

Life Member: JOY VIOLA

Elected at the Annual Meeting, January 14, 2018

Joy got her first Golden at the age of 8 in 1944 when her parents bought a male and a female puppy out of Tonkahof Bang and Highland Chief, both well-known champions of the era. Her parents established a Golden Kennel in 1944 in Alderwood Manor, Washington. The kennel closed just before her father died and it was 1960 before she and her Mother got their next Golden who lived to age 12. There were no Golden Retrievers in the house for several years while both Joy and her husband, Al, were establishing their careers. That changed in 1980 when they went to a neighbor's house to see their new Golden puppy. That was it for Joy! Al says she pouted for three days until he relented and said *OK, go get the puppy*. That was Princess Diara who was then followed by Synergold Electra, Toby, Briscoe, and Rescue Golden: Captain, Ginger, Bobby and their new Turkish Rescue, Ozzie.



While at her vet's office in 1986 she saw a notice on the bulletin board about Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue. It was there that she met Susan Foster and Joan Puglia and the course was set for the next twenty years of her life! While serving on the YGRR Board, and having just retired from the Northeastern University Development Office, Joy offered to run a Capital Campaign to raise funds for a new facility. She raised \$1.5 million for the project. The result was Riverview, the first permanent Golden Retriever Rescue shelter in the nation!

Once the new facility was built, she moved on to volunteer as the Development Director for the Golden Retriever Foundation where she helped raise another \$1.5 million for Research, Rescue and Education. Joy was instrumental in establishing the Rachel Page Elliott Educational Fund, the GRF's Memorial Garden and she even coordinated a fundraising brunch hosted by Betty White.

After ten years in that role, she joined forces with others to establish the Friends of Guisachan dedicated to educating Golden owners and the public at large about the history of the Golden and its Scottish origins on the Guisachan estate of Lord Tweedmouth. Funds were raised to commission a life-size bronze statue of a Golden which was placed on historic Guisachan land in 2014. This year, 2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the breed in celebration of which she has just edited *The Golden Retriever: A Scottish Legacy*, a compilation of articles celebrating the evolution of the Golden as a hunting dog to a dog that today enhances the lives of mankind in multiple ways.

Although she is now an octogenarian, Joy continues to work for the Friends of Guisachan with the late Pagey Elliott as her role model. Today, Joy cherishes the memory of the night she met Pagey at the Yankee's annual dinner in 1986; the year Pagey was awarded lifetime membership in the club – initiated by then club President, Susan Foster! That meeting turned into a long-lasting, deep friendship with Pagey which has subsequently extended to the rest of the Elliott family. Clearly Joy has been a true champion of our breed!