



Dedicated to placing our rescued golden retrievers in safe, loving & permanent homes

## GOLDEN CONNECTIONS E-Newsletter

July 2009

### AZGRC In Need Of Foster Families

Hi! Finnie B here!

I am sending a bark out to all of you well-behaved doggies! AZGRC needs your help! We have more dogs waiting to be rescued than we have families to care for them. Since AZGRC can only bring in as many dogs as we have foster families that means some wonderful Golden retrievers are not going to get a chance at a new, happy life unless you can beg your Mom and Dad to become an AZGRC Foster.

My Mom and Dad fostered me and then loved me so much they decided to keep me. Since then, I've helped foster several puppies (WHEW!) as well as several grown-up dogs. Whenever new friends arrive they can be a little scared at first, but I keep telling them about their new purple collar that is really a halo that will guide them to a new forever family. And sure enough, I'm always right! So, please, give your Mom and Dad your saddest, weepiest, brown-eyed stare and beg them to help AZGRC save dogs like me and you! WE NEED YOUR HELP!



#### **Note about Finnie's Mom:**

*Julie B began volunteering with AZGRC almost two years ago, doing vet checks, home visits, shelter walking, and dog transportation to name a few. As AZGRC's Foster Coordinator, Julie is the first one to hear about a dog waiting to be rescued. She works closely with the Intake Team, finding the right foster family for each dog that comes to AZGRC. She also educates new foster families on what is involved in caring for a rescued dog.*



*Julie has four children, the youngest 1 month old, and she has two Golden retrievers, one of which (Finnie) is an AZGRC rescue. Besides caring for her family, volunteering for AZGRC and fostering Golden retrievers, Julie is a part-time pediatric RN at Phoenix Children's Hospital.*

*This is one busy lady, and one would wonder why she fosters dogs. Here's what Julie says:*

*"I adore fostering. We have fostered mostly shelter dogs and puppies. What a rewarding experience to bring these skinny, scared and broken animals to our home and watch them bloom into loving, healthy, vibrate companions. As a foster, you get to know the dogs and help decide what kind of family would be best for each one. Some have been a little naughty (the puppies, of course!) and needed training, but to work with them and see them move to a family who adores them is so very*

*gratifying. What could be better than seeing a dog become an essential missing component of a family. Even when I have seen some of my foster dogs months later, they still seem to remember me. I have loved them all, but know they are where they were meant to be.*

If you would like to learn more about fostering an AZGRC rescue dog, click

[HELP ME](#) or send an e-mail to [info@azgrc.org](mailto:info@azgrc.org). Be sure to use INTEREST IN FOSTERING as your subject line for the e-mail.

Julie will be happy to talk with you about this rewarding experience. AZGRC takes care of all medical costs associated with your foster dog and provides crates if needed. So, please don't wait, there's a Golden out there begging for your help!

## Remembering Olivia

She was a 1-year-old, tiny, blonde Golden Retriever that was found as a stray and taken to the animal shelter. The rules of the shelter are that a stray dog has to be held for 72 hours to give the owners a chance to locate their dog. She came into the shelter on a Thursday and a shelter walker saw her and sent out a picture. The e-mail said, "He/she came in as a stray. Would not turn his/her head towards me. Appears to be depressed."

On Friday, another shelter walker reports on the dog, now referred to Eastside Kennel 28. More pictures and an e-mail stating again: appears depressed, would not engage. After years of doing rescue, we know it is common for Golden Retrievers to act depressed and timid in the shelter environment. Golden Retrievers are such social dogs that they seem to be affected more in the stressful shelter environment than some other breeds.

On Saturday, another shelter walker, more pictures and another e-mail: "Kennel 28 now has lots of drainage from her eyes. I think someone should try to get this dog out on a 'medical foster.'" A medical foster is special permission from the shelter to take a stray dog before its 72 hours have been completed. It is rarely granted, but we decided it was worth a try. Early Sunday morning, I and our Adoption Coordinator, Eileen, go to the shelter. When we open the door that leads to the kennels we are overpowered by a blast of heat. It is June in Arizona, but the kennels are never this hot. We reach Kennel 28 and there she lies, unresponsive and barely breathing. We place her on a blanket and I pick her up in my arms. We head for the door and yell over our shoulders, "We are taking kennel 28 out on medical foster. We will come back later to do the paperwork." We decide to break the rules, not ask for permission, skip the paperwork, and trust me, no one was going to stop us.

We had called ahead, and as we pull up to Dobson Ranch Animal Hospital, the staff is waiting for us. We rush her into the back and vet tech Kim and the staff immediately start to work on her. The first thing is oxygen. The next is to get an intravenous line started, but she is so dehydrated and has low blood pressure that it is difficult to do. Her temperature is 105.8 degrees. We now know she is a girl and she is given a name. Olivia. Yes, Olivia sounds perfect. We keep telling her, "Livy, you have to fight to live. We will do our part if you will just keep fighting." We call Karol, our foster follow-up coordinator, to see if she can come to the animal hospital also. She arrives with fluids for us humans who have now been sweating and fighting to keep Olivia alive. After a chest X-ray, Olivia cardiac arrests, but we are able to bring her back. We keep petting her, talking to her and telling her how special she is and that she is loved. We tell her about what her life is going to be like once she is adopted.

Unfortunately, things take another turn for the worse and now we have to decide what is the humane thing to do for Olivia. We tell her about the Rainbow Bridge and how she will be at peace. As she takes her last breath, I tell her I am adopting her. Olivia passes peacefully no longer a stray but my dog. Yes, my dog if only for one breath.

It has been only one day since I lost my dog, Olivia. I let the sadness wash over me and wonder the same questions as everyone else; "Why are their lives so much shorter than ours? Why couldn't I have had more time?" Rest in peace, sweet angel, and I shall see you at the Rainbow Bridge.

**Editor's Note:** This true story was written by our AZGRC President, Candy Ziemer, based on her own experience in rescuing a dog from the Eastside shelter. It is a sad story, all too often repeated in the world of rescue. It is for Olivia, and so many dogs like her, that we pray more families will open their hearts and homes to shelter and foster these dogs who are counting on us to save them.

## **Bowl-a-Rama For Animal Rescue - Saturday, August 1, 2009**

By now, you should have received your AZGRC Bowl-a-Rama letter, asking once again for your help in soliciting donations to help AZGRC continue to rescue Golden Retrievers.

In the past two years, Arizona's economy has fallen to levels that many of us have not experienced in a long time or perhaps ever. It seems everyone has family members or friends who have lost their jobs or had their savings significantly reduced. It's sad, stressful and downright scary. Everyone suffers, but none more so than family pets. They have no options, they have no choices, and they have no voice to express how they are feeling. Faithful companions are left behind as families have to leave their homes. These pets cannot understand why they are suddenly alone and why no one is there to feed them or give them water, or most important, to give them love. Sometimes, they are simply dropped off in vacant lots or desert areas, and somehow expected to survive on their own. As we all know, that will not happen. Instead, these abandoned pets are found sick, hurt and too often beyond any help.



That's why organizations like AZGRC are so vital to our community. We are here for those dogs who desperately need our help. It is expensive because medical costs continue to rise, but the alternative is unthinkable, at least to all who love animals and understand the importance they play in our lives.

That's why we appeal to you, our AZGRC members, to reach out to friends and family and ask them to spare just a little to help our Golden Retrievers in need. A little from a lot of people can make a big difference! So click on the link below, read about the AZGRC Bowl-a-Rama poster dogs, and learn more on how you can help. Be a part of this great fundraiser and help AZGRC continue to be there for our Golden Retrievers who so desperately need our help.

Click on: [AZGRC BOWL-A-RAMA POSTER DOGS](#).

**AZGRC Upcoming Events**

**Tributes,**

## Rally Across America

When: Saturday, July 25

Time: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Where: Arizona Mills Mall

5000 S. Arizona Mills Circle

Tempe, AZ 85282

For more info, click: [RALLY](#)

## AZ Border Collie 3rd Annual Rescue Roundup

When: Saturday, August 22, 2009

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Where: Killip Elementary Community School Activity Field

2300 E. Sixth Ave.

Flagstaff, AZ 86004

For more info, click: [RESCUE ROUNDUP](#)

## Wine, Wags & Wishes

### AZGRC's 2nd Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction Fundraiser

When: Sunday, October 4

Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Where: McCormick Ranch Golf Club

7505 McCormick Parkway

Scottsdale, AZ 85258

To read another exclusive interview by Wine, Wags & Wishes' Intrepid Reporter, Franny, click: [WINE, WAGS & WISHES](#)

## A Brand-New Look For AZGRC!

Over the past three years, AZGRC's Webmaster, Debbie Hoffman, has continued to improve and redesign our website, ensuring that it stays fresh and innovative. Because of her efforts, visitors to our site have steadily grown and now total over 3,000 per month! Besides AZGRC members and folks looking to adopt a Golden, our website has attracted Golden Retriever lovers across the United States, and has received praise for its content, design and ease of use. It has even been instrumental in bringing in much-needed donations and new members!

Not one to sit back and enjoy her success, Debbie has been for the

## Memorials & Thank You's

### Golden Sponsors

Debra & Armando Flores

Joni Cipollone

John F. Monahan

Linda Amrine

### In Memory Of

Shiloh Russell

We love & miss you.

From

Janet & Tom Russell

### Golden Angels

Cindi Hoffman

for Bo

Cindi Hoffman

for Marley

Cindi Hoffman

for Luke

Linda Amrine

for Hunter

## July Business Partner: Integrative Veterinary Oncology

Dr. Betsy Hershey received her DVM from the University of Minnesota in 1996, and completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the University of Pennsylvania

past year, designing and building a brand-new website for AZGRC. Countless hours (all volunteer) and 150 pages later, the new website was unveiled in June. It is truly a work of art and a labor of love.

If you haven't already done so, go to [www.azgrc.org](http://www.azgrc.org) and take a look at our "new look." We have a brand-new logo and as you go through the various pages, notice that the photos in the banner at the top of the page change to show even more of our wonderful dogs. Keep looking and you might even see your Golden adorning a page of our website!

All the information you are used to having on the site is still there, just in a new location and format. If you are having trouble finding certain information, just go to the Site Map link in the lower right-hand corner of the home page, or click [SITE MAP](#).

It is Debbie's hope that through our new website, everyone can share our sense of accomplishment that comes with helping to save Golden Retrievers and placing them in loving homes.

If you have suggestions for our site, or have problems using the links or pages, please send an e-mail to [webmaster@azgrc.org](mailto:webmaster@azgrc.org). Debbie welcomes feedback and will quickly make any corrections.

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## Happy Tails Books

AZGRC members have a Golden opportunity to promote stories about their rescued dogs and to obtain some much-needed funds for the organization. Interested? Read On!

*Do you have a great story about your rescued Golden? Happy Tails Books wants to know! Your story could potentially be included in a book that serves to educate readers about the Golden Retriever breed in a fun, unique way, enlighten readers about dog adoption options through rescue groups, and generate funding for your rescue organization.*

*Each book will feature about 30 stories, and the donated proceeds will be divided between the rescue groups whose members contributed stories that are published.*

*The stories can be about your dog's challenging history and happy future, a funny anecdote about something your dog did or any other heartwarming story that people would like to read. You needn't worry if you're not an "author." Just write from your heart and your message will come across!*

**Note:** Happy Tails Books was founded by Kyla Duffy of Boulder, Colorado. After years of business ownership experience, she founded Happy Tails Books to raise awareness of, and funding for, dog rescue efforts. She lives in Boulder with her husband, two rescue kittens, and

in 1997, and a three-year residency in medical oncology at the University of Wisconsin in 2000. She worked for Arizona Veterinary Specialists for three years before opening Integrative Veterinary Oncology, 2260 W. Glendale, Phoenix, in 2005.

Dr. Hershey offers a novel approach to veterinary cancer therapy by combining conventional therapies with complementary Eastern therapies to provide "whole patient" care. Dr. Hershey believes that by combining these different treatments, she can better promote healing, enhance quality of life, and improve survival chances for the cancer patient. To learn more about Dr. Hershey and her work with canine cancer, click [HERE](#).

## Wanted: AZGRC Board Members

AZGRC currently has openings for three Board Members. If you are interested in applying, please submit a short bio outlining your hobbies, experience with dog rescue or other volunteer organizations, and why you would be a good candidate for the board. Send your information to [info@azgrc.org](mailto:info@azgrc.org) and be

ex-puppy mill Boston Terrier named Bill, and a perpetual stream of foster dogs. Her goal is to educate people about the joy of dog rescue and the horror of puppy mill breeding.

Go to [www.happytailsbooks.com](http://www.happytailsbooks.com) and read more about Kyla and this great project. Happy Tails Books will be doing a Labrador book next, and has many other books in process, including a book on Golden Retriever rescues.

If you are interested in submitting a story about your rescued Golden (and we hope you are!), click: [HAPPYTAILS](#).

**The deadline for Golden Retriever submissions is July 30, 2009.**

## Changes To AZGRC Bylaws

The AZGRC Board would like to make some changes to the organization's bylaws that require the approval of our membership. The changes/additions are shown below in red for your review and consideration. Should you disagree with any of these changes/additions, please forward your comments to [info@azgrc.org](mailto:info@azgrc.org) no later than July 15, 2009. If you agree, no response is necessary and will be deemed as acceptance. Please use AZ BYLAWS as the subject matter of your e-mail. To view a current copy of the complete AZGRC bylaws, click [BYLAWS](#).

### Article II

#### Section 3 - Board Meetings

**E. Board Members missing 3 or more scheduled board meetings in one fiscal year may be requested to resign from the Board. This is at the discretion of the Board. (new)**

#### Section 4 - Special Board Meetings

A. Special Board Meetings may be called by the President or by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors. Such special Board meetings shall be held at **such hour and place (change to: at such place, date and hour)** as may be designated by the Board of Directors authorized herein to call such meetings.

### ARTICLE III

#### Section 1 - Board of Directors

**D. Remove the following sentence: No elected official shall serve on the Board of Directors for more than six (6) consecutive years.**

**E. The immediate past President shall be an Ex-Officio, non-voting member of the Board of Directors for six (6) months from the ending of his/her term unless the President is elected to another position on the Board.**

**F. No Board Member or kev volunteer with access to AZGRC**

sure to include AZ BOARD MEMBER as the subject matter of the e-mail.



## "Paws" to Recognize

**Bowl-a-Rama Volunteer  
Sydni Martinez**

A very special thank you to Sydni Martinez, of Girl Scout Troop #1383, St. Mary-Basha Catholic School, for all her help with the Bowl-A-Rama letters. Sydni gave over seven hours of her time to fold and stuff the letters sent to AZGRC members. And a big thanks to Sydni's mom, Gina, for her support and help with this project!

**Annie D**

Thanks so very much for your help with the new AZGRC logo and banner design. It looks absolutely wonderful on the website!

Sue J

**Kim K**

Words cannot express my gratitude for your offer to foster Olivia once we brought her from the shelter and most important, for all you did in trying to save her

proprietary information shall be permitted to serve as a board member or committee member of another animal rescue during their term with AZGRC without express written permission of the current AZGRC Board. (new)

#### ARTICLE IX

##### Section 2 - Organization Annual Meeting Order of Business

At the Annual Meeting the order of business shall be as follows:

- 1) · Roll Call
- 2) · Report of the President
- 3) · Report of the Treasurer
- 4) · Report of Committees
- 5) · Unfinished Business
- 6) · New Business
- 7) · Adjournment

##### Section 3 - Board Meeting Order of Business

At Board meetings, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- 1) · Reading/Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
- 2) · Report of President
- 3) · Report of Treasurer
- 4) · Report of Committees
- 5) · Unfinished Business
- 6) · New Business
- 7) · Adjournment

life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Candy

#### AZGRC QUICK LINKS

[ABOUT AZGRC](#)

[AVAILABLE GOLDENS](#)

[BUSINESS PARTNERS](#)

[BECOME A FOSTER](#)

[BECOME A VOLUNTEER](#)

[COMMUNITY LINKS](#)

[EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

[GOLDEN CORNER LIBRARY](#)

[GOLDEN SHOPPING](#)

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