



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

GOLDEN CONNECTIONS E-Newsletter

September 2009

3 Hours Of Wine, Auctions, Raffles, Live Music And Scenery! Our Fundraiser October 4 Has Something For Everyone!

We are down to less than one month to go before AZGRC's major event of the year, **Wine, Wags & Wishes!**

WHEN: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

TIME: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

WHERE: MCCORMICK RANCH GOLF CLUB
7505 MCCORMICK PARKWAY
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85258

TICKETS: [CLICK HERE](#) or CALL 602-870-0037

COST: \$40 for 1; \$75 for 2; \$50 at door. Includes 3 wine tastings, a menu of delicious appetizers and good times!



The exciting Thomas Kinkadee Coyotes, rounds of wine, listen to official spokesdog with the crowd purple sash and a for a few hours, our efforts to



...auction items are rolling in. They include lovely wine baskets, prints, autographed hockey gear from the Phoenix of golf, vacations, jewelry and tons of other cool stuff! Sip your the Cindy Marshall Band, gaze at the mountains (that's the view around deciding what to bid on. You just may encounter our **Coco Chanel and Miss Wine, Wags & Wishes 2009** as they mingle (see Coco above and Julie at right). Look for the tiara, beautiful Golden Retriever! So forget about this darn recession put down the TV remote and come on out and support help fluffy, friendly Golden Retrievers.

To read another exclusive interview by Wine, Wags & Wishes' intrepid reporter Franny (the Diane Sawyer of Golden Retrievers), click [INTERVIEW](#).

Franny and Lola discuss the auction items and whatever else is on their minds, which, for them, usually means food.



Forever Golden: AZGRC's 2010 Calendar Is Now On Sale!

Forever Golden, the theme of our 2010 calendar, reflects our enduring love for the beautiful breed of dog we at AZGRC are dedicated to rescuing. It is a tribute to those special qualities that make each of our rescues forever golden in our hearts. Greeting you at the door with a half-chewed toy, wagging a tail that can clear everything off a table, obsessively chasing a ball, or simply nudging your elbow as if to say "I'm here and I love you."

Sadly, we are not always able to see these special qualities when a dog first comes into AZGRC. Many of our dogs are dealing with fears and suffering with pain that we can only imagine. But there is always a glimmer of hope that lets us know those forever golden qualities are still there, perhaps a little tarnished. No matter what these rescued dogs have endured, they want to trust and love again.

Our commitment at AZGRC is to give them that chance to be forever golden again and gift them with hope for a bright and happy future. During the next couple of months, we will share the stories of each of the Golden Retrievers who were chosen as models for this year's calendar.

To see the 2010 calendar models and order your calendars, click [FOREVER GOLDEN](#).
Once again, thanks to the generosity of one of our members, shipping is free.



More Upcoming Events

PACC911 St. Francis Festival - The Blessing of the Animals

When: Saturday, October 24 & 25

Time: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Where: St Francis Renewal Center, 5802 E Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale, AZ

Join AZGRC and more than sixty PACC911 local animal rescue groups for a day of fun, laughter, food, pet blessings, and bonding with our furry friends. If you have not visited a PACC911 adopt-a-thon, you owe it to yourself to attend one. It's lots of fun visiting the different animal rescue booths and sharing in the spirit of animal rescue. So bring your kids, four-legged and two-legged, and help support animal rescue! For more info and a map to the event, click [HERE](#).

AZGRC's 9th ANNUAL GOTCHA DAY

When: Saturday, November 7

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (Annual Meeting at 12:30 PM)

Where: Vista Del Camino Park, Ramada 3, West of Hayden & Roosevelt in Scottsdale

Be sure to mark your calendar for November 7 and AZGRC's nine year celebration! Watch our website for future updates and more details on the fun to come!

Harley's Story

In our July newsletter we shared information about **Happy Tails Books**, founded by Kyla Duffy of Boulder, Colorado. Kyla's books are composites of stories from folks who have rescued a dog and want to share their story.

In the August newsletter we announced that **Happy Tails** is getting ready to publish a book on Golden Retriever rescue stories, and AZGRC will have a number of our very own rescue dogs featured in this new book!

This month, we'd like to share part of Harley's story, written by Candy Ziemer.

When our Golden Retriever, Charlie, passed away, we decided that our three remaining mixed-breed dogs were enough. Several months passed, we had a lot less vacuuming to do, and the lint roller was sitting idle. However, every time we saw a Golden Retriever in a commercial, or just walking down the street, our hearts were yearning, which eventually led me to my life's passion.



I was aware of Arizona Golden Retriever Connection because I had participated with the group in the Fiesta Bowl parade. When the

Election of AZGRC Board Members

The AZGRC Board Nominating Committee met in July to review and nominate the candidates for the 2010-11 AZGRC Board of Directors and outlined the upcoming election process. On September 1, 2009, current AZGRC members were mailed their ballot and voting instructions. If you wish to vote in this year's election, please be sure to carefully read and follow the instructions with your ballot. Please be aware that all ballots must be received by 9/25/2009 and postmarked by 9/23/2009. The received ballots will be counted on 9/26/2009 and the results published on the AZGRC

organization put out a plea for foster homes because they were receiving too many dogs, I answered the call. I did not know what fostering a dog was about, but was willing to give it a try.

In walks our first foster, Harley, and our world was forever changed. Harley is nothing like our previous Golden Retrievers. Jake and Charlie were very calm dogs, who were real "retrievers." They retrieved toys, loved to swim, were well mannered, and would never think of jumping up on people. Not Harley. The whole "retriever" thing is foreign to him. In fact, he doesn't even understand the concept of toys, let alone getting them and bringing them back to you. Harley avoids water at all costs, won't step outside unless we're beside him, and to him, jumping up on people is an Olympic sport. We joke that if we have a party and no one leaves with a broken hip, the party is a success!

When we first took Harley in we were troubled. This is not how Golden Retrievers act; we should know, we'd had two before. Then it hit us. We were trying to replace Jake and Charlie, but instead we needed to quit making comparisons and embrace Harley for the dog he is.

Harley helped me find my passion and has taught me so much about life. He reminded me that I can mourn the loss of something near and dear and hold it in my memories, but I can never replace it, and that is OK. He showed me that the "baggage" each of us carries can often be pried open to reveal a treasure buried within. He demonstrated that sometimes not conforming is a good thing. In the end, he has helped me to see that we are all guided to exactly where we are supposed to be, even if that means being a little different sometimes.



To read the full story of Harley as well as the stories of other great AZGRC rescues, be sure to purchase **LOST SOULS: FOUND!** Inspirational Stories of Adopted Golden Retrievers.

Pre-orders of this new book are available from **August 1 to September 15**. By pre-ordering, you can receive a \$2.00 discount per book **OR** have Happy Tails Books donate double to Golden Retriever rescue.

The book has a cover price of \$12.95. Books will be shipped toward the beginning of September.

To read more about Happy Tails Books click: [HAPPY TAILS](#)

website by 9/30/2009.

To learn about the candidates for this term's Board, click [ELECTION](#).

The current AZGRC Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the Wine, Wags & Wishes event and Gotcha Day!

AZGRC Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your AZGRC membership! Your 2010 membership will be good from October 1, 2009, to September 30, 2010. All membership renewals are \$35. To renew now, click [AZGRC MEMBERS](#).

Tributes, Memorials, & Thank You

Bowl-a-Rama Sponsors

A very special thank you to all the wonderful folks who contributed to this year's Bowl-a-Rama Fundraiser. Please click [HERE](#) to view the list of sponsors.

Golden Sponsors
Paul Masters

To order the Golden Retriever books click: [BUY GOLDEN](#)

Digging For Funny Bones

We all enjoy taking photos of the crazy and wonderful antics of our canine kids. And what's even better is sharing those photos with other animal lovers. That's the idea behind Funny Bones, a section of our website dedicated to highlighting these heartwarming, amusing moments.

So, if you have a photo (or two, or three!) that you would like to have on our website, please e-mail to webmaster@azgrc.org.

Cody's First Day Of Pet Therapy

Cody came to AZGRC in April of this year, an 8-year-old Golden with severely infected ears, hair loss due to allergies, and a trusting, hopeful look in his soulful eyes.

In most cases, it can take quite sometime to find a family who wants a dog older than 5 or 6. So many people believe that an older dog brings too much baggage, or will not "live as long" as a younger dog, or will cost too much in medical expenses.



However, there are a very select group of folks who recognize the special magic of a senior Golden. Christine is one of them. She adopted Cody just a few weeks after he was rescued, seeing past his gray hairs and imperfections to the beautiful, loving angel he is. Four months later, Cody completed his training and became a certified Therapy Dog! Christine wrote the following story about his first day visiting Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Today was the first day Cody visited Phoenix Children's Hospital. What a great visit and he is such a natural because he loves children. We walked into the playroom and the children just swarmed Cody and his tail wagged the entire time. He was so at home with the children, and it was wonderful to hear the staff, patients and families call his name as we walked the halls.

We worked in Rehab with two children and Cody fetched for the children with his shark baby. How awesome! After exercising, one of the children was given a choice of stickers and he asked for a

Bashas'
Four-Legged Friends
Animal Hospital
iGive
Linda & Jim Amrine
Golden Retriever
Foundation April Fund

In Honor Of
Dana White
from
Brian Collins

AZGRC
from
Aly Thompson
Thank you so much for helping us out when we were needing assistance helping Sadie find a home. Even though we found a home on our own, your help and support came at a critical time for us. I really appreciate your time. Thank you so much.



**Paws To
Recognize**

**Our Wonderful
Webmistress**

Debbie, thanks so very much for putting the information together for the 2010 calendar and getting it up on the website and on eBay. I don't know what I'd do

shark sticker! The other boy loves to have the dogs perform tricks at his command. Well, Cody barked, high-fived, and gave his paw. Then the boy wanted to know if Cody rolled over. I said not yet but let's teach him. The next thing I know, Cody is rolling over for the boy, who was so excited to teach a dog a new trick.

We were asked to visit a child in the MRI area because he was stressed and the hope was a dog would make a difference. Off we went with Cody in tow and we approached the child who was visibly upset. We sat near the child in the wheelchair and he continued to cry. No, he did not want to pet Cody. No, he did not want trading cards of my other dogs. No, he did not want Cody to speak or shake his paw.

Then Cody looked into the wheelchair and sniffed at the child's toy. This little boy was hugging a penguin stuffed toy very tightly. I told the boy that Cody has a special toy too that he brought with him and asked if he would like to see it. Yes, the little boy nodded. I pulled Cody's shark baby out of the backpack and Cody gently took it and showed it to the little boy. The little boy giggled out loud and it was just the most touching moment ever. The sadness left the little boy while Cody and he showed each other their special toys. Everyone present was touched that a dog and a little boy could connect over their stuffed toy. WOW ... what a Golden moment! To say Cody is amazing is putting it mildly.



The Rainbow Bridge

In remembrance of the beloved pets that will be forever missed by those who knew and loved them. Please visit the [AZGRC Rainbow Bridge Memorial](#) and read their tributes.

Buddy Molner
Rescued December 2003
Crossed the Bridge August 2009



without you.
Your Humble
News Editor

George's Angels On Earth

Our forever thanks to Candy and Audrey for saving George and for bringing him into our lives.

Don, Sue, & McKenna

AZGRC QUICK LINKS

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George Washington Wiggles Jordan
Rescued June 2005
Crossed the Bridge August 2009



Dylan Wilson
Rescued April 2000
Crossed the Bridge August 2009

