

# Puppies Behind Bars



PHOTOS BY RADHIKA CHALASANI

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

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Summer 2009

# CLOSE TO THE HEART



**Sergeant Allen Hill and his service dog, Frankie, visit the P.B.B. classroom at Fishkill Correctional Facility**

“THERE IS NOTHING IN THE WORLD like puppy love — that is something I know for sure,” said Oprah Winfrey at the start of her May 15 show featuring five-time Oscar nominee Glenn Close and Puppies Behind Bars. But as Close described the work of P.B.B.—highlighting the way one of the dogs donated through its “Dog Tags” program has changed the life of Sergeant Allen Hill, a soldier wounded in Iraq—Winfrey was both increasingly amazed and moved. “I’m a mess,” she told Close at one point, dabbing at her eyes with a handkerchief.

It would have taken a heart of stone not to be

moved by Close’s report from the Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon, N.Y., where men who are serving time for manslaughter and other violent crimes showed the depth of their affection for the puppies they raise, and their gratitude for the chance to give back by raising the pups to be service dogs.

Several inmates were in tears as they spoke about what the program has meant to them. “Being around this puppy opened me up,” said one. Another described how P.B.B. gave him “a sense of love and support—something that I

*continued on page 2*

# “You Don’t *Look* Disabled...”

AS P.B.B.’S DOG TAGS PROGRAM continues to grow, we continue to learn from our wounded veterans about ways to improve it. Sergeant Bill Campbell, the first of our Dog Tags recipients, helped us rework our application; Sergeant Allen Hill’s experience with a flashback that left him on the floor in the fetal position caused us to teach our dogs to dial 911 on the telephone not only on command, but also when their partner falls down suddenly and stops talking. Corporal Paul Bang-Knudsen taught us that training our dogs how to “pop a corner” (which means to look both ways before the vet enters a room) makes going into unknown buildings and houses that much easier.

This year we started doing in-home visits with each of the veterans that received one of our dogs. We know that once a vet gets home with a dog, situations may arise that were not covered in training, and we also want to see how the dog and the vet are faring. We have been delighted to hear comments such as, “She is my right arm; I don’t know how I would live without her,” or “My life is 180 degrees different since I got her,” or “She makes me whole.”

One thing that we are also hearing about is the difficulty our veterans have in public. As Glenn Close mentioned on “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” the “hidden disabilities” of post-traumatic stress disorder (P.T.S.D.) and traumatic brain injury (T.B.I.) are the signature wounds of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but because they are invisible, people often do not recognize them.

We would like all veterans to feel comfortable when they are out with their service dogs, so here are some tips for the rest of us:

1. If you see someone in the store with a

service dog, but that person does not look disabled, simply say, “What a beautiful dog you have!” If you want to know more, you might ask if they served in Iraq or Afghanistan and thank them for their service to our country, then tell them how gorgeous their dog is and let them go on their way.

2. If the veteran wants to talk, he or she will make that clear; but don’t expect the vet to engage in conversation with you. If he or she doesn’t want to talk, don’t take it personally. Like you, the vet probably just wants to go to the store and blend in with the crowd, so commenting on the

beauty of the dog and leaving it at that is the best course of action.

3. It is against the law to ask someone what their disability is, but if the veteran seems to want to speak with you, you could ask, “What does the dog do for you?” The vet may be happy to tell you what the dog does, or even give you a small demonstration. He or she may ask the dog to carry some of the groceries, or pick up dropped keys, or even do a specialized command like, “Got my back?”

4. Do not pet the dog. Going out in public is still difficult for some of our veterans and their dogs keep them grounded and focused. If you pet a psychiatric service dog, the dog will put its focus on you—and take it away from the veteran—and that could cause the vet to feel anxious.

5. Never, ever feed a service dog.

Psychiatric service dogs are a means of allowing some of our wounded warriors to heal. It takes extraordinary courage for these vets to go out in the world again and try to become more whole. Please thank them for what they’ve done for our country, and respect that their dogs are not pets. Thank you.

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# THE IMPO

“PILLAR” may have been the last word to suit Joan LaCaille—she was très chic, bird-slender, and constantly on the go—but that was what she became for Puppies Behind Bars. She could be counted on for board meetings, fund-raisers, and anything else the organization needed. She was always bringing friends in to the prisons, showing them “her” puppies and “her” inmates, and, sure enough, those friends would be converted into staunch P.B.B. supporters and generous donors.

LaCaille was present at the creation of P.B.B. and it’s still hard to realize she’s gone—she died, very suddenly, on January 9, 2009.

Eleven years ago, P.B.B. founder and president Gloria Gilbert Stoga was still trying to get accreditation for the fledgling charity when Rosetta Miller told her she was going to introduce her to “a wonderful woman who’s crazy about giraffes.”

“Giraffes!” Gilbert Stoga said. “Rosetta, I’m trying to start a nonprofit about dogs, not giraffes!”

But the two hit it off immediately, and LaCaille became a woman who was crazy about giraffes and dogs. Over the next decade, she would sponsor seven puppies (in honor of her friends—Miller, Doris Roberts, Kitty Gaisman, Ann L. Bronfman, Bobbi Gordon, and Robert Raeburn—and her beloved brother Brad). Three more were sponsored in her honor by her friends.

Born Joan Kelleher in 1928, she lived a big, passionate, energetic life, full of travel and adventure and purpose. She had two extremely successful careers (first in P.R., and then in real estate, where she ended up as Managing Director at Warburg Realty), working tirelessly throughout to protect giraffes and, later, to promote P.B.B.

Gilbert Stoga will always remember suggesting a novel celebration for LaCaille’s 80th birthday: a party in prison. “There was uncharacteristic silence on the other end of the phone,” she recalls. “Completely forgetting to whom I was speaking, I suggested she think about it and get back to me. ‘Think about it!’, Joan erupted. ‘Gloria, babykins, I’ve already started writing the guest list!’”

So, on March 5, 2008, Gilbert Stoga met LaCaille and eight of her friends in the

# RTANCE OF KNOWING JOAN

parking lot of the Bedford Hills maximum-security women's prison. When they got to the inmate-housing unit where Gilbert Stoga had taught class that morning, she couldn't believe her eyes: "The women had transformed the drab prison space into a birthday room.

They'd hung streamers, they'd somehow gotten a 'Happy Birthday' banner, and they'd put together all the card tables they could find.

"And there, on display, were bowls of cookies and birthday cake upon birthday cake upon birthday cake upon birthday cake."

The women had stayed up until 1:30 a.m. the night before, baking. In prison, there are no refrigerators or ovens; there are no stoves. The inmates had only a sink and a microwave. "And from that," Gilbert Stoga says, "they baked and baked and baked. They made square cakes and rectangular cakes and three round cakes. They cut holes in the middle of the round cakes and arranged them to form an '8' and an '0.'

But what was most memorable about that day, she adds, "was the look of pure

joy on Joan's face. She was in her element. And while she thought the inmates were giving to her, she was the one doing the giving. For two hours that afternoon, there were no barriers—of age, or class, or race, or

As her friend the columnist Liz Smith noted at the memorial service in February, LaCaille would take great delight thereafter in telling people, "I spent my 80th birthday in prison!" Also speaking at the service, the actress Doris Roberts spoke of traveling around the world with her close friend of over fifty years.

Another tribute came from Connie, an inmate at Bedford Hills, on behalf of all the women there. "I was entrusted to raise a fragile, innocent little puppy named Koki, sponsored by Joan's friends," Connie wrote. "Just as Koki looked at me without judgment, with trust and with love, Joan put her faith in this program, and thereby in me. Rest peacefully, Joan. Because of you, I live more peacefully."

Hundreds of other people connected with P.B.B.—inmates, blind people, autistic kids, disabled veterans, and those who have been protected by explosive-detection canines—can say the same.

To honor her work, P.B.B. has started a Joan LaCaille Memorial fund. All proceeds

will go to the Dog Tags program, which donates fully trained service dogs to wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Joan LaCaille's passion lives on.



Joan LaCaille in Africa, circa 1960; inset: LaCaille at a P.B.B. cocktail.



between 'free' and 'incarcerated.' There were just women sitting around, laughing, and eating cake, celebrating the birthday of someone very dear to them."

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

(Tax ID # 13-3969389) Please mail your tax-deductible contribution with this form to:  
**PUPPIES BEHIND BARS | 10 East 40th Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10016**

# Ways to give to Puppies Behind Bars

## 1. Donate gifts, large or small, via check or credit card.

Make checks payable to Puppies Behind Bars and send to 10 East 40th Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10016. To make a credit-card donation call 212.680.9562 or go to <http://puppiesbehindbars.com/support.asp>.

## Monthly contribution

Donate on a regular basis by setting up a recurring contribution online via [networkforgood.org](http://networkforgood.org).

## Tribute gift

Send a card to a friend or loved one in honor of a special occasion—birthday, wedding, anniversary, etc.

## Memorial gift

Send a card in memory of a loved one or a four-legged friend.

## 2. Sponsor and name a puppy

Sponsoring a puppy-in-training costs

\$3,000, which entitles you to name the pup. Once the dog enters prison, we will send you an announcement card and quarterly updates, written by the individual inmate raiser and distributed by our New York office. These letters serve as strong testimony to the growth of both the puppy and inmate as they work towards a common goal of serving humanity.

## 3. In lieu of gifts

In lieu of bar or bat mitzvah, wedding, or anniversary gifts, share your special occasion with your favorite charity. Please contact Liz Smith (212.680.9562) if you wish to donate funds from an event.

## 4. Purchase products at FetchDog.com

FetchDog.com donates to P.B.B. 6% of all sales that originate from our website. Click on the FetchDog.com banner, then go shopping for your pup. While you're there, purchase the Chewy Shoe, a patriotic toy made especially for P.B.B.

by Vibram, and another two dollars will be donated.

## 5. Build awareness of P.B.B. online

Join P.B.B.'s Facebook Cause page (<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/20433>) and our growing online community of 6,000 and counting. Keep up on P.B.B. news, help raise \$3,000 for our first online puppy sponsorship, and vote on the puppy's name. Invite your online community of friends and family, keep up on P.B.B. news, and set up pledge goals. Facebook donations are distributed to us through a trusted third party, Network for Good.

## 6. Getting married?

Now you can support P.B.B. by registering with the I Do Foundation. From honeymoons and invitations to gifts and wedding favors, the I Do Foundation allows couples and their guests to make wedding-related purchases that generate donations for charity. The I Do Foundation's Charity Registry service also makes it easy for guests to make donations in lieu of gifts. All of these services are available free of cost at [IDoFoundation.org](http://IDoFoundation.org). Check it out today, and be sure to select P.B.B. as the beneficiary of your charitable wedding.

## 7. Convert AMEX Membership Rewards into donations

Donate with your AMEX card or redeem Membership Rewards points to make a donation. 1,000 Membership Rewards points equal a \$10 donation. Go to [americanexpress.com/give](http://americanexpress.com/give) to support P.B.B.

## PUPPIES' CORNER

How your child can help ...

### 1. Sweet support

Have a bake sale or set up a lemonade stand, and donate the proceeds to P.B.B.

### 2. Common Cents

Common Cents is an educational, nonprofit organization which specializes in creating and managing service-learning programs for young people. To find out how your child and his or her classmates can get involved, go to [commoncents.org](http://commoncents.org).

## A PBB Story – From Playful Pup to Loyal Working Dog

**Sponsor and name a puppy!**

A puppy is sponsored and named and placed into the arms of her highly-skilled inmate raiser who is prepped with textbooks and supplies. Throughout the 18 months that she spends in prison she outgrows many collars and leashes and devours bags and bags of dog food. She and her inmate raiser attend weekly PBB-instructed classes where they learn to use her training toys. She leaves prison for routine veterinary check-ups and ventures out with specially trained volunteers on socialization outings that expose her to family life, restaurants, stores and nursing homes. Upon graduating, she earns her working dog certification and is ready to serve a disabled individual or law enforcement official.

**Be part of a PBB story and support us!**



PHOTOGRAPH BY RADHIKA CHALASANI

*CLOSE TO THE HEART*  
continued from page 1

never had in my life.”

Among the climactic moments *Close* had captured on film was the prison meeting between Sgt. Hill and the inmates who raised Frankie, the yellow Lab who is now the sergeant’s constant companion. Sgt. Hill is suffering, in *Close’s* words, from “the signature injury of Iraq and

Afghanistan, the invisible wound.” He has traumatic brain injury (T.B.I.) and severe post-traumatic stress disorder (P.T.S.D.). “Frankie has been his lifeline to reality,” the actress and animal lover reported, telling Oprah how the dog helps Sgt. Hill deal with paralyzing, violent flashbacks.

For Frankie’s primary puppy-raiser, Roberto, and the

other inmates in the Fishkill program, Sgt. Hill and Frankie’s visit was a rare joy. “It’s seldom that we see our dogs when they leave here,” Roberto noted. But all the inmates recognize that giving up the pups they love so much is

“our way to repay a society that we took so much from,” as Edwardo put it. “To see you is breathtaking,” he told Sgt. Hill.

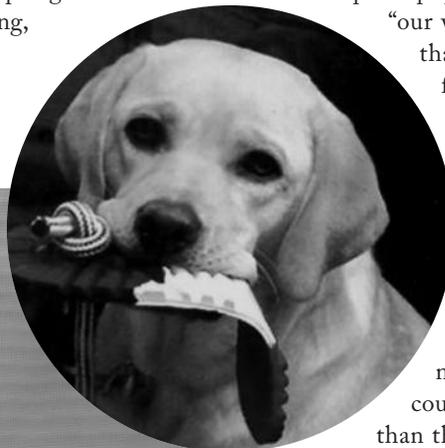
Choking up as he spoke, a fellow inmate named Steve said, “What better gift can we give you, a man who has served his country in its time of need, than this beautiful dog?”

Appearing by Skype from Kansas City, Sgt. Hill’s wife, Gina, described the difference between the husband she saw go off to war—life of the party, energetic, involved with his family and community—and the man who returned, gripped by darkness and fear. “Frankie has brought my sons their daddy home,” she said. “She has lit the light back in him that had been so dark for the last year and a half.” Sgt. Hill’s courageous visit to thank Frankie’s inmate puppy-raisers was one proof of that renewal.

*Close’s* steadfast, creative support for P.B.B. is consistent with her involvement with FetchDog.com, a leading source of information and products for passionate dog-lovers. Her blog, *Lively Licks: Profiles of Dogs and Their People*, which explores the impact of dogs on our quality of life, appears regularly on the FetchDog.com site.

At the end of the show, *Close* had a special gift for Oprah’s dog, Sadie: a red, white, and blue “Chewy Shoe” dog toy, shaped like the sole of a shoe. The toy, available at FetchDog.com, is manufactured by Vibram Pet Products, a division of Quabaug Corporation, which makes most of the soles currently in use by the U.S. military. FetchDog.com and Vibram each will donate a dollar from the sale of every Chewy Shoe to P.B.B.’s Dog Tags program. (For purchase details, see “Paws for Applause,” back page.)

Oprah received her Chewy Shoe with gratitude and laughter. Just before the show, she told her audience, Sadie had been caught chewing on one of Oprah’s Prada shoes. Score another one for FetchDog.com, Vibram, and P.B.B.



Glenn Close, Oprah Winfrey, and the Chewy Shoe for Sadie; inset: Vibram, a service dog in training, demonstrates the “hold” command



PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE BURNS/HARPO PRODUCTIONS

### TEACHING BY EXAMPLE

Former Bedford Hills puppy-raisers **Geraldine Hardwick** and **Nora Moran**, who have worked in P.B.B.'s office since being paroled, recently added to their responsibilities by becoming the newest assistant instructors at the Fishkill and Mid-Orange men's prisons, respectively. Both are excited to be able to share in the puppy-training experience again. "Puppies Behind Bars has enriched my life and I am grateful to be a part of this organization," says Hardwick. Moran adds, "I appreciate this opportunity to grow as a person, as a leader, and as a part of P.B.B." Illustrating that it is possible to turn their time of incarceration into something positive, they have become role models for other puppy-raisers.

### DEVELOPMENT DUO

P.B.B.'s staff has expanded. In February, P.B.B. welcomed **Eric Barsness** as director of foundation development and communications, and **Liz Kang Smith** as director of finance and individual giving. Barsness' diverse background includes 17 years with Condé Nast publications, most recently as creative services director for Architectural Digest. "I am delighted to apply the experience I gained in the corporate and performing arts worlds to the important work of P.B.B.," says Barsness. "I believe firmly in the power of dogs to transform human lives." Smith, who has worked in both the private and public sector, echoes his enthusiasm: "If you are a dog lover, believe in redemption, appreciate the safety explosive-detection canines provide and the healing power of service dogs, then please consider supporting P.B.B. I am thrilled to be working at an organization that I can truly connect with." Barsness and Smith will work in tandem to

expand P.B.B.'s development efforts under the guidance of Annie Teillon, who, after serving six years as director of development, has been promoted to vice president.

### TEILLON TIMES THREE

Congratulations to P.B.B. vice president **Annie Teillon** and her husband, **Geoff**, who became first-time parents on May 15 with the birth of their daughter, **Atlee Cline Teillon**.

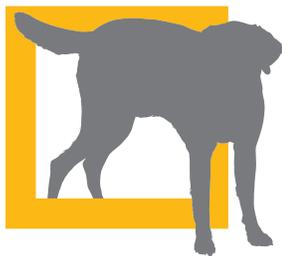
### MATCH MAKING

A **\$125,000 challenge grant** P.B.B. received to support Dog Tags has been matched, two months before the July 31, 2009 deadline. The \$250,000 raised by this dollar-for-dollar matching initiative will help P.B.B. train and place more service dogs with veterans returning home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with physical or emotional disabilities.

### IF THE SHOE FITS, FETCH IT

**FetchDog.com**<sup>TM</sup>, an on-line community and leading supplier of goods for dog owners, and **Vibram**<sup>TM</sup>, the major provider of footwear soles for the U.S. military, have teamed up to create the **Dog Tags Chewy Shoe** in honor of the sacrifices made by our veterans. The red, white, and blue dog toy features a durable sole and a tough cord for throwing or tug-of-war. With every Chewy Shoe purchase, \$2 will be donated to P.B.B.'s Dog Tags program. Visit [FetchDog.com](http://FetchDog.com) or call 800.595.0595 to order (item #T20011).

PAWS FOR  
APPLAUSE



Puppies  
Behind  
Bars

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