



Puppies Behind Bars

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PHOTOS BY VALERIE SHAFF

TRAINING INMATES TO RAISE SERVICE DOGS FOR THE DISABLED AND EXPLOSIVE DETECTION CANINES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

THE PUPPY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006

A MAN, A PLAN, A LAB

IN EVERY SUCCESS STORY, there's that breakthrough moment. Someone with a dream meets someone who gets it. Someone takes a chance on something new. Someone says yes instead of no.

When they make the H.B.O. movie about Puppies Behind Bars, one of the opening scenes will go something like this ...

Tracking shot: Gloria Gilbert Stoga walks into the Albany office of New York State's commissioner of correctional facilities, Glenn Goord. Gilbert Stoga wants to start a non-profit that will ultimately benefit the blind, the disabled, and national security by teaching inmates to raise guide dogs, service dogs, and bomb-sniffing dogs. She describes her vision to the commissioner.

Goord: "You want to put dogs in my prisons?"

A quick closeup of Gilbert Stoga's face shows that she isn't sure which way this meeting is going to go.

**Gilbert Stoga: "That's right, Commissioner."
Goord: "Of course you can!"**

Almost ten years later, Goord still laughs when he remembers that first meeting. "Gloria was nervous as a cat," he says. "The only time I've ever seen her nervous." And he still gives her a hard time about her reaction to the sudden appearance of his dog, Mogul, who often accompanied the commissioner to his Albany office.

Cut to: A yellow Lab puppy bounding through the door of Goord's office.

Gilbert Stoga: "What's that?"

Goord (amused by her surprise): "That's a dog, lady. That's what you came to talk to me about!"

As for Gilbert Stoga, she still uses that encounter as a touchstone for P.B.B. "Glenn took a chance on us," she says. "And he then went on to



Glenn Goord, with the legendary Mogul

join the board, guide us through an amazing expansion [from Bedford Hills women's prison, where the program began, to a total of seven men's and women's, medium and maximum security facilities today], and support us all the way."

Goord is the kind of man who plays down his obvious intellect ("I never considered myself the brightest guy, but I could make up for it by really working hard," he says), but he certainly saw the potential of Gilbert Stoga's plan a whole lot faster than most would have. Sure, he had a few initial

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OUR DOG IN BAGHDAD



Larry (at left, in a Humvee), who was trained in the Edna Mahan women's prison in New Jersey, has gone on to work at the A.T.F. as an explosive-detection canine. He and his handler spent seven weeks last summer in Baghdad, where Larry's job was to sniff vehicles as they entered the U.S. compound. One day, Larry was sniffing a convoy of waiting trucks, when he "alerted" on one of them. The driver was immediately pulled out, the bomb technicians were called in, and, sure enough, there were explosives in a can. Larry literally saved the lives of American soldiers.

THE BLOOMBERG TOUCH The summer cocktail fundraiser at the home of board chairwoman **Sue Bloomberg**, in North Salem, raised more than \$80,000, making it one of the most successful P.B.B. events to date. From the delicious hors d'oeuvres catered by **Green Chimneys** to the long-awaited sunshine that emphasized the extraordinary views, it was an evening to remember. A former inmate

PAWS FOR APPLAUSE

puppy-raiser, **Susan Hallett**, spoke from the powerful perspective of six years after her release from the Bedford Hills women's prison, while former N.Y.P.D. Bomb Squad

detective **Glenn Ostermann** and his canine partner, **Bowmann**, stressed the increasing importance of bomb-sniffing dogs and the quality of the puppies that P.B.B. trains each year. The highlight of the party may have been the hostess's announcement that the pool was open for a dog swim—it didn't take long for her four-legged guests to accept that invitation.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS As it enters its second year, P.B.B.'s Paws & Reflect program, through which volunteer puppy-sitters bring the dogs on socialization visits to homebound senior citizens, has already doubled in size. At the annual volunteer recognition party, on July 25, in a gorgeous rooftop garden in midtown Manhattan, current and prospective volunteers, staffers from the Jewish Association for the Aged (J.A.S.A.) and P.B.B., and N.Y.C. Department for the Aging Commissioner **Edwin Méndez-Santiago** joined together to celebrate. The group included 11 homebound volunteers, some of whom had not left their apartments in years; with their puppy-sitter partners, they talked about their experiences in the program. Senior volunteer **Gordon Trolley** explained, "If there is a place in the world to grow old, it is New York City—the interesting programs and wonderful volunteers keep me going."

LOOKING MAHVELOUS One thing P.B.B. has always been able to count on, from the very beginning, is an elegant, professional, and dynamic public "face." Whether mailing out fundraising invitations, publishing a newsletter, or printing an annual calendar, it relies on the creative graphic flair of the extremely talented **Kathy McGilvery**. This year, McGilvery's pro-bono work for P.B.B. (her invitation to the 2005 benefit and last year's calendar) won two American Graphic Design Awards. She can be reached at kmcgny@rcn.com; her website is McGilveryDesign.com.

ADDED BANG At its October meeting, the P.B.B. board voted to elect a new member, **Katherine Bang**, the photo research editor for *Vanity Fair*, who played a key role in organizing the photo exhibit that was the centerpiece of the 2005 benefit. Bang connected instantly with P.B.B.'s mission: First, she has a release dog from Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Second, she lives in Bedford, N.Y. "I drive by the Bedford Hills prison every day," she says, "and I always wanted to do something."

GOD BLESS THE PUPS The **Central Presbyterian Church**, at 64th Street and Park Avenue, has chosen to honor P.B.B. at its 22nd annual **Blessing of the Animals** on December 17 at 6:00 p.m. The church will be decorated in the spirit of the holidays as hundreds of people escort their pets (snakes, kittens, bunnies, birds, and puppies) to be blessed at the altar. Roughly 25 of P.B.B.'s explosive-detection canines, guide dogs, and service-dogs-in-training will make a procession down the aisle. The service is open to the public, and doors will open at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds from the evening will benefit Puppies Behind Bars. For more information call 212-838-1501.

GUSSIE GETS HER WISH

GUSSIE'S BIRTHDAY WISH came true. A week later, the 98-year-old New Yorker took a rare excursion to an even more atypical destination: As a senior volunteer in P.B.B.'s Paws & Reflect program, Gussie was headed from her Manhattan apartment to the maximum-security Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. After more than a year of helping socialize puppies, which are brought to her home twice a month by a younger volunteer, she decided she had to go and thank the inmate puppy-raisers whose work adds a much needed spark to her life.

Visits to a maximum-security prison are generally limited to staff and family. Though Gussie was an unusual guest, she went through the standard security procedure: a driver's-license check and a pat-down. Once cleared, she was escorted by prison guards through metal gates to the P.B.B. classroom with her Paws & Reflect partner, Cindy, and P.B.B. staffers Audrey Hendler and Katie Losey. She was eager to better understand the foundation of the pups' training and to give the inmate-raisers a tangible understanding of one new way the program is making a big difference.

She was met with soft hellos as the puppies and their raisers arranged themselves in a circle around the room. Pussfooting around is not Gussie's style, and she made everyone aware of that right away. Settling into her place in the center of the room, she



Gussie, right, with a canine pupil. Below, Claudia and Gordon, both Paws & Reflect volunteers, with P.B.B.'s Katie Losey behind them.

“When you leave here you will leave with the knowledge that you contributed in a small but very important way to the society that you once rejected. **These dogs allow you to show love**, maybe more than you ever have, but you are experiencing love and that is what is important.”

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PARK AVENUE AT 64TH STREET

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
6PM, DOORS OPEN 5:30

*Blessing
of the
Animals*

Featuring: A Tribute to Puppies Behind Bars
Proceeds from donations benefit Puppies Behind Bars

greeted the women with a big smile followed by strict instructions: “I have traveled a long way to be here because I want to meet each and every one of you and say thank you. As you can see I am a very old woman—you gotta understand that this is not going to work unless you speak up and sit close by!” The women chuckled and relaxed a little. One by one they scooted their chairs next to Gussie’s for an emotional hello.

Speaking of their own accomplishments does not come easily to many women—especially those in a prison environment—but Gussie thought it was important for the inmates to do just that, and so they tried. Some trembled nervously as they introduced themselves; some voices quavered; some took Gussie’s hands in their own; some showed off their puppies’ latest skills.

The diverse histories of visitor and inmates were obvious as Gussie’s wrinkled hands held young, tattooed ones. But despite their differences, they had some fundamental similarities, too. Gussie spoke and the women listened. “We are both imprisoned—for different reasons, yes—but unable to go as we please nonetheless,” she told them. “These special puppies make us laugh, make us feel loved, and help us feel human.”

Her words gave the inmates a glimpse of the impact that their hard work has made on those outside the prison walls. “It is a challenge, for both of us, to feel important in our society. I honor all of you; you are trying to make the most of an unfortunate situation. When you leave here you will leave with the knowledge that you contributed in a small but very important way to the society that you once rejected. These dogs allow you to show love, maybe more than you ever have, but you are experiencing love, and that is what is important.”

HOW TO GIVE—AND FORGIVE YOURSELF FOR ALL THAT HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

At year's end, many people think about different ways to lend a hand to P.B.B. There are lots of ways to help, some more direct than others, but all very much appreciated by P.B.B. staff and pups. Consider the following:

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Do your online holiday shopping through **igive.com** or **doggreatstuff.com**. These websites are free to join and feature hundreds of top merchants including Barnes & Noble, L.L. Bean, Gap, Neiman Marcus, and PetCo. At no additional cost to you, a portion of everything you spend is donated to Puppies Behind Bars. In essence, you are giving two gifts for the price of one. So go ahead, buy that sweater, and keep warm this winter knowing that you have also contributed to P.B.B.

GO FOR GOODSEARCH.COM

A partner with Yahoo.com, Good Search is an Internet search engine with a simple concept—each time you search for something online through goodsearch.com, money is generated for the charity of your choice: **Puppies Behind Bars**, we hope.

CASH IS KING Always the old favorite standby. We invite you to visit <http://puppiesbehindbars.com/support-our-program.htm> and make an online donation, send a check in the mail with the enclosed self-addressed envelope, or just call us at 212-680-9562 so that we can accept your gift over the phone.

NAME A PUP, CHANGE A LIFE

Puppies Behind Bars offers the opportunity to sponsor pups, which people give in lieu of holiday gifts to special friends, family members, or important clients. Sponsorship costs \$3,000 and entitles the gift recipient to name a pup and receive quarterly photos and updates on its progress throughout the 12 to 16 months it is being raised in our program. The update letters are written by the inmate puppy-raisers and are distributed through our Manhattan office. This correspondence is a touching way to watch both the puppy and its raiser grow, earn trust, and become assets to society.

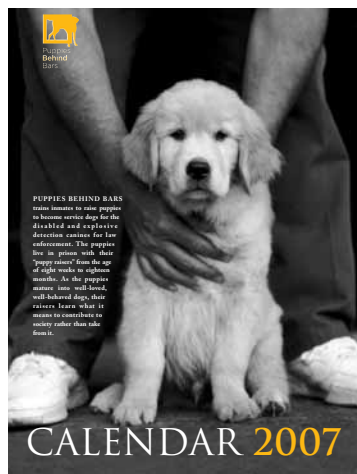
PUPPY PINUPS

2007 P.B.B.'s second annual calendar is here: Twelve months of compelling photos bring puppy-love home. These stylish calendars are designed by the award-winning Kathy McGilvery, with portraits by Valerie Shaff, Enrico Ferorelli, and other talented photographers. At a price of \$15, you can afford to stuff one in every stocking. To order, go to <http://puppiesbehindbars.com/support-our-program.htm> or call 212-680-9562.



SEND P.B.B. HOLIDAY CARDS

Reach out to all your friends for \$2 per card. Or, in keeping with the spirit of the holiday season, generously donate \$10 (minimum) in honor of someone and P.B.B. will send a card to them with a special enclosure explaining that your gift has allowed P.B.B. to purchase a new collar, leash, and bowl for one of our newest pups—a perfect gift for somebody who already “has it all.” See <http://puppiesbehindbars.com/support-our-program.htm> for details.



DONATION FORM

I would like to sponsor and name a puppy (minimum donation: \$3000.)

Please accept my donation for:

- 1 puppy's weekend visit to NYC (\$35) A sleeping crate for 1 puppy (\$85)
 Leashes and bowls for 1 puppy (\$50) Other amount

Please charge my credit card:

- Visa MasterCard AmEx

(Please list name as it appears on card. List billing address.)

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Add my friend to your mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please mail your tax-deductible contribution with this form to:

PUPPIES BEHIND BARS | 10 East 40th Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10016



TEDDY BEAR AND VITO'S EXCELLENT EDUCATION

In the last newsletter, founder and president Gloria Gilbert Stoga wrote about P.B.B.'s latest mission: The inmate puppy-raisers would be training future service dogs, as well as explosive-detection canines and guide dogs.

It's happening. On June 15, at Otisville Correctional Facility in Middletown, N.Y., six adorable Golden Retriever puppies began the process of becoming service dogs

tuning their skills instead of teaching additional commands.

As Rothe describes it, "Our puppy raisers are literally professional dog handlers now; this has been a huge change for both P.B.B. staff and puppy raisers but we have stepped it up and have

been reenergized by it all. It's very exciting work."

Because of their gentle yet confident natures, the first graduates of the service-dog program, Teddy Bear and Vito, will be placed with autistic kids. The dogs will not only help with daily living tasks, they will also provide a social bridge between the children and the rest of the world.

"It gives P.B.B. a great sense of satisfaction and fulfillment to know that our puppies are going to make life easier for two children and their families," says Gilbert Stoga.



“Service dogs perform tasks such as **turning light switches on and off, retrieving items just by following their partners' eye signals, and removing shoes and socks at night.**”

for the disabled. Working with New Horizons Service Dogs and East Coast Assistance Dogs, P.B.B. has since expanded the initiative to include its programs at the Bedford Hills and Fishkill Correctional Facilities. By year's end, 28 Golden and Labrador Retrievers will be in the first stage of noble and life-altering careers.

Service dogs perform tasks such as turning light switches on and off, retrieving items just by following their partners' eye signals, and removing shoes and socks at night. Under the guidance of Gilbert Stoga and P.B.B. instructors Carl Rothe and Audrey Hendler, the inmate puppy-raisers have risen to the new challenge of teaching these pups the 82 commands that are necessary for service-dog work.

For the first time, the puppy-raisers are going beyond teaching basic obedience and manners. They will train the pups to perform virtually all of the skilled commands a service dog needs to know. Since the puppies' education in prison is so comprehensive, they need less formal training at service-dog school, where the focus is on fine-

P.B.B. needs your support!

Puppy Kiss... \$\$\$...you decide!

Collar & Leash
\$25

Embroidered Puppy Jacket
\$50

Sponsor a Pup
\$3000

Puppy Food
\$100

Veterinary Care \$500

Textbooks & Educational Supplies
\$250

Inmate Vet Assistant Course
\$700



VALERIE SHAF

A Man, A Plan, A Lab

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concerns, but he immediately grasped that inmates training puppies could be “a win-win situation,” as he puts it. “I drank the Kool-Aid,” he says today, “and it’s certainly one of the top ten things that are part of my legacy to the prison system. When I see the prisoners, see the puppies—I’m proud.”

Following Goord’s retirement this August, P.B.B. took the opportunity to toast his considerable achievements, with a benefit cocktail on November 13 at the Americas Society. The guests learned about the lives that have been changed as a result of the dogs being raised throughout Goord’s prison system. They also learned that P.B.B. is only part of his stellar record.

Running America’s fourth-largest state prison system is a massive, complex, daunting job. In 2006, Goord administered an operating budget of \$2.3 billion, managing an agency that employed roughly 31,300 people and housed approximately 63,000 inmates in 69 prisons. Appointed to the post of commissioner by Governor George Pataki in 1996, he was the first Department of

Correctional Services employee to rise from within the ranks to the top job.

By the time of his retirement, inmate-on-staff and inmate-on-inmate violence was at its lowest in a quarter century, and he had overseen some of the department’s proudest innovations and improvements, from the Shock Incarceration Program (a six-month “boot-camp” designed to build

“Goord immediately grasped that inmates training puppies could be a ‘win-win situation’”

inmate character), to a new approach to dealing with prison incidents, to the accreditation of every prison in the state—making New York the first major prison system to ensure that all its facilities met nationally accepted standards for operation and management. He also worked with Governor Pataki to pass legislation that finally compensated the families of the 11 prison employees who died in the 1971 riots at the Attica Correctional Facility and the 33 who were injured.

For these and other achievements, Goord has received many accolades, including the American Society for Public

Administration’s highest honor, the Governor Alfred E. Smith Award, in 2002, for his direction of the department’s response to 9/11. That, with the Charles Evans Hughes Award for public service, which he received in 1998, made him the first person ever to be twice honored by the A.S.P.A.

In an era when public service isn’t always admired as it should be (and where public servants aren’t always as admirable as they should be), Goord is a true standout. Tough, honest, compassionate, and effective, he’s the kind of leader this country needs. The fact that he loves dogs is just the icing on the cake.

Now Goord is contemplating his second act: At 55, he wants to find new ways to make a difference. But one thing he has promised is to stay involved with P.B.B. as a board member and trusted advisor. “When I first met Glenn,” Gilbert Stoga says, “it was obvious that he was young, innovative, and willing to take a risk. It was not until I had the chance to work with him that I found out what a decent human being he is. From Glenn I learned about prisons, but much more important, from Glenn I learned what it truly means to be a leader.”



Puppies
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New York, NY 10016