

# PUPPIES BEHIND BARS

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PHOTOS BY VALERIE SHAFER

TRAINING INMATES TO RAISE PUPPIES TO BE GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND AND EXPLOSIVE-DETECTION DOGS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

## THE PUPPY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2003-04

# FROM BOWHAUS TO YOUR HOUSE

Chevy Chase whined, he barked, he howled. He even threatened to lift his leg. The crowd—about 450 supporters of Puppies Behind Bars—laughed and applauded the legendary comedian, who was serving as the auctioneer at P.B.B.'s fourth annual benefit. More important, they raised their paddles, bidding on doghouses, models, and sketches that had been donated by top architects and designers Robert A.M. Stern, Dan Wood, Ismael Leyva, Michael Graves, William E. Massie, Carol Bentel, Paul Gleicher, Michael Timchula, Jonathan Wagner, E. Ronald Gushue, Cynthia Crier, Michael Bird, James Ludwig, and Kitty Hawks.



JERRY RUOTOLO

The October 20th benefit and live auction took place on three floors of Steelcase's high-style office building overlooking Central Park. The guests started arriving at 6:00 p.m. to stroll through an amazing display of creativity that ranged from Massie's sleek corrugated-cardboard structures ("Sit," "Stay," and "Lie Down") and Bird's pet-sized Adirondack boathouse ("Spitfire") to Leyva's ultra-modern "Penthouse Doghouse" and Wood's virtual "Villa Pup," which had been featured in *The New York Times's* House & Home section the previous week. Many of the doghouses had been on display earlier in the month at the offices of the Corcoran Group, which helped publicize the event.

Robert A. M. Stern's architectural perspective drawing of his "Working Dog's Weekend House" had been hand-colored by Eddie Otero, a puppy-raiser at the Fishkill men's prison. Otero's parents were able to attend the auction and see their son's work. Also at the benefit were two of the organization's most faithful spokespeople, Judy Goldman

and Willi Richards, who were accompanied by their P.B.B.-raised guide dogs, Lucie and Victoria.

After a welcome by P.B.B. president and founder Gloria Gilbert Stoga and Steelcase's John Gols and David Scherff, Detective Glenn Ostermann of the N.Y.P.D. Bomb Squad told the audience a bit about how he and his P.B.B.-raised explosive-detection canine, Bowman, work to keep the city safe. The evening's host, Glenn Goord, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Correc-

**Left: Nancy Coffin raises her paddle, as her husband, Jonathan, looks on; below: Michael Bird's pet-sized Adirondack boathouse.**



PETER ARON

**more BOWHAUS photos inside**

tional Services, mentioned his pride in P.B.B.'s success at the prisons he runs, then introduced Chevy Chase.

The actor and comedian's performance that evening was as heartfelt as it was entertaining. He and his wife, Jayni, had spent two hours at the Bedford Hills women's prison on October 7, where they got a first-hand look at the P.B.B. program,

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# BOWHAUS

October 20, 2003, at Steelcase, raised **\$130,000** for Puppies Behind Bars



## Bowhaus *continued from page 1*

talking to the puppy raisers about how P.B.B. allows them to give back to the community. One of the inmates, Debra, took them to the cell she shares with Scottie, the puppy she is training.

The Chases came away from Bedford Hills with a true appreciation for P.B.B.'s work. With an equal appreciation for their support, P.B.B. has named a puppy "Chevy"; he will enter the Bedford Hills prison in the near future, to start his training as a potential guide dog.

Thanks to the human Chevy, Jayni Chase, dozens of hard-working volunteers, a group of talented architects and designers, and the generosity of Steelcase, Corcoran, Pernod Ricard, and other companies and individuals, the October 20th event netted \$130,000 of the \$155,000 it grossed, which will help fund P.B.B.'s existing programs in six prisons and its projected expansion into a seventh facility this coming year.



**Clockwise from upper left:** Sharon Baum and board member Joan LaCaille; "A Connecticut Doghouse" by Jonathan Wagner; Glenn Goord presents Chevy Chase with a stuffed version of the puppy "Chevy" that will soon begin guide-dog training; "Haus (3)" by Spitzer and Associates; benefit-committee member Mary Anne Hunting, architect William E. Massie, P.B.B. president Gloria Gilbert Stoga, and Steelcase's Jeannie Bochette.

PARTY PHOTOS: JERRY RUOTOLO; DOG HOUSES: PETER AARON

## P.B.B. needs your support!

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

Collar & Leash  
**\$25**

Embroidered  
Puppy  
Jacket  
**\$50**

Sponsor  
a Pup  
**\$3000**

Puppy  
Food  
**\$100**



Textbooks & Educational  
Supplies  
**\$250**

Inmate Vet  
Assistant  
Course  
**\$700**

**Veterinary Care \$500**

- The July-August issue of *Greenwich* magazine ran a feature story on P.B.B. and its Bedford Hills program by Timothy Dumas, with photographs by Bob Capazzo. "Jail Dogs" includes this wonderful conclusion: "Through the simple act of raising a puppy," Dumas writes, "[the inmates] catch a glimpse of redemption and hope the rest of us will notice."

## PUPS IN THE PRESS

- The October 20th Bowhaus fundraiser got widespread publicity, appearing in *The New York Times*, Liz Smith's *Daily News* column, *Dog News*, *Quest* and *Avenue* magazines, and the *New Jersey Pet Gazette*, as well as on WNBC's Channel 4 News with Chuck Scarborough.

# FOLLOW THAT LAB!

## PART TWO: *In Which Grant Has Growing Pains*

Grant has become a teenager," says Roz, the inmate who has been raising him at the Bedford Hills Women's Correctional Facility since April. To start with, can this guy eat!

Two cups of food in record time, according to Roz. "He still hops around like a bunny rabbit when he knows he is being fed," she reports. "His favorite part of the day is breakfast, dinner, and treat time—he's greedy, and that is one area we are really working on."

Like a teenager, Grant loves to play with his pals, Arrow and Marty. (Marty is being raised in the cell next door by Jean, who also helps out with Grant.) He gets a bit crazy when he's bored; plus, he's easily distracted: he will literally walk into objects and people, Roz says. "And he is really testing the limits on everything we do: sit, stay, come, going in the garbage can—rebellious against his mom."

One of Grant's recent puppy sitters, Elinor Toronto Doyle, agrees: "He's smart. He knows what he's supposed to do. But he'll try to get away with whatever he can." Doyle affectionately describes how Grant might, say, pick up a stuffed animal that he knew he wasn't supposed to touch. She'd tell him to leave it, and he'd leave it. "But he looked at me as he put it down to see how serious I was."

Another weekend puppy sitter, Jeri Silverman, has a slightly different slant: "As handsome as Cary, and probably as charming, Grant is willful, a typical male. He knows all his commands and will do as he is told as long as he is handled properly."

Yet all three women are confident that Grant is on track. He reminds Silverman of another big male Lab she puppy-sat for P.B.B., Seymour, who is now a successful guide dog, making a huge difference in his blind owner's life. And Doyle was impressed by Grant's behavior when he was wearing his P.B.B. jacket. As part of a JPMorgan Chase volunteer program (see "Our Man Jack" on page 4), she took him with her to work at the company's midtown offices, introducing this intensely curious pup to new experiences: bus rides,

busy streets, elevator rides, and more.

One of four P.B.B. dogs visiting her floor, he never seemed nervous or skittish. "I noticed a difference between Grant in the home and at the office," Doyle says, praising Grant's professional behavior and that of the other dogs. "They were all good. They're trained well enough so that when they're in an office situation, they know they're supposed to be lying down and quiet. None of them barked, ever."

So, while Roz and Grant still have some work to do, they've come a long way. And to his "mom," this headstrong pup is a huge source of pride. While he was out with another of his weekend sitters, Grant ended up as an extra in a movie. "Queen Latifah saw them and asked if they would agree to be filmed, because they looked so much like New Yorkers. The cameraman kept taking shots of the P.B.B. jacket Grant was wearing,"

says Roz. "So he is a star. He is my star, anyway."

*In the next newsletter: Chapter Three of Grant's adventures.*



### hello, yellow

Joseph Juras is president of Yellow Dog, a community-oriented company on Nantucket that makes and sells caps, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and bags to support golden and Labrador retrievers throughout the U.S. Recently, Juras wrote to Puppies Behind Bars with a most generous offer, which was gratefully accepted. His company will produce a special edition Yellow Dog hat, the sale of which will benefit P.B.B.: a \$10 donation for each one sold. These high-quality caps are black, with the Yellow Dog embroidered on the front and the Puppies Behind Bars logo on the back. So rather than passing the hat, P.B.B. is urging supporters to *buy* the hat. Visit [www.YellowDogNantucket.com](http://www.YellowDogNantucket.com) to learn more about Juras's work and to see these cool caps. (Another great gift for the dog lovers on your holiday list.)

### DONATION FORM

I would like to be a **SURROGATE OWNER** of a puppy  
(minimum donation: \$3000.)

*Please accept my donation for:*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 puppy's weekend visit to NYC (\$35) | <input type="checkbox"/> A sleeping crate for 1 puppy (\$85) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leashes and bowls for 1 puppy (\$50)  | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 • 99 Madison Avenue, 2nd Floor • New York, NY 10016**

## PAWS FOR APPLAUSE

● **DOUBLE PLAY** With great enthusiasm, the board of directors voted in two new members at its last meeting: Juliet Patsalos-Fox and Sue Bloomberg, both of whom have become important supporters of P.B.B. "Juliet and

Sue are bringing special talents and real commitment to the table," says board chairman Elise O'Shaughnessy. "We're lucky to have them."

● **OUR MAN JACK** Jack Tharp, a longtime P.B.B. volunteer who works in the community relations department at JPMorgan Chase, was chosen from among thousands of nominees submitted by non-profit organizations as New York City's Volunteer of the Year. He received his award from Mayor Bloomberg on October 21st. Jack organized a four-day visit for 11 dogs, who spent Saturday to Tuesday with JPMorgan Chase employees. The dogs went to work with their sitters on Monday and Tuesday, in order to become more familiar with an office environment. One of the pups spent both days experiencing the chaos of the trading floor, and according to P.B.B. president Gloria Gilbert Stoga, "He was so well-behaved that no one realized he was there."

● **CREATIVE FUNDS** P.B.B. supporters have been thinking outside the box. At the request of one birthday girl, kids attending her party in Bedford, N.Y., made contributions to P.B.B. instead of bringing presents. And a couple in Bloomington, Indiana, asked their friends to donate in lieu of wedding gifts: a generous way to start married life. P.B.B. also received \$165 from the employees of a company in Southfield, Michigan, along with a letter explaining that they had chosen it as the charity for donations they needed to make if they wanted a "dress-down" workday. Volunteer Cynthia Mas's 11-

year-old daughter led a similar fundraising drive at her school last spring, when her school-mates got to wear jeans on Friday after giving a dollar each to P.B.B., while kids at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua, N.Y., raised \$355 with a charity carwash.

● **COOL IN SCHOOL** The students of Constantine Middle School have been working on a "Wall of Heroes" and a booklet of advice collected from the heroes they have chosen. P.B.B. was proud to learn that one of the students had selected its founder and president Gloria Gilbert Stoga for the wall. As Donnie Anglemeyer wrote to Gilbert Stoga, "You are my hero because you let inmates train puppies, so they can help people. That way, inmates can learn about responsibility, and the dogs can learn at the same time. I'm fourteen years old, and I think it's cool what you're doing."

● **THE MCGILVERY TOUCH** This newsletter, which is designed pro bono by the talented Kathleen McGilvery, won an American Graphic Design Award for excellence in communication and graphic design from *Graphic Design USA* magazine. McGilvery, a freelance designer based in New York City, can be reached at [kmcgnyc@rcn.com](mailto:kmcgnyc@rcn.com).

● **BEYOND THE BARS** As the newsletter goes to press, P.B.B.'s batting average for 2003 is phenomenal. Of the 18 dogs tested for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, 16 passed. P.B.B. placed one of the other two with a blind and deaf three-year-old boy in Rochester, N.Y. Eight dogs were tested for explosive-detection work by A.T.F., and every single one made the grade. This is testament to the teamwork of P.B.B.'s staff, volunteer instructors, shuttle drivers, volunteer puppy sitters, and, of course, the inmates who raised the dogs.



## Give a Little Love:

### Holiday Presents That Help Puppies and People

Looking for the perfect gift—one that sends holiday cheer to those you care about and, at the same time, helps make the world a better place? Why not make a donation to Puppies Behind Bars in their honor? We will send each person on your list the holiday greeting card pictured above, with a message telling them that you have made a generous donation in their name.

# PUPPIES BEHIND BARS

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