



**mira**  
Europe

Monthly News Letter

# MIRA INFO

N°21 April 2010

## EDITO

It's always sad when a poet dies. In a corner of our hearts and imagination will always be, from the late Jean Ferrat, the strength and beauty of his writings and the sweetness and gentleness of his melodies.

I would like to share with you these two verses from one of his songs in which he remembers his dog...

*"Day after day, we have to admit  
that to see those we love dying*

*Is to age too soon*

*in the dog's heaven perhaps*

*Your long muzzle at the window*

*You will soon welcome us*

*with a hell-for-leather bound*

*I see your paws leave the ground  
the grass and clouds passing by*

*The wind whistles though your coat*

*Fly, fly, my wild wolf*

*as you did in those days and years so green*

*Hooray Ouralan from the Urals Ouralan*

*from the Ural mountains"*

Jean Ferrat was a great supporter of Mira Europe. Thank you Jean.

Frederic Gaillanne

President

## EVENTS

- **From 1st to 11th April, MIRA GESTE operation**, gift boxes will be placed in all isle-sur-la-sorgue shops. Funds collected will be used to finance a guide-dog for a young blind person.
- **Sunday 11th April, 15.30: Concert at Longeville Church**. Presenting the 'Louve' male-voice Choir. Singing for Mira.
- **Sunday 11th April at Serbannes (Allier) - Walk with Mira...** Two options: 6 or 11 Kilometre walks. To take part, please be at the mairie from 9.30h onwards. The walk starts between the hours of 10.00am and 12 noon. Adults: 6 Euros, 11-16 year olds: 3 Euros. Those under 10 years of age: free!
- **Sunday 25th April: 17h00: Concert at the St. Laurent Church, Grandvaux** (Haut Jaura) organized by Moray Lions Club. All proceeds to Mira.

A.G.M. of 27th March - Salle des Nevons, at l'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue

## NEXT STEP:

### CONSTRUCTION OF THE JOURNEY OF THE SENSES

At the AGM, our President, Frederic Gaillanne, Secretary, Chantal Roubaud and Treasurer, Michel Frances gave their 2009 reports: notably dealing with the July 2009 first training course for 4 guide-dogs and their 4 young blind colleagues at the new training school at Velorgue, Isle-sur-la-sorgue.

Immediately following her return from further training in Canada, Muriel Jochen, guide-dog trainer, criss-crossed France ensuring follow-up on some 27 blind youngsters and their still working guide-dogs.

Regine Ayelo Baldou joins our small team of salaried staff so as to ensure a warm welcome to our volunteers and also to develop with them initiatives and all sorts of activities beneficial to Mira.

The Guide-Dog training school (CFCG) itself - the first building at our training school - has been operational since mid-March 2010.

### PLANS FOR 2010

The AGM approved the 2010 provisional budget. Three events in particular will stand out this year.

1. The second class, leading to the hand-over of guide-dogs to blind youngsters will be held at the CFCG at Velorgue. (3 dogs will be offered and 5 youngsters will be warmly welcomed, for a 'pre-dog' classes).

2. Our two trainers, Celine Kreiger and Ludovic Boussarie, will be coming back to us following their training in Canada since May 2007.

3. The Parcours des Sens (Journey of senses) will be installed.



## NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

[www.miraeurope.org](http://www.miraeurope.org)

Read the stories of our 2009 recipients of guide-dogs; the 2009 class and official hand-over of dogs.

These videos are the work of our talented volunteer, Dany Baychere, and have been put on line by our ingenious web-master, Claude Bouchon. Do come and have a look at our website - it's so worth a visit. On the site you'll also see 2 reports upon the TV programme "30 Billion friends".