

The Seeing Eye®

# GUIDE

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE SEEING EYE



## MAN IN MOTION: Marathoner Kyle Coon

# Welcome to The Seeing Eye Heritage Society

The Seeing Eye Heritage Society was founded in 1989 to recognize and honor those individuals who have taken the important step of including a legacy gift to The Seeing Eye in their financial portfolios or estate plans. Members of The Heritage Society have recognized the importance of the continuation of our work with people who are blind and visually impaired and have expressed a commitment to that end by planning a gift which will help provide for the future success of the school.

Legacy gifts make up a large portion of the donations received by The Seeing Eye each year, for which we are most grateful. Gifts of this nature secure the future of our mission, providing ongoing services to our graduates and new students.

It is very possible that you are eligible for membership in The Heritage Society, but haven't let us know. If you have created a bequest in your will or trust, or named The Seeing Eye as beneficiary of a charitable trust, a retirement plan, or a life insurance policy, you are eligible to become a member of The Heritage Society! We want very much to be able to say "thank you" and include you in The Heritage Society events.

**Please take a moment to inform us of your intention by calling 800-539-4425 ext. 1735 or email [donate@SeeingEye.org](mailto:donate@SeeingEye.org).**



Across these pages you will see the names of those individuals who have informed us of their extraordinary commitment to enhancing the independence, dignity, and self-confidence of people who are blind through the use of Seeing Eye® dogs by providing for The Seeing Eye in their estate plans. Thank you!

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Mary E. Wurst  
Joyce B. Young  
Richard & Simone Zoladz  
30 Members wish to remain anonymous

\*In memoriam

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### ON THE COVER:

*Kyle Coon loves a challenge: He's completed an Ironman Triathlon, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, and visited Machu Picchu! Next up: The Boston Marathon. The cover photo shows Kyle walking with his Seeing Eye dog, a black Labrador retriever named Skye.*

# The Seeing Eye® GUIDE

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE SEEING EYE

## A Seeing Eye Perspective

We've all heard reports of "fake service animals" – people who fraudulently claim their pet dogs are service animals and therefore are entitled to accompany them in public under the same legal protections afforded to my Seeing Eye® dog Vegas while he is guiding me.

Many well-intentioned people have suggested new regulations that would differentiate between legitimate service animals like Vegas from those whose owners are making false claims, such as creation of a national service dog registry with identification cards or an official "service animal vest."

And they're often surprised to hear that I don't support this idea.

There are a number of logistical problems with these solutions: Who would issue the cards or vests? How would the system be funded? How would international visitors with service animals be handled? What would prevent the cards or vests from being counterfeited? If the cards or vests are tied to a national or state registry, how do businesses, public transportation operators, and others go about accessing this information? Would every service animal have to be microchipped, and all businesses be issued chip readers, to ensure the animal in question is indeed the specific service animal the disabled person is permitted to have in public?

The proposed ID card system also would require the disabled person take the extra step of showing an ID card before entering an establishment. That "step" would be discriminatory and would take away a disabled person's right to be treated like everyone else – a right that one of our founders, Morris Frank, and thousands more of our graduates have fought long and hard to uphold.

But the single, largest issue with these proposed regulations centers on protecting the privacy of the person who is disabled. This is particularly important when the person is blind or visually impaired. As a blind person, I can't verify the authenticity of the person asking to see my ID. How do I know if it's a legitimate request, someone being nosy, or an attempt by a criminal to obtain my personal information?

The good news: Under existing federal law, any service animal, legitimate or not, can be excluded if it is misbehaving. No additional legislation is required. The Americans with Disabilities Act states that an animal can be removed from the premises if it "is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it, or the animal is not housebroken."

Of course, "out of control" and "effective action" are in the eye of the beholder. However, the U.S. Department of Justice maintains that uncontrolled barking, vicious growling and lunging at other customers (or service animals), and wandering away from the owner are examples of unacceptable behavior. Moreover, stores are not required to allow service animals to be placed in shopping carts, and places that serve food or drink are not required to allow service animals to be seated on chairs or fed at the table.

Instead of coming up with additional rules, let's educate businesses and the public on the laws that already exist, and do all we can to ensure people who are disabled don't have additional hurdles to overcome as they engage in the ordinary activities of daily life.

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



**Dear Seeing Eye:**

Dolly is my first guide dog. I got a two-fer when I got Dolly: Not only is she an amazing Seeing Eye dog who keeps me safe, but she is the best companion a woman could ever wish for. She is loving, obedient, interesting, and very funny. My life is incredibly enhanced because of her presence in it. She is everything I had hoped for and so, so much more. I now travel confidently, independently, and joyously every day. I trust her with my life everywhere we go. Dolly loves to work. When she sees me get her harness out, she gets very excited. Once it is on, she becomes very serious. She shows me every curb, step, and ramp. She has taken me carefully around obstacles as we go for our daily walks. Several times, the sidewalks in our



neighborhood have been roped off due to work to install new curb cuts. Dolly always finds our way around. Before I got her, I did not cross busy streets by myself because I was almost struck by a car twice while crossing with a cane. I trust Dolly completely and now cross busy streets regularly with confidence.

When we are in restaurants, Dolly is always very well behaved, never sniffing at, or trying to snag anyone's dinner. I work out at the gym four days a week. Dolly is well loved there. She lies quietly on the floor next to me in my classes and in the weights area. I often have to wake her up after a class, even the ones that play loud music. In my yoga class, Dolly occasionally demonstrates for the class the proper way to do the downward facing dog pose. As she lays on the floor by my yoga mat, she often puts her paw on my arm. It is as if she is saying, "I love you, I am here for you when you need me".

To Dolly's puppy raisers: I want to take this opportunity to thank you so very much for your unselfish and loving act of taking care of Dolly for the first year of her precious life. Thank you, thank you, thank you. As much as I love her, I can only imagine how difficult it must have been for you to say goodbye to this angel. What you have given to me in your gift of taking such good care of Dolly cannot be expressed properly in mere words. I want to reassure you that Dolly is very much loved, appreciated, and well taken care of. What you do as puppy raisers is priceless and so very unselfish and loving. A guide dog represents freedom to a blind person. Also, that loving companionship is so vital to the happiness and well being of so many blind people. I now know that I will have a guide dog by my side as long as I can take care of one. Thanks to people like you, this is possible. Your gift is so appreciated. The fact that it is anonymous is an indication of the content of your character. Thank you.

*Karen Wood*

*Seeing Eye graduate*

# graduate profile

## MAN IN MOTION



*Kyle Coon completing the Pineapple Man Sprint Triathlon with sighted guide Michael Melton.*



*Kyle and sighted guide Trinity Terry.*

### **Kyle Coon loves a challenge. The Boston Marathon is next.**

"There are tons of things I have on my bucket list that I want to accomplish," Kyle said. "The Boston Marathon is a big one and I'm looking forward to it."

Already crossed off that list: Completing an Ironman Triathlon, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, taking the Inca Trail into Machu Picchu, finishing Disney World's "Goofy's Race and a Half Challenge" (running a half marathon on Saturday and a full marathon on Sunday), going on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, and taking 1st place in the Physically Challenged division in the St. Anthony's Olympic Distance Triathlon, the Pineapple Man Sprint Triathlon, and the Augusta 70.3 Triathlon.

Just to name a few of his many accomplishments.

In December, he completed the California International Marathon in Sacramento with a time good enough to qualify for the Boston Marathon in April. "Boston is probably the most iconic marathon in the world," he said. "It's the opportunity of a lifetime to get to do it."

Kyle finished the California International Marathon in 4 hours, 31 minutes, and 16 seconds. He said he's hoping for a similar time in Boston, but he knows it won't be easy: "Boston is a tough marathon because it's pretty hilly," he said. "It starts out fairly easy because it's a downhill, but once you hit mile 16 or 17, you start climbing up. You finish running up hill. The save the hardest for last."

He laughed. "It's going to be fun. Call me crazy, but I'm looking forward to it!"

As a child, Kyle had a rare form of eye cancer called Bilateral Sporadic Retinoblastoma. His left eye was removed at the age of 5, and his right eye a year later. At the age of 11, he was on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, where he got to meet Erik Weihenmayer – the first blind person to summit Mt. Everest.

Kyle was a 17-year-old high school senior when he was matched with his first Seeing Eye dog, a golden retriever named Tyrone. With Tyrone at his side, he graduated from the University of Central Florida with a degree in interpersonal-organizational communications.

He returned to The Seeing Eye last year to be matched with his second Seeing Eye dog, a black Labrador retriever named Skye. After living for many years in Florida, he recently moved to Carbondale, Colorado, where he's been doing a lot of skiing.

"I've been hitting the slopes pretty hard this winter," he said. "It's been very nice."

After the Boston Marathon, Kyle's next challenge will be Ironman Arizona, to be held in November. It will be his second Ironman, having completed Ironman Boulder in August. An Ironman triathlon is a 2.4 mile swim, followed by a 112-mile bicycle ride, and at last a 26.2-mile marathon.

"Ironman Boulder was one of the toughest things I've ever done," Kyle said. "Racing an Ironman is a really long day. It was almost 16 hours of constant movement. You have to ignore the aches and pains that are going through your body. But more than that, it's mentally exhausting. You have to block everything out and just keep going. Just keep putting one foot in front of the other."

How does he do it?

For the bike race, Kyle pedals from the back of a custom-built tandem bicycle, with a sighted partner up front. For the swimming and running portions of the Triathlon, Kyle is tethered to his racing partner. "We run side-by-side," he said. "He bumps my shoulder or gives me verbal directions as to what's coming up. The tether is long enough I can slip behind him if we come up to a skinny space and have to get tight."

Skye stays home on race day, but other than that, the two are largely inseparable, Kyle said.

"We've gone on little hikes together, three to five miles," said Kyle, who quipped that the Americans with Disabilities Act doesn't cover mountain trails. "It can be pretty challenging. But he loves getting out there, whether it's in town or on a trail or in the snow. It's a lot of fun working with him." On flat ground, he said, they comfortably "cruise" at 3 ½ to 4 miles an hour.

"Skye's favorite thing to do is to roll over on his back and have his chest scratched," Kyle said. "He loves to play tug of war with his bone. It's funny, he usually won't chew his bone unless I'm holding onto the other end of it. He's a very playful, bouncy, fun dog."



Kyle and Michael show off the custom-built tandem bicycle they ride in triathlons.



THE  
GIFT  
of

# Independence

Patricia Taylor and Vali, third from left, and the graduating class of March 1967. On the far right is instructor Fred Krajczar.



**Patricia Taylor of Keysville, Virginia, was matched with her first Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Vali, in 1967.**

"I was scared to death," Patricia recalled. "I came from a little town that had no traffic lights – it still doesn't have one for that matter – and here I was out on the streets of Morristown, which felt like a very big city to me. I was thinking, 'Can I really do this? Can I really trust this dog?' And we started out and she stopped. And a car I hadn't heard went right by where I would have walked if she hadn't stopped. And I knew right then 'Yes I can do this and yes I can trust her!' She was an outstanding guide dog."

Now 84, Patricia uses a wheelchair for mobility and says she doesn't get out enough these days to make use of a Seeing Eye dog. Her last dog, a black Labrador retriever named Hassie, retired in 2011. But she said she wanted to give something back to The Seeing Eye – a generous donation to name a puppy Samson.

"It's a gift I am making to The Seeing Eye, because The Seeing Eye had given me a great gift," she said. "The Seeing Eye gave me independence, dignity, and confidence. With a harness in my hand I could do anything, go anywhere. I could go where ever I needed to go. And I just about did! I went to business school, I got a job at a hospital as a medical transcriber, I traveled, I did whatever I wanted to do. I enjoyed every one of my Seeing Eye dogs. We played and we worked and whatever I gave them they gave me back so many times over.

"They gave me my freedom, and I want every person to have that same experience. I want to give others the chance to appreciate how a Seeing Eye dog can change your life."



Patricia in 1998 with, on the left, her retired Seeing Eye dog Cheery, and on the right, her then new Seeing Eye dog Hassie.

**Donors who make gifts of \$5,000 or more can name a Seeing Eye puppy. For more information or to donate, go to [www.SeeingEye.org/name](http://www.SeeingEye.org/name).**





## The Difference A Mother Makes

The Seeing Eye has been producing the world's best guide dogs for 88 years, and we have some of the best success rates in the industry when it comes to breeding, training, and matching dogs to people who are blind or visually impaired.

But we can do even better!

Emily Bray, a doctoral candidate in animal learning and behavior at the University of Pennsylvania, is studying the impact a mother can have in her puppies' future success as Seeing Eye dogs. Her initial findings have been published in the February 2017 issue of *Frontiers in Psychology*.

"Across many species, early maternal care has been shown to play a role in programming later emotions, behavior, and cognition in the young," Emily explained.

The first part of her research was observing over a six-month period the interactions between 21 mothers and their more than 130 puppies at The Seeing Eye's breeding station. At the breeding station, the newborn puppies are placed in a towel-lined plastic wading pool, which is located within the mother's larger pen. The mother can choose how much time she spends inside the pool. Emily and three undergraduate assistants spent hours observing these interactions on video, recording exactly how much time each

mother spent interacting with her litter over the first three weeks.

"We broke these interactions into seven categories: time spent in the pool with her puppies, physically contacting her puppies, licking and grooming her puppies, nursing her puppies while laying on her stomach, nursing her puppies while laying on her side, nursing her puppies while sitting or standing, and being vigilant toward other activity in the main pavilion while in the pool with her puppies," Emily said.

"Some dogs naturally spent a lot of time 'mothering' their litter, while others took a more hands-off approach," she said. "We found that that mothering type was related to, but not completely determined by, certain demographic factors. In general, Labrador retriever mothers were more interactive with their puppies than German shepherd mothers; mothers of smaller litters were more interactive with their puppies than mothers of larger litters; and inexperienced mothers were more interactive with their

litters than more experienced mothers."

Using mouth swabs, the researchers gathered saliva from the mothers to measure the stress hormone cortisol. Dogs that did the most "mothering" showed slightly higher stress levels compared to other dogs, and experienced more stress if their puppies were briefly taken away, than the "hands off" mothers.

The next part of the study will involve following each puppy in the study to determine the effect of maternal style on a dog's success as a Seeing Eye dog.



Emily Bray with a yellow Labrador retriever puppy in the "puppy playroom" at The Seeing Eye's breeding station.

## Recognition for Bob Vetere

Seeing Eye graduate Bob Vetere, senior workplace accommodation specialist with Northrop Grumman's Global Corporate Responsibility organization, has been awarded the 2017 Stephen Garff Marriott Award from the American Foundation for the Blind.

The award honors a blind or visually impaired individual who has served as an extraordinary mentor or who has attained remarkable professional success.

"When I was told that I would be named the 2017 Marriott Award winner, my mind went to the many people that support me in my passion to make employment easier for the next generation of young people with disabilities," Bob said. "Topping the list is my wife of 43 years, Susan. Running a close second are the wonderful staff at The Seeing Eye. You don't leave with just a dog, you leave empowered with the confidence, independence, and self-esteem that many of us felt could never be restored. From the CEO to the staff in the dining room, I was embraced as family and I carry that lesson and compassion with me as I work and travel."



Bob Vetere and Waverly.

Bob also recently was named Mentor of the Year by the U.S. Business Leadership Network and was inducted into the Susan M. Daniels Disability Mentoring Hall of Fame by the National Disability Mentoring Coalition.

Bob returned to The Seeing Eye in 2015 to be matched with his second Seeing Eye dog, a German shepherd named Waverly. "Waverly is incredible," he said. "He not only takes me to work every day, but we travel the country together, reaching out to others."

A graphic design for a jazz festival. It features a large, stylized treble clef in orange and white on the left. To its right are several musical notes in pink and teal, floating above a series of blue, wavy lines that suggest sound or movement. The background is black. At the bottom, the text "All That Jazz" is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. On the far left edge, there is small vertical text that reads "Designed by Freepik".

Designed by Freepik

### All That Jazz

## A FESTIVAL of MUSIC TO BENEFIT THE SEEING EYE

The Beacon Hill Musicians, and friends, are once again performing to raise money for The Seeing Eye.

"A Festival of Music 3" will be held Saturday, March 25, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Marty Eigen, leader of the Beacon Hill Jazz Band, will host the show.



Performing will be Amani, with Marty Eigen on saxophone and flute, Fred Fischer on keyboards, vocalist Stephen Fuller, and guitarist Flip Peters; Rio Clemente, "the Bishop of Jazz"; Gene Perla, formerly with Sonny Rollins, Sarah Vaughan, and Nina Simone; Grover Kemble, formerly of Sha Na Na and Za Zu Zaz; Gordon Lane, formerly with Dionne Warwick, Dizzy Gillespie, and Stanley Jordan; and jazz singer and multi-label recording artist Sarah Partridge.

**Tickets are \$50. To purchase tickets, or to donate in lieu of purchasing tickets, call The Seeing Eye at (800) 539-4425 or go to [www.SeeingEye.org](http://www.SeeingEye.org).**



# Duffy Elected Chairman of the Board

Thomas Duffy, the Global Chief Operating Officer, Audit, for KPMG LLP, was elected Chair of The Seeing Eye Board of Trustees at its December meeting.

Ari Benacerraf, partner and co-founder of Diamond Castle, was elected Vice Chair; Dr. Margaret E. L. (Peggi) Howard was re-elected as the other Vice Chair, Robert Hamwee was re-elected

Treasurer, and Seeing Eye graduate Julie Carroll was re-elected Secretary.

"The first time I set foot on campus, met with members of the Seeing Eye management team, and understood what this organization does, I knew I had to become involved with the mission," said Duffy, who has served on The Seeing Eye's Board of Trustees since 2006. "The impact on the quality of life of blind and visually impaired individuals when they are matched and bond with a Seeing Eye dog is incredible. I consider it a



*Thomas Duffy*

privilege to serve on the Board of Trustees of this world-class organization."

Duffy replaces Peter Crnkovich, who stepped down from the board after serving the maximum term on the board. Crnkovich served as board chair from 2013 to 2016, and had previously served as a vice chair.

The Seeing Eye board also recently elected two new trustees: Catherine A. Kiernan, vice president and general counsel at Seton Hall University; and Mark "Duke" Mulvoy, senior vice president and portfolio manager at First Republic Investment Management.

In addition, Michael W. Ranger who served on The Seeing Eye's Board of Trustees from 2002 through 2013, including as Chairman of the Board from 2005 through 2009, was named an honorary trustee.



## SET IN STONE

**Are you looking to memorialize a favorite person or dog in your life, or looking for the perfect gift for someone who has everything?**

Personalizing an engraved paving stone on The Seeing Eye's Path to Independence is a great way to leave a lasting legacy for you or a loved one. A gift of \$250 can commemorate a 4-inch by 8-inch brick with room for up to 39 characters; \$500 for an 8-inch square brick containing up to 78 characters; and \$1,000 or more for a 12-inch square paver with up to 128 characters. Bricks are installed annually in the fall. The deadline to order a brick to be installed this fall is April 30.

**For more information visit [SeeingEye.org/Bricks](http://SeeingEye.org/Bricks), email [donate@SeeingEye.org](mailto:donate@SeeingEye.org) or call (973) 539-4425.**

## Leading the Way

Congratulations to Juniata County (Pennsylvania) 4-H Puppy Club Leader Jean Swartz, who received the 2016 Pennsylvania Community Service Award from the Pennsylvania Agricultural Extension Service. Jean's award was recognized in February by the Juniata County Commissioners.

"Jean does such a great job as puppy club leader, and we certainly appreciate all her efforts, not only with raising puppies, but raising quality 4-H'ers as well," said Teresa Ellinger, 4-H Program Assistant, who nominated Jean for the award.

Puppy clubs meet regularly so the puppies can socialize with other dogs (and humans), and also go on outings where they're exposed to different sights, sounds, and experiences.



Jean Swartz

Jean, who has raised 23 puppies for The Seeing Eye, founded the Juniata County's Puppy Club in 1994. She encourages her members to participate in community service projects, including educational presentations to schools, civic clubs, military families, nursing homes, and farm shows.

"Jean is a wonderful leader and a wonderful person," said Ellen Russell, Seeing Eye Puppy Development area coordinator for Juniata County. "She is

a wonderful example for her 4-H'ers to follow. Not just in puppy raising, but in life as well."

The Seeing Eye is looking for puppy raiser families who live within a two-hour drive of our campus in Morristown, New Jersey.

**If you're interested in raising a puppy, go to [www.SeeingEye.org/raise](http://www.SeeingEye.org/raise) or call us at (800) 539-4425 and ask for Puppy Development.**

## Waking up with The Seeing Eye



Jane Pauley with Phoenix on the set of CBS Sunday Morning.

This year, The Seeing Eye is celebrating the 88th anniversary of its founding on January 29, 1929. Kicking off the festivities was an appearance on the "Almanac" segment of *CBS Sunday Morning*.

Host Jane Pauley talked about the history of The Seeing Eye, showing a video of Morris Frank talking in 1979 about training with Buddy 50 years earlier. They also showed video from 1983 of a visit to The Seeing Eye's breeding station, then located in Mendham, New Jersey.

Jane ended the segment petting Phoenix, a yellow Labrador retriever being trained as a Seeing Eye dog.

**You can see the segment at [www.cbsnews.com/news/almanac-seeing-eye-dogs](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/almanac-seeing-eye-dogs).**

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Photo by Colleen Heimbach / Northampton County (Pa.) Puppy Club

## Waiting for Spring

Spring is almost here... which means it's time for The Seeing Eye's annual online auction! The auction begins April 3 and ends April 13. If you have a new or unique item to donate, or if your company would be interested in sponsoring the auction, please contact **Sara Meehan at SMeehan@SeeingEye.org, or call (973) 539-4425 ext. 1736.**

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

The Seeing Eye is an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation. The mission of The Seeing Eye is to enhance the independence, dignity and self-confidence of people who are blind, through the use of specially trained Seeing Eye dogs.

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