



April 2003

# South Bay Champions

Linda Cortez, Editor

## Calendar

### April

National Volunteer Recognition Month

1 Anniversary Dinner

13 Scrapbooking  
Scrapbook Mania

### May

10 Human Race  
Shoreline Park  
Mt. View 8:30 a.m.

10 Incredible Dog Challenge  
Golden Gate Park

17 NW Graduation  
Sonoma Country Day  
School 1 p.m.

18 Scrapbooking  
Scrapbook Mania

### June

1 Play Day  
Palo Alto

21 NW's Summer Fest  
Schulz Campus

Free Dog Bathing for Graduates  
First Monday of the Month\*  
Petco/El Paseo de Saratoga

Free Classes for Puppy Raisers  
Every Thursday\*  
Hope Rehabilitation Center  
Santa Clara 6:30 pm

### Abbreviations Used in Newsletter

SBC	So. Bay Chapter
PR	Puppy Raiser
BC	Breeder Caretaker
SD	Service Dog
SC	Skilled Companion
NWR	Northwest Region
SWR	Southwest Region
NER	Northeast Region
NCR	No. Central Region
SER	Southeast Region

## We're Ten Years Old!!!

Ten years ago a few puppy raisers happened to meet in San Jose and decided to support Canine Companions in a larger way by starting a "Champions" group here. This was the term CCI used for organized groups of volunteers back then. Betty Beverly and Kathy Buchner were the driving forces for getting a group started by contacting local graduates and donors. The initial group included a few graduates and a few donors like myself who wanted to become more involved.

This group redefined what Champion groups could do to support CCI. Perhaps it was because we are in Silicon Valley that we attempted projects other Champion groups had never done before. In those days, Champions staffed information booths at public events, did a few school presentations and participated in parades to be visible in the community and little more. Within a year, we organized a major fund raiser, "A Chocolate Sunday Affair." Candy companies, bakeries, ice cream companies from all over the Bay Area not only donated chocolate of all kinds but participated in the event and other companies donated products for prize drawings or became sponsors. It was a big success and NW was impressed that we pulled it off (by ourselves). Other firsts were:

Making the puppy capes for all five regions. For about three years in the mid-nineties, we organized the volunteers who sewed the all the puppy capes. When the demand became too heavy of a burden for our volunteers, Kris B. thought of the clever idea to focus on making kits of pre-cut materials to send to other regions for their volunteers to sew. A year or so later, we gave that project to a new Champions group. Kris also designed and So. Bay volunteers sewed the special capes the matriculating puppies wear at graduation.

Nominating a graduate team to carry the Olympic Torch in the 1996 Relay. It was considered a long shot then because hundreds of people are nominated in each area but Service Team Tony M. & *Quadrille* were selected to carry the torch in Sunnyvale. *Quad* is the first dog to be allowed to participate in the Olympic Torch Relay. (Tony and *Quad* are the team on the front of CCI's information brochure.) Our second nomination was also successful. Service Team Melissa Lucia and *Winger* carried the Torch in the 2002 Torch Relay in San Jose.

Initiating an in-service training for the entire San Jose Police Dept. on public access laws for Service Dogs. As a result, the police dept. produced a short video on public access featuring Tony and *Quad* that was made available to other law enforcement groups in California. Several of our volunteers also participated in a series of in-service training sessions for 911 dispatchers for the SJPD that included dispatchers from other neighboring police departments.

The South Bay provided and served the graduation luncheon for the NW February 1996 Class and their guests (100+ people) and two receptions following graduations complete with decorated tables and silver platters of home made cookies (for 600 people), coffee and punch. These were major undertakings and required a lot of volunteer support but we did it and we did with style.

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Treasurer

Dog Bath Betty Lacetot  
AppointmentsCCI Puppy Vikki Ogden  
Classes or  
Erin Callaghan*Anniversary Dinner continued*

Nominating a Facility Team for Community Recognition For two consecutive years, SBC Facility Teams were recognized by the San Jose Women's Junior League for their volunteer work-- Betty T. & Izzy in 1999 for their work with Hope clients and Diane R. & Dustin in 2000 for their work with special needs children. Izzy and Dustin were the first dogs to be honored by the Junior League of San Jose. They even received their own engraved silver bowls.

Organizing strictly social events CCI people only got together to plan and do fund raisers and other CCI business. We planned social events for graduates, puppy raisers, breeder caretakers and volunteers just to have fun. SBC wanted to get to know each other. Today, our social events include "Play Days" and "Pool Parties" for the dogs; they love to socialize too. Knowing each other makes it easier for So. Bay folks to get local support in transporting a dog to or from CCI, finding a dog sitter, borrowing equipment, etc.

Applying for local grants Grants are applied for by the regional offices but we noticed there were a lot of local grants that had to be used here. SBC was successful in receiving grants to purchase a professional display board, tv/vcr unit for our information booths, fund our message center, our puppy class and whelping equipment for the breeders and to help fund five new So. Bay Facility Dog teams. Some of the grants we received were from the Silicon Valley Charity Ball Foundation, the Adalyn Jay Foundation, the Small Brewers Community Service Association, the Health Trust, IBM and the Rotary Club.

Establishing relationships with local businesses and agencies SBC has enjoyed relationships with several businesses and agencies over the years which have enabled services to our South Bay CCI population and support for fund raisers. Premium Pet, now Petco, allows us to use their dog bathing facilities to bathe graduate dogs for free. Premium Pet allowed us to use their stores for several fund raisers and hosted our puppy class for several years; the Pet Spa bathes and grooms Assistance Dogs for free; Eastridge Mall hosted our Santa Paws for several years and sponsored a gift wrapping fundraiser for three years. Nana's Doggy Day Care now hosts our Santa Paws events and Hope Rehabilitation Services allows us to use one of their sites for our puppy class; Oak Grove School District and now Chandler Tripp have allowed us to use their school sites for activities. We've done several activities with Rainbow Girls and local Lions Clubs and Humane Societies in three counties. We've established relationships with local fire departments and police departments so our puppies can be exposed to the sights and sounds of a responding fire truck or police car.

Champions are now called Chapters but we are still the same in heart and spirit as the original "champions." We have a large presence in the South Bay and East Bay and we have created a solid donor base here through all your contacts in public. Each of you is an ambassador for CCI. During the past ten years, we have seen other Chapters become creative and innovative in how they support CCI too.

*Coming together is a beginning, ....keeping together is progress...working together is success.*

## Remembering Elwood



I had intended to profile Facility Dog *Elwood* for our 10th Year Anniversary issue because he was our first Facility Dog, but sadly, this is now a tribute to his memory. *Elwood* was put to sleep on April 14, almost exactly a year after his pal, Facility Dog *Tait*. *Elwood* was 12 years old and was still working at the time of his death. He had suddenly broken a leg and when he was x-rayed, it was discovered that he had bone cancer. His Facilitator, Lynn R., realized that for his condition, the best treatment was to let him go gently and lovingly.



*Elwood* was CCI's first Facility Dog. He would have been too much to handle for most disabled persons but there was something about him that made the instructors want to find an appropriate placement for him. They didn't release him. At about the same time, Lynn was becoming interested in pet-assisted therapy (a fairly new concept in those days) and called CCI for information. There was no such thing as Facility Dogs then. When the instructors learned that Lynn used to breed and train Labs AND was an occupational therapist who wanted to use a trained dog in working with her clients, CCI offered her *Elwood*. On very short notice, Lynn convinced the hospital administrators to buy into the idea of having a full-time therapy dog in the hospital and wrote a policy and procedures for his interactions with patients. There was no Team Training. An instructor brought him down to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center's Rehabilitation Hospital for Lynn to try out with her clients.

After about two months of on-the-job training, everyone was convinced that this is where *Elwood* belonged. Patients responded to him quickly and he was working little miracles from the beginning. Lynn and *Elwood* joined the July 1993 NW Graduating Class to make the placement official. SCVMC has one of the best rehab facilities in the country so his acceptance there really made it possible for other Facility Dogs to work in hospitals in other parts of the country. In a sense Lynn and *Elwood* "wrote the book" on how other Facility Dogs would be selected and trained.

Over the past ten years, So. Bay Chapter has had sixteen Facility Dogs and many of them were due to health care professionals meeting Lynn and *Elwood*. They left VMC and worked at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley for a few years before returning to VMC. Both hospitals are now sold on the value of Facility Dogs--so much so that SCVMC is hosting a reception to remember *Elwood* and is collecting donations to CCI in his honor. His friends at Alta Bates mourned his death also.

*Elwood* was a yellow Lab. At home he was the typical goofy Lab but at work, he was very serious and focused on his clients. Lynn and *Elwood* took the Facility Dog program beyond being a social companion. *Elwood* was actively involved in helping his patients/clients with therapeutic objectives. He motivated reluctant patients to participate in therapy; he gave them confidence to try something difficult like sitting up in bed or reaching up or standing or taking a step or just leaving the hospital room. Everything he did with a patient had a therapeutic purpose even though patients thought they were just having fun. His interactions were structured and directed by Lynn. When patients were stressed, *Elwood* offered reassurance, comfort, unconditional acceptance and love. He didn't care about the scars, speech impediments or limbs that were not in full control. He was always happy to be with them. At both VMC and Alta Bates, although he worked primarily with people with spinal cord or head trauma injuries, his services would sometimes be requested in the Pediatrics Ward. At VMC he had his own beeper number for these special requests. I had the opportunity of watching *Elwood* work with a young 14 year old boy who was paralyzed from the neck down after a freak accident. Although he could not actively interact with *Elwood*, you could still see that there was an emotional connection and that *Elwood* lifted his spirits.

*Elwood* was a pioneer for CCI's Facility Dog Program and the inspiration behind many of the other Facility Dog placements in the So. Bay. *Tait*, *Domingos*, *Jake*, *Izzy* and *Lusia* were applied for because their handlers saw the positive effect *Elwood* had on patient's progress. Thank you *Elwood* for your dedicated service; you touched the lives of hundreds of people who will never forget you.

\* \* \*

The staff of the the RehabilitationTherapy Services Department at Valley Medical Center is holding a cake and punch reception in honor of *Elwood* on **Friday, May 2, from 12-1:00** in the patio area next to the gym. (If it rains, it probably will be in the gym.) The invitation is extended to all local CCI people and canines who would like to join in the recognition of *Elwood*'s service to people with disabilities. The address is 751 S. Bascom Avenue in San Jose. Therapy Services is in the older part of the hospital (south end), not the new wing. Last year the staff enjoyed meeting the local CCI dogs who came to the reception honoring *Tait* and they donated over \$500 to CCI in his honor.

South Bay Social Activities

April was an appropriate month for our chapter dinner. We celebrated two occasions, our 10th Anniversary and National Volunteer Recognition Month. The dinner was held on Tuesday, April 1 at Chandler Tripp School. Thanks to Facility Team Diane R. and Dustin's work with Chandler Tripp's students, the school principal opened her school to our other CCI dogs. It was a perfect central location with accessible facilities. The school's large foyer was converted to a banquet room and an adjoining courtyard provided a safe place for the dogs to have an off-leash play session before dinner.

Dustin had "doggy appetizers" waiting for his canine friends as they arrived. Melissa & Winger were the first to arrive and Winger was carrying a bag of KFC—the ultimate test. Imagine being a dog and carrying a bag with the smell of chicken wafting under your nose. Winger passed that test with flying colors.

Forty-seven people and 17 dogs were in attendance: three Facility Teams, four Service Teams, two Skilled Companion Teams, three pups in training, five breeders, family members, friends and volunteers. It was a nice mix of people and the dogs had fun during the play session. They seem to recognize their playmates from previous play times now and they know where to find the toys. Just like kids, they go through the crate of dog toys and pull out their favorites. The pups litterally crashed as soon as they came back inside. Hmmmm....maybe they need vitamins. The older working dogs were still alert and ready to go back to work.

The dinner was a potluck and we had a delicious feast. The tables were buzzing with conversations. Since it was our anniversary, I took the opportunity to honor some of the attendees. One was supposed to be retired Breeder Patrice; however, a sudden illness in her family prevented her from coming. She was being recognized for her major contribution to CCI's breeding program. This will be detailed on the Breeders and Puppy page. Patrice has had a busy retirement. She filled in as a stand-in service dog for Jeanette Kaliska after Jolly died of cancer and demonstrated why so many of her descendents have graduated. When Jeanette received her successor dog, Serena, Patrice then became a companion to a little girl who was too young to apply for a Skilled Companion Dog. She hopes to have one eventually have a CCI dog, but in the meantime, Patrice helps watch over her.

Breeder Terry deserves honorary mention for following in Patrice's paw prints. Terry has produced six breeders and 16 graduates so far and her grandpups just started to go through Advanced Training last year and at least one has become a breeder and six have graduated that I know about. Terry and Patrice share many of the same offspring because she was bred to Patrice's Breeder dogs. Terry hasn't retired to being a couch potato either. She will officially become a Facility Dog this summer.

Joyce Fisher was recognized for whelping and caring for the most CCI puppies in the So. Bay. She has had two breeders, Issel and Faith plus fostered two CCI litters for a total of 68 puppies. (And they were in addition to the dogs she fosters for Pet Network, a rescue group.) Joan Cragun was recognized for doing double duty as a breeder caretaker and our webmaster. Linda Smith was recognized for having raised the most puppies (of the PRs in attendance). Marsden, (one of Calla's pups) is her fifth.

Some of the dogs in attendance went home with new toys because their owners were on the ball. The tables were decorated with several dog toys. Those who had a CCI brochure in their pocket or purse or were wearing something with a CCI logo on it or if the dog was wearing a CCI pin with it's name or had its name embroidered on the (graduate) vest got to take a toy for each criteria they met. I saw several of the dogs proudly carrying a new toy home in their mouth. They each got a bag of gourmet treats too. I think it's safe to say everyone had a good time.

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Carol O. and Terry will host the next Play Day in Palo Alto on June 1 from 11-2. Carol and Terry have their school's blessings to invite Terry's CCI friends over. Leeann & Jeannie will probably host a Play Day at Baldwin School in South San Jose later this year. Zinkle would want the tradition to continue. Joyce and Faith have scheduled August 4 for their Annual Swim Party for the working dogs and breeders. We have too many dogs to include the pups; however, if one of them gets Erin's and Vikki's blessings to host a swim party for pups, be my guest. It wouldn't be the first time a pool party was a field trip. I know several of the PRs have pools so I need to point out that the pups must learn to go in the pool only if invited. It should never be their option to jump in. That's very important. Also contrary to common belief, all dogs don't automatically know how to swim, even retrievers.

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- The next dinner may be
- in Menlo Park. Through
- Sandy & Wayne's
- roommate, Leslie, we have
- access to the Rosener
- House, a private facility
- for Senior Day Care in
- Menlo Park. This would
- be in the fall and on a
- weekend. Thanks Leslie!

# Anniversary Dinner



Winger - "This aroma is torture."



Family reunion: BC Joyce & Faith w/PR Cheri & Jagger and BC Jenny & Takia (both Faith's pups)



SC Doris w/Jessie



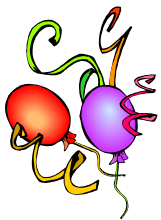
CCI people aren't shy with each other



Is Haidis still breathing?



Letice really is alive



Let's eat!



The food and company were great

# Breeder Caretaker & Puppy News

## Super Mom

Some people may wonder why I mention retired Breeder, *Patrice* so often. It is because *Patrice* has made a phenomenal contribution to CCI's breeding program. According to Dr. Ruth Daniels, CCI's National Breeding Program Veterinarian, *Patrice* is the top female producer of breeding stock. *Patrice* has produced seven breeders and 13 graduate dogs. That may not sound exceptional at first glance but two of her pups, *Bobby* and *Hemet*, are the current top producing studs. *Bobby* has produced 13 breeders and 50 graduates and *Hemet* has produced 9 breeders and 43 graduates. Two of her female breeders haven't done badly either; *Kauai* has given CCI 1 breeder and 5 graduates and she still has pups in training. *Brisbane* has given CCI 4 breeders and 11 graduates. The numbers multiply as we go down to her grand pups and great grand pups. Her grand pup, *Quester* and great grand pup, *Hanford* are also among CCI's top male studs. *Bobby*, *Hemet*, *Quester* and *Hanford* combined have produced a total of (as of February graduations) 31 breeders and 131 graduate dogs. And that doesn't count *Patrice's* other descendants who are breeders. At any given time, at least a third of CCI's breeders are related to *Patrice*. Among So. Bay Breeders, *Ossa*, *Elodie*, *Elektra*, *Tara*, *Takia* and *Kadin* are her grandpups

For awhile I was keeping track of the pups that graduated, but there's just too many of them. It is difficult to find a pup that isn't related to her. (It's usually a Golden Retriever.) If they are Labs, chances are very high you can trace their lineage back to *Patrice*. Most of the puppies in our Puppy Class and many of our local graduate dogs are related to her. She epitomizes what CCI wants in Breeders--high quality dogs that can produce more high quality dogs. *Patrice* certainly has accomplished that for CCI. SBC salutes our Super Mom, *Patrice*.

## Birth Announcements

*Elodie* had her fourth litter on April 4. Wendi H. and her mom Sue were able to help deliver five of the pups and they visiting often to help out. Their Breeder, *Persia*, is due to go into heat and will be having a litter this summer so this gives them a practice run and hands on experience. Eight pups were born but one was still born. The sire was *Hanford* and this will be a "J" litter. *Elodie's* BCs Tina and Dan set up a website at <http://home.attbi.com/~dan1256> so if you're interested you can watch them grow up.

*Kauai* just gave birth to her last litter on April 23. She had problems with this one. They were late and after the first five were born, *Kauai* had to have the last 3 by C-Section. Six survived but are healthy. The sire was *Quester*. This is a "S" litter. The puppy class was given an opportunity to help submit names for the "S" and "J" pups. We're waiting to hear CCI's choices.



Elodie & The J Pups



Kauai Looks Pooped!

## Standing Tall Too

Service Dog *Teresa's* PR did some research on her littermates and discovered that of the nine puppies in this litter, seven graduated. The proud mom is So. Bay's *Rebecca* and the father was (no surprise) *Bobby*. *Rebecca* is a Golden Retriever. Lab/Golden crosses have been very successful for CCI.

*Teresa* has one littermate in the NWR, *Tomas* who is also a Service Dog. In the SWR, *Teo* is a Skilled Companion and *Tecla* is a Service Dog. In the NER, *Tonio* is a Service Dog and *Tyrone* is a Skilled Companion. In the NCR, *Teness* (AKA *Travis*) is a Service Dog.

*Travis* was recently on television locally on the Jack Hanna Show that aired April 11. *Travis* is partnered with a doctor. He and his partner were also featured in the recent *Courier*.

One of *Giacco's* pups, *Heather*, graduated as a Hearing Dog on April 25. Her new partner is from Southern Ca. A Hearing Dog class was held separately with seven participants. Except for one, they are from out of state. The graduation was held at CCI and these new Hearing Teams will be announced with the May Graduating class although most of them will not be able to return to CA for the ceremony.

Also anticipating good news is *Terry* and her BC. Five of her "J" pups are completing the second semester of Advanced Training in different regions and could be graduating too in May.

Two pups raised in the So. Bay will be in the NW pool of dogs for the May Team Training and will be graduating if they are successfully matched. Pictures and details will be in the May issue.

\*All of the above pups are *Patrice's* kin.

# More Puppy and Canine News



Add one more teen Puppy Raiser to the So. Bay Puppy Class. Karen R. and her mom Kittie have joined our class and they live in Modesto! They want to attend our CCI class and don't mind driving to Santa Clara. What dedication! We're glad to have them because they are raising *Leanna*, one of *Tara's* pups so they're already "family." Her brother *Linus* is in our Puppy Class too. Now ten of the puppies in our Puppy Class have So. Bay moms or dads.

*Linus* will get to spend some time with his grandmom, *Terry*. Her BCs Carol and Walt will help raise him. Walt will bring him to work in an corporate environment and Carol will bring him to her preschool class. (Typical grandparents--have the kid for the fun stuff and send him home for the parents to look after.)

This should be another spring and summer of new litters in the South Bay. Several other So. Bay Breeders will be bred soon which will mean summer puppies. Puppy socializing begins when they're six weeks old. So if you're interested in this tough job, watch the calendar.

At the time of releasing the last issue, I didn't have the names for *Elektra's* last litter. They are *Fonda IV, Fera, Fergus III, Frida, Forester, Frankie IV, Faith IV and Fenway*. Since Breeder *Faith* is now retired, her name became available again.



The program *Dogs with Jobs* is shown all over the world. Facility Dog *Petaluma* (AKA *Lulu*) was filmed for one of the shows while she was working with preschool children with emotional and neurological disabilities. This program was seen in Scotland by a Special Ed teacher. She was very interested because she works with children with autism too and contacted Juli D. via email for more specific information of how she used *Lulu* with autistic children. Who would have though *Lulu* would have influence half way around the world.

The May 17 graduation will have a little of everything. Thirteen participants are scheduled to begin Team Training on May 5 to receive Service, Skilled Companion and Facility Dogs. With the seven that just graduated in the Hearing Dog class, that's a potential of 20 new graduate teams. Some of them will be returning to So. Bay and East Bay homes. Remember--the May Graduation will be at the Sonoma Country Day School Auditorium again. Directions are on NW's page on national's website, [www.caninecompanions.org](http://www.caninecompanions.org).

There will be more than one Hearing Dog class this year as increasing the number of Hearing Dog placements is one of CCI's goals. The only region that does the Hearing Dog training is NW but it is for all of the U.S. The Hearing Dog Team Training is very different from the Team Training for Service, Skilled Companion and Facility Dogs. Their primary function will be to alert to sounds like an alarm, a phone, a doorbell, a child crying etc. A Hearing Dog alerts by nudging its partner on the leg to get his/her attention and then leading them to the source of the sound. Sounds that are important will be different for different people and those sounds will be different from one environment to another. CCI has an apartment set up with different sounding doorbells and phones, but it is impossible to duplicate all sounds at CCI. So in a Hearing Dog Team Training, the focus of the training is really on the graduate.

For a Hearing Dog to be effective, it is crucial for the graduate to not only maintain what the dog has already learned but to expand the sounds it can alert to. Therefore the instructors focus on training them how to train the dog to alert to their specific important sounds after they return home. The Hearing Dogs graduate knowing how to alert to a phone and a doorbell and to recognize some sign language but it is up to the graduate to finish the training.

In case you haven't noticed yet, our website has been redone. Instead of individual profiles, there are now generic pages about Breeders, Puppy Raising and Graduate Dogs and new photos have been added. Take a look. You may see a familiar face. The Breeder Section will be expanded soon to include photos of all current and retired So. Bay Breeders. After that is completed, a *Heart of a Hero* page will be added to honor the So. Bay Assistance Dogs who have passed away. This means my going through some old photos to find a photo of those dogs. Graduates, if you have a favorite photo you would like me to use, either email it to me or send me the photo to scan and I'll return the photo.

Tony Maranon and his retired Service Dog, *Quadrille* were featured on Diane B's cable television program (in Pacifica) earlier this month. The program was aired four times.

SBC News

New Presentations

The April session with the San Jose Library was done my Linda S. & Calla, Betty and Noel L. with Marsden and I. The theme for the children that night was "Mothers, Fathers & Grandparents." Calla is a Breeder and Marsden is one of her pups. We did the "warm-up" for the librarian's stories. We're skipping their June meeting because they are having a field trip to the Children's Zoo at Kelly Park.

Diane & Dustin did another presentation at Chandler Tripp for a "baby group." This is really to the parents who bring their babies that have disabilities for an early intervention program. Rather than wait for these children to be old enough to participate in their preschool programs, these parents learn now how to help stimulate their child's development in the meantime at home. Since Alicia received her own Skilled Companion Dog, Honey, there has more interest in CCI among the other parents in the school. Having their own "Dustin" like "Honey" is motivating them to think about applying. Diane & Dustin are also working on requests from Special Ed. teachers to visit their class at Del Mar High School and Baldwin Elementary School (where we have our Zinkle's Play Days).

Daniel's dad, Jose N. & Skilled Companion, Kyak, did the presentation for the Mid-Peninsula Community Day School. This is the program where the students are raising money for various charities. It will be interesting to see how much the class donates to CCI this year.

Service Team Carol P. & Alex and I did a presentation to San Jose State's Outpatient Occupational Therapy Clinic. The presentation was to the clients, their caregivers and the OT students that staff the clinic.

Facility Team Barbara W. & Tacoma and I with borrowed pup, Ace, are doing a presentation at a dinner and fund raiser for the Alameda Humane Society.

Pending are requests for July: a presentation for a Muscular Dystrophy Association support group, a presentation for the Calpine Foundation and a request for CCI people to participate in the Pooch Pow Wow and Canine Convention at the Niles Community Park, July 19 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. You don't need to stay the whole day. Just being there with your CCI dog would be sufficient as long as you bring CCI brochures with you to hand out when people ask for contact information. More information about this dog event can be found on this website, www.niles.org/dogshow.html. Let me know if you plan to attend.

The Human Race is Saturday, May 10 at Shoreline Park in Mt. View. This is revenue CCI is counting on in their budget projections. It doesn't come if people aren't raising the donations. So if you were thinking about it, time is getting short. The registration form and pledge sheets can be downloaded from www.vcsv.org/humanrace-info.shtml. Use the letter "from your dog" in the March issue to inspire donations. All checks (any amount) are to be made payable to The Human Race. If you have cash donations, please write a check for the cash amount. Since I can't be at the Human Race this year, you can turn in your pledge sheets and money at the event directly to the Volunteer Center. You will be given a big envelope to place your money and pledge sheet when you register. Please write out Canine Companions for Independence, not CCI. There are other organizations participating with similar acronyms.

The 5K course is wheelchair accessible. Serious runners start at 8:30; walkers at 8:45. Please note that there is a separate pathway for people with dogs, (probably because there is wildlife there in the marshes.) I didn't get any eager volunteers to set up a booth at 6:30 in the morning so I didn't reserve the space. However, you folks can still meet and walk together as a group. Whoever takes pictures, please send some to me. CCI shipped me the CCI Human Race t-shirts. If you tell me you are participating and raising at least \$50, I will mail you the shirt. ( I need to know your size.) If you are a PR, I will give it to you at Puppy Class. If you have any questions or can't download the forms, email me or call me at 408 257-6860.

If you are wondering if you missed the ADI public access test, no, you didn't miss it. It's being coordinated by Instructor, Joellen L. at CCI and she was tied up on jury duty for a long trial. Then she was involved with the Hearing Dog Class and now the May Team training will be starting.

It will probably be held in San Jose now. The possible site is the Prune Yard Shopping Center. The graduates due for recertification will be contacted by CCI.

So far, I have three Service Teams participating in the Incredible Dog Challenge on May 10 in Sharon Meadows in Golden Gate Park: Leeann L & Jeannie, Carl Z. & Truman and Krista F. & Steeler. If you plan to come, CCI is the first event at 9:30. Plan to come early because it will take you awhile to find parking.

Breeder Joyce Fisher has worn a Golden Retriever costume at the Los Gatos Christmas Parade for the past three or four years. She got ambitious and now she is making three more, this time a Yellow Lab, Black Lab and maybe a LGX(?). She already has volunteers to wear them so don't worry about my asking you to.

## Close Up and Personal

*There have been a lot of staff changes at CCI in the past ten years but one person who is still there since our chapter began is Dr. Ruth Daniels. The following is an abstract from an interview done by Chris Aceituno, editor of the Gold Rush Chapter's newsletter. Permission was given for it to be shared with other chapters.*

Dr. Ruth came to CCI in 1982 and recalls that in 1982, five dogs graduated. CCI originally did not have its own breeders. As the idea evolved, Dr. Ruth studied a variety of subject areas relevant to the breeding program, including genetics, statistics, dog breeding, whelping and behavior. In 1989, she graduated from UC, Davis, with a master's degree in addition to her doctorate degree in veterinary medicine that she earned in 1970.

Armed with this educational background, years of experience as a practicing veterinarian and her personal experience breeding German shepherds, Dr. Ruth was asked to be the Breeding Program veterinarian. This is where she became matchmaker and whelping helper to the Santa Rosa breeders. Dr. Ruth patiently answers even the most inane question of the novice breeder/caretaker with a snicker. In addition, she supervises the breedings, monitors the hormone levels of the females throughout the process and provides real-time advice by telephone to remote breeder/caretakers.



Over the years, Dr. Ruth recalls that many, many breeds were used to achieve CCI's mission, some with more success than others. Among those used have been collies, poodles, border terriers, kelpies, Australian shepherds, German shepherds, Doberman pinschers, various retrievers, Welsh corgis and Belgian sheepdogs. Currently, CCI uses only Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers. These breeds were found to generally be more adaptable to kennel life, as opposed to herding breeds. Then, as now, new genetic lines were acquired through donations from breeders and purchases of high-quality dogs. Currently CCI's breeding colony is nearly closed thanks to several generations of carefully selected and monitored breeding.

The breeding program is responsible to insure that the dogs selected as breeders are exemplary specimens of their breeds, both physically and temperamentally. Consequently, all CCI breeders are certified as having "tight" hips. It is mandatory that the breeders' hips and elbows are sound to help insure their offspring will be physically capable of a lifetime of demanding physical work with a disabled partner.

Through the OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) evaluation and PennHIP evaluation, CCI's breeding program has been very effective in reducing the incidence of hip dysplasia to less than 10%. Dr. Ruth says the single most important thing that a PR can do to help prevent hip or elbow dysplasia is to maintain the dog's weight within normal limits by following the recommended diet. A 15-year study confirmed that dogs kept at a lean body weight are far less likely to encounter dysplasia, cancers and other health problems. Dr. Ruth also recommends exercise, but a minimum of jumping and twisting for the little ones. (Try to explain THAT to your breeder's next litter of pups.)

In addition to the evaluation on the ADIT's hips, the pup must pass a battery of additional tests on her heart, eyes and elbows. Veterinary specialists in cardiology and ophthalmology assist CCI veterinary staff to complete these examinations on each pup turned in to CCI. Breeders also have an additional hip evaluation at approximately 24 months of age.

In collaboration with Paul Mundell, Dr. Ruth is also responsible for insuring the correct distribution of pups to the regional centers to meet the projected number of graduates. Generally speaking, the NW region gets about 1/3 of the pups, partly because of the size of the center, and also because the potential breeders have generally been kept in this region.

Without the least hesitation, Dr. Ruth says the best part of her job is that the males LOVE her. Not many of us can say that about our job. She says the downside of her work is the whelping problems that crop up and the difficult and sometimes heartbreaking decisions that must be made when a breeder has unexpected health problems.

Dr. Ruth believes that an important aside for the PRs and other volunteers involved with CCI is that we are trained to handle dogs and thus produce mannerly, well-trained canine companions even if the dog is released.