

As a complication due to his being born three months premature, Hayden was legally blind but still had some functional vision through middle school. That changed in high school, when he lost his sight and began using a cane. While attending a program for blind and visually impaired high school students, Hayden met with a Seeing Eye representative. The Seeing Eye's "dog simulator" helped Hayden navigate as if he were using a dog.

"It was just astonishing," he said. "I had never felt so free before! That certainly opened my eyes, so to speak, to the possibility of getting a Seeing Eye dog."

Hayden came to The Seeing Eye in summer 2012, just before starting his sophomore year at Swarthmore College outside of Philadelphia, and was matched with Fathom, a yellow Labrador/golden retriever cross.

"Fathom and I met on July 4, 2012 – fittingly enough Independence Day, because he has given me so much independence," Hayden said.



Hayden Dahmm and his Seeing Eye dog, Fathom, in front of a framed United Nations flag inside the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

Photo by Laurie Manderino

"Fathom gave me increased confidence navigating the campus, not only the physical spaces, but the social spaces," he said. "The dining hall on campus, for example, could be quite challenging to get around. My freshman year I would often just sit at the first table I found, and sometimes not where I would have chosen to sit. With Fathom, I could navigate through the cafeteria, around chairs and crowded tables, to sit with friends and really enjoy myself. That's a benefit I could not have anticipated."

Hayden graduated from Swarthmore College in 2015 with a bachelor of science degree in environmental engineering, then he won a prestigious Marshall Scholarship – one of the most selective graduate scholarships in the United States. The scholarship allows Americans to study in the United Kingdom for up to two years; Hayden attended both Imperial College London and the London School of Economics, receiving master of science degrees in Environmental Policy and Regulation from each institution.

Photo by Laurie Manderino



*FAR LEFT: Hayden with Fathom inside the United Nations Headquarters building.
Photo by Laurie Manderino*

LEFT: Hayden and Fathom greet Queen Elizabeth II. Photo courtesy Hayden Dahmm

"Going to London was exceptionally foreign – I grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs. I had spent a little time in Tennessee and Indiana, but going to another country, and a major city like London, was a leap of an entirely different magnitude," Hayden said.

"I lived in Central London, and Fathom and I took the tube, we walked the city, we took buses... it was more independent than I'd ever been in my life, and I had my best friend at my side the whole time," he said. "Without him, London would have been extremely challenging. Even after living in London for a few months, trying to navigate my neighborhood without him was not easy. I just didn't have the same level of confidence. There were obstacles I didn't expect, fences that jutted out in unexpected ways, construction barriers that appear out of nowhere. Finding crosswalks was extremely difficult. When I was with Fathom, he knew exactly where to go. He just makes it so much easier for me – as a student, I have enough things to be stressed about. Walking to class shouldn't be one of them."

Imperial College London's graduation ceremony was held at Royal Albert Hall. "We had a procession on the stage, and as we were accepting our diplomas they called the name of each individual in the program, and when they called my name they said (in a British accent) 'Hayden Dahmm... and dog!' We got a tremendous ovation as we walked across the stage. It was proof of all we had overcome and achieved."

Fathom was paid another honor on December 1, 2016, while Hayden was living at Goodenough College, a residence for international students in Central London, and Queen Elizabeth II paid a royal visit.

"A few weeks earlier, I had been asked if I would like to be part of the group of students that would be welcoming the queen during her visit to the college. I was supposed to attend a lecture that day, but I figured I could always attend another lecture, but

what other opportunity would I have to meet the queen?"

Hayden recalled there were about 50 students lining the walls. "She couldn't speak to each of us, and I had no reason to expect her to speak to me," Hayden said. "But then I heard her say: 'You have a lovely dog.' I was completely dumbstruck. I could barely speak. I don't know what I said, if I said anything. The picture shows she is clearly enamored with Fathom, and I'm basically splitting my face with a huge grin, and Fathom looking off into the distance completely uninterested. It was completely delightful and a memory I will absolutely treasure: Fathom being complimented by her majesty!"

Hayden explained his current job with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, which was created in 2012 by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, is to help promote knowledge sharing around sustainable development. "There's so much talk these days about the data revolution, but we have to consider how we are using data. How can we use data to achieve beneficial outcomes for all, rather than outcomes that only benefit a small group of interests," Hayden said.

While Fathom is focused while in harness, when he's off-duty he's "a complete goofball," Hayden said.

"Most mornings I'll stand in the doorway to my apartment and call Fathom over, and he'll come running over and then flop on his back as if to say, 'OK, we'll head out, but first you have to scratch my tummy!'" he said.

"I can't believe it's been six years – that is to say, I can't believe it's only been six years. It feels like we've always been together," Hayden said. "We've gone from undergrad to grad school to working, from the suburbs to London to New York, and he's always been there at my side. For six very busy, very full years, he's been the one constant."



State It Proud!

NEW JERSEY CONSIDERING NAMING THE SEEING EYE DOG AS ITS OFFICIAL STATE DOG

Thirteen states have an official state dog – Maryland has the Chesapeake Bay retriever, Massachusetts has the Boston terrier, and Alaska has the Alaskan malamute.

A bill has been proposed in New Jersey to name Seeing Eye dogs as the state's official dog. State Senator Anthony M. Bucco, whose legislative district includes The Seeing Eye's Morris Township headquarters, said it makes sense for the Garden State to honor Seeing Eye dogs, which have been born, raised, and trained in New Jersey since 1931. People who are blind or visually impaired come from across the United States and Canada to New Jersey to be matched with these dogs and instructed in their care and use.

"We often take for granted seeing a stop sign, or the edge of a train platform, but for those who are visually impaired, something so simple can become a critical or even life-threatening obstacle," Bucco said.

"Every day, Seeing Eye dogs are trained in Morris County to create safety, independence, and mobility for those in need."

To become law, the proposed bill must be passed by the state Senate and Assembly, then signed by the governor.

The Seeing Eye primarily uses four breeds of dogs – German shepherds, Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, and Labrador/golden crosses. However, the proposed legislation would not recognize one specific breed in particular, but rather all dogs that have been trained as Seeing Eye dogs.

"A Seeing Eye dog's intelligence, loyalty, and gentle temperament make the animal an important resource for those who are visually impaired," Bucco said. "The goal of this legislation is to not only honor Seeing Eye dogs, but to also educate the public on how valuable these animals are for people with disabilities across New Jersey."

The Seeing Eye was founded in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1929, but moved to Whippany, New Jersey, two years later. In 1965, The Seeing Eye moved to its current campus in Morris Township, and uses Morristown as its "classroom".

"We started the guide dog movement in the United States nearly 90 years ago, setting the standard and linking The Seeing Eye and the State of New Jersey as pioneers in the service dog industry. We thank Sen. Bucco for introducing this bill, and for recognizing our long history," said Jim Kutsch, Seeing Eye President and CEO. "Each year, hundreds of individuals travel to Morris County from across the United States and Canada to enhance their independence with a Seeing Eye dog, and our iconic brand is recognized around the world for the highest level of guide dog quality."



A Tribute in Bronze

Seeing Eye graduate John Turner and his eight dogs recognized with life-size statue.

John Turner, a former Seeing Eye trustee and an eight-time graduate of the program, is a man almost always in motion.

Even the life-sized bronze statue of him recently dedicated in the city of Frisco, Texas, shows him in action. The statue, donated by his long-time friend David Griffin, captures John confidently striding forward with his Seeing Eye dog – appropriately enough a German shepherd, as all eight of John’s dogs have been of that breed. The statue depicts John as he often looks, wearing a suit, head up and smiling, with a brief case in his right hand and the harness in his left. It was unveiled at the Frisco Heritage center on June 4, 2017.



David Griffin, left, and John Turner, with his eighth Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Eben, with the statue.

“I was so overwhelmed,” said John, who grew up in Frisco – his grandfather settled in the area in 1881, 26 years before it was incorporated as a city. John now lives about 25 miles away in the Dallas suburb of Highland Park.

“I’ve been all over this world with my Seeing Eye dogs. They’ve guided me 100,000 miles,” John said.

“This is not about me, at all. This statue is there to remind everybody: No matter what you have, whether it’s a disability or an affliction or a worry, don’t give up, always have hope, and never quit.”

The dog depicted in the statue is a composite of all eight of John’s dogs – all have been German shepherds. John is a member of The Seeing Eye’s Half-Century Club, which recognizes graduates who have worked with Seeing Eye dogs for 50 years. He was matched with his first Seeing Eye dog, a

female German shepherd named Villa, in 1953; he was matched with his most recent dog, Eben, in 2014.

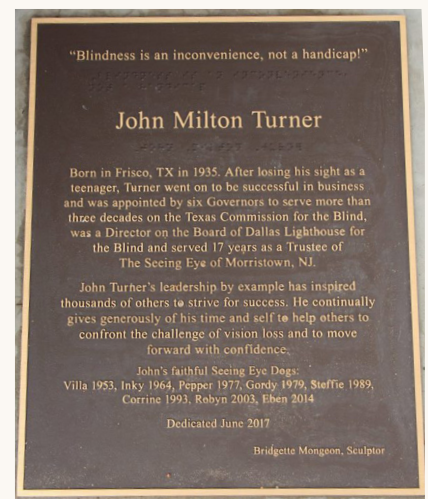
John lost his sight at 17 due to detached retinas; just a few months later, he came to The Seeing Eye.

“The first day I walked with Villa, it was like seeing again,” John said. “It’s hard to explain. I had gone blind in July, and in November I was walking with Villa. I owe so much to that dog.”

With Villa at his side, John graduated from the University of North Texas, then became an insurance salesman. More than 60 years later he continues to work as an independent insurance broker.

In addition to serving as a Trustee at The Seeing Eye for 17 years, John served for three decades on the Texas Commission for the Blind and was a director for the Board of Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind. He also started Dallas Services for Blind Children and Dallas Reading for the Blind, and was on the board of the Retina Research Foundation.

“One of my fondest memories is coaching YMCA baseball,” John said. “People would come to my practices because they wanted to see the blind dude coaching baseball. And you know what they saw? They saw somebody teaching kids how to play the game and how to have fun doing it.”



kennel update



Harris Pavilion Work Underway

Work continues on The Seeing Eye's state-of-the-art kennel upgrade.



The \$7.6 million project, estimated to be completed in Spring 2019, will allow us to house all on-campus dogs in one location. (Currently, the dogs are split between two kennels.) The new facility incorporates the latest in technology and design considerations, including natural light, access to outdoor play areas, and good sight lines so the dogs can see each other.

The project was kickstarted with a generous \$2 million donation from The Golden Dome Foundation, a nonprofit based in Middletown, New Jersey. The gift is in memory of its founder, Dr. Robert H. Harris, and the kennel will be known as the Dr. Robert H. Harris Canine Pavilion.

For information on how you can support this project, call (800) 539-4425 and ask for Deborah Morrone-Colella or go to www.SeeingEye.org/kennel.



news highlights

Hello from New Zealand!

Blind Foundation Guide Dogs, a guide dog school based in Auckland, New Zealand, wanted to start a German shepherd breeding program for its students. They asked The Seeing Eye for a breeder, and we sent Eudora.

Eudora has since had two litters of puppies, and one of her puppies – Gin, born on January 17, 2017 – is now a “second generation” breeder for them!

“Eudora has certainly made herself at home in New Zealand, she is a lovely girl who has been a great addition to our breeding program,” said Melinda Dawson, Breeding Program Coordinator for Blind Foundation Guide Dogs. “Interestingly, when we googled the meaning of Eudora, it came up as ‘Good Gift’ and ‘Honored Gift’ – she certainly is that!”



LEFT: Proud momma Eudora with her second litter of puppies.

Photo courtesy Blind Foundation Guide Dogs.

RIGHT: Eudora’s first puppy, Gin, graduated from Guide Dogs and is now a breeder herself!

Photo courtesy Blind Foundation Guide Dogs.



HANK, THE CRIME DOG!

Hank is a Seeing Eye “career change” dog. Born at The Seeing Eye, the golden retriever’s future wasn’t in guiding people who are blind – instead, Hank proved to be most suited for law enforcement. He’s now a search-and-recovery dog with the Philadelphia Police Department.

Hank led police to a grisly discovery last year: The bodies of four young men who had been killed and buried on a farm in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The Intelligencer of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, reported that Hank sniffed around piles of dirt, gravel, and boulders for about 30 minutes before lifting his paw and scratching the dirt. Then he looked directly at his handler, Philadelphia Police Department K-9 Officer Richard Treston, and barked.



Hank, a Seeing Eye “career change” dog now in law enforcement. Photo courtesy WPVI-TV Philadelphia.

“I could tell immediately from his behavior he found a scent,” Treston said.

Police dug... and dug... and dug. Amazingly, the bodies were found buried 12 feet deep and hidden in an old oil tank.

Hank’s reward? Playing tug of war with his favorite toy.

“The dogs were incredibly valuable,” Bucks County Deputy Chief Detective Mike Mosniak told the newspaper. “When dealing with an 80-acre

property with 90 percent woods and cornfields, it’s difficult to see above ground let alone beneath it. They were able to pinpoint the locations where they were found. There was no mechanical equipment out there that could do what they did.”

NEW TRUSTEES

THE SEEING EYE HAS ELECTED FIVE NEW MEMBERS TO ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN 2018.

Vikram Agarwal, a graduate of The Seeing Eye, is a shareholder in the law firm of Bean Kinney and Korman and lives in Arlington, Virginia. He holds a J.D. and an LL.M. in taxation from the Georgetown University Law Center. He will soon be entering class to be matched with his third Seeing Eye dog.

Rich Boulger, now retired, was a professor at the University of Arizona and held several administrative roles; prior to that, he served as a partner with Accenture, a global consulting firm, and as founding director of the Tippie Business Solutions Center at the University of Iowa.

David Hertz is the President and CEO of Sealy Mattress Company of New Jersey, and also serves as vice chairman of the

Bunker Hill Special Improvement District Board of Directors in Paterson, New Jersey. He served as national co-chair of annual giving at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he received his law degree, from 2013-2016.

Karen Keninger is the Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a Division of the Library of Congress. She was partnered with her first Seeing Eye dog, Doodie, at the age of 16; she now lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with Jimi, her seventh.

Dr. Susan Pomerantz, a licensed psychologist with a private practice, was formerly a civilian intelligence officer with the U.S. Army and the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency. She lives in Manhattan with her Seeing Eye dog, Logan.



Peter Crnkovich, former Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and his wife, Kay, unveil his portrait.

The Seeing Eye also unveiled a portrait of Peter Crnkovich, who served on the Board of Trustees from 2002 through 2016, including as Chairman of the Board from 2013 through 2016. The Seeing Eye has portraits of all our former presidents and board chairs displayed in the Eustis Lounge, named in memory of co-founder Dorothy Harrison Eustis; and the Colgate Room, named after Henry A. Colgate, who served as president from 1940 to 1957.



— The Seeing Eye* —
**DOGGY DASH
WALK & 5K**

Doggy Dash and 5K Run presented by Freshpet

The Seeing Eye will hold its annual Doggy Dash on Sunday, October 7, in Morristown, New Jersey. This year's event will again have a USATF-certified 5K run with awards for top finishers. All walk and 5K pre-registrants will get a free T-shirt. (T-shirts also will be available to event-day registrants while supplies last.) There also will be a doggy pageant with five categories, including a costume contest! There will be gift basket raffles, face painting, caricatures, and a DJ. Participants are encouraged to use this event as a fundraiser for The Seeing Eye. **For more information, go to SeeingEye.org/dash.**



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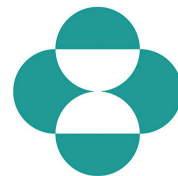


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The 2019 Calendar Is Here!

The 2019 Seeing Eye Puppy Raiser Calendar has arrived! This beautiful wall calendar features pictures of Seeing Eye puppies, taken by Seeing Eye puppy raisers.

To order yours, go to www.SeeingEye.org/calendar, email us at PuppyCalendar@SeeingEye.org, or call us at (973) 539-4425 ext. 1802.



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.