

PUPPIES BEHIND BARS

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PHOTOS BY ENRICO FERORELLI

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

THE PUPPY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2005-06

GET THE PICTURE?

Puppies Behind Bars's annual benefit, which was held November 1 in New York at the Americas Society, was a feast for the eyes. (The hors d'oeuvres, provided by Joaquin Martinez of Café Frida and Café Ronda were delicious too.) The stars of the evening were the photographers who have documented P.B.B.'s eight-year history and whose work was on display: **Enrico Ferorelli, Ian Wingfield, Bruce Weber, Neal Slavin, Valerie Shaff, Mark Seliger, Jill Enfield, and Michael Brian.** Close to 200 guests admired the show, bid for photographs in a silent auction, and mingled with P.B.B. staff, supporters, and canine graduates. Bowmann, a P.B.B.-raised bomb-sniffing dog, arrived a bit late. He'd been helping secure the site of another reception taking place that night: a bash

for Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, at MoMA.

The crowd heard from **Glenn Goord**, commis-
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ENRICO FERORELLI

Supporters admire the photo exhibit at P.B.B.'s annual benefit.

Joan for Joy

When pups don't pass the stringent tests to become guide dogs or explosive-detection canines, P.B.B. tries to pair them with children who need the kind of special love and care they can provide. Here's the story of one such "release" dog, Joan, who has more than fulfilled her healing mission, as told by LYNDIA RITACCO.

Joan came to our family on July 25, 2005, after a very long and difficult year that was marked by an extended hospitalization for my daughter, Adrianna. I had taken a family medical and personal leave from work in order to stay with Adrianna at a Boston hospital, provide her with emotional support, and advocate for her needs. Now, back home at last, we were both

recovering from the trauma and stress of her illness—a paraspinal infection—the multiple trips to the operating room, the lack of sleep, and the physical and emotional pain.

My announcement that I was planning to adopt a dog for Adrianna was met by skepticism from those who thought we had "enough" to deal with. And little had I known, when I first placed Adrianna's name on the list for a release dog, that Joan would come to us at a time when our entire family was in need of healing.

Adrianna has multiple challenges. Not only is she legally blind, but she also has cerebral palsy, so she uses a wheelchair, which our new dog slowly became used to. Joan now "supervises" us when we put my daughter in the chair and gives Adri kisses. She sits by the chair
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Joan, above, was named in honor of charter P.B.B. board member Joan LaCaille

Weekends With Gussie

Not many 97-year-olds have “Visit prison” on their To Do list. Gussie is an exception; a homebound senior in Manhattan’s East Village, she is eager to make a special trip to one of New York’s state prisons to meet the individuals responsible for raising the “marvelous puppies that get up and kiss her face” every other week. Gussie is a volunteer with Paws & Reflect, an initiative that is engaging Manhattan’s homebound seniors to help socialize puppies that are in training to become working dogs. This spring, she was paired with volunteer puppy-sitter Cindy, who comes to her apartment every other weekend with one of P.B.B.’s many furry students.

Gussie explains why she feels so strongly about making the trip to prison: “To see the men in prison with my own eyes holding their dogs—well, it teaches us all how to be gentle and soft, doesn’t it? They get a chance to love something that they can touch and feel. And that same puppy might make someone else’s life worth living.” She wants the inmate puppy-raisers to hear this tribute from her, even though traveling to one of the correctional facilities

presents quite a challenge for a woman who needs a wheelchair to go around the block.

It’s clear that she admires the program for what it does for others, but also for what it brings her. “I am an old, helpless woman confined to my apartment,” she says, “but I am sharp, my mind is good, and I need company. I listen to the radio and try to read to kill the time. Now that the days are shorter and it’s dark at 5 p.m., it’s a very long day for me. When Cindy comes, we enjoy each other so much.” Her only complaint? The visits should be more frequent and much longer. “This program is what makes me happy when my life can get difficult,” she says.

—KATIE LOSEY



Gussie and Josh

Puppies Behind Bars teamed up with the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged last spring to begin the Paws & Reflect program, which combines dog socialization with visits to the homebound elderly in Manhattan. A volunteer P.B.B. puppy-sitter commits to visiting the same senior volunteer two weekends a month, which fosters friendship and partnership between them. Paws & Reflect provides excellent socialization for the dogs; it also allows the seniors to be active volunteers in the raising of working dogs, bringing the outside world—and a rare sense of purpose—into their lives.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH A HEART

>>> P.B.B.’s 2006 calendar is a gift that keeps giving, month after month, through the dogs it supports. With photographs by Enrico Ferorelli, Valerie Shaff, Michael Brian, and Dawn Norris, designer Kathy McGilvery has put together a stunning collection of portraits of puppies and the humans whose lives they have changed. Inspirational, useful, a contribution to P.B.B.’s work—who wouldn’t love to find this calendar under the tree? They are available for \$15 each at www.puppiesbehindbars.com, by emailing info@puppiesbehindbars.com, or calling (212) 680-9562.

>>> Instead of picking through the usual array of snowy countrysides, trumpeting angels, and holly wreaths, choose a card that lets everyone on your list know that you’ve made a donation to Puppies Behind Bars in their honor. The stylized green pawprint on the front of the card is decorated with red lights and a gold star while a message inside reads “Peace, from the stars that guide and detect.” The cards are \$2 each. For \$10 each, you can choose to include an insert announcing that a generous donation has been made on the recipient’s behalf. It’s a unique and thoughtful way to reach your friends and family during the holiday season. Email info@puppiesbehindbars.com, call (212) 680-9562, or visit www.puppiesbehindbars.com to have cards sent to those on your list.



UNCLE SAM LETS YOU...

Once again, Puppies Behind Bars is one of the non-profits included in the Combined Federal Campaign, as well as in the state campaigns for New York and New Jersey. Federal employees and employees from those two states can have automatic charitable deductions from their paycheck go to P.B.B. Federal workers gave \$154,000 to the program last year... we’re grateful for their generosity.

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

Get the Picture?

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sioner of the New York State Department of Correctional Services, who underlined the win-win effect of the program he has championed throughout New York's prison system. **Richard Rabinowitz**, vice president and group publisher of *American PHOTO* and *Popular Photography*, spoke about the exhibition, and **Rafael Malave**, a former inmate



Glenn Goord and Richard Rabinowitz



Rafael Malave with his mother, Lillian, and sister Sharon

puppy-raiser at the Wallkill men's prison who is now administrative assistant at P.B.B., moved people to tears with his account of what the program had meant to him.

The evening grossed \$111,000, and netted \$90,000, due to the generosity of the sponsors who underwrote the costs of the event. **Bedell Cellars** donated the wine, as it has for past P.B.B. fundraisers, and another supporter, **Floréal**, provided the flowers, charmingly presented in dog-food containers. The photo exhibition itself was designed by veteran talent **George Corrin, Jr.**



The scene at the Americas Society.

>>> Bomb-sniffing dogs raised by P.B.B. are now serving throughout the U.S. and the world. In November, three P.B.B. graduates trained in explosives detection by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, flew to Jordan with their new Jordanian handlers. They will be stationed at the border with Iraq, where they will sniff for explosives being smuggled into that country, helping to protect Iraqis and Americans serving there.

Beyond the
BARS

>>> One of P.B.B.'s former puppy-raisers from the Edna Mahan prison in New Jersey was recently job hunting after her release. She walked into the Pet & Company store in her local mall and showed them the certificate she'd received from P.B.B., which qualifies her as an animal caretaker. The manager hired her as a dog groomer on the spot! And when the staff mentioned that some of the dogs that come in are sick, she told them, "I know all about giving eye and ear medicine and pills," so she's been given additional responsibility in that area too.

Joan for Joy

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when Adri is eating, hoping for a few morsels to fall her way. She reminds us at 11 a.m. that it's time to go outdoors with Adri.

I bought a large ball with a rope attached. Adrianna pushes the ball off her lap and down the ramp from our deck, where Joan waits for it. Joan picks up the ball by the rope, runs around the yard with it, and then comes back up the ramp to return it to Adrianna.

Joan is playful and independent, but also loyal and loving. She has made friends with our home health aides. She has learned that when Adrianna's grandmother is cooking, she will be able to get a carrot as a treat. She knows that if I put my cap on it's time for a walk or playtime outdoors, and that keys indicate a ride in the car. She seems to know a work day from a play day, and behaves accordingly. Joan has learned our nuances, our needs, and how we meld into one big family. Adrianna and Joan are at the center and heart of that family, giving and receiving lots of love.

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

PAWS FOR APPLAUSE

PERSONNEL FILES: Sue Bloomberg replaced Elise O'Shaughnessy as chair of the board of directors last month, and Joan LaCaille has taken over as treasurer from Burt Ehrlich, after Ehrlich and O'Shaughnessy's terms as founding treasurer and chair expired. Michael Martin, managing director at Guggenheim Partners, joined the board in May; newsletter readers may remember that Martin, a P.B.B. volunteer, raised \$7000 for

P.B.B. in honor of his beloved dog, Teddy, who died last year. Former inmate puppy-raiser Rafael Malave is now working as administrative assistant in the offices of P.B.B., while Katie Losey has rejoined the staff as director of volunteer and public relations.

GETTING VETTED: Charity Navigator, America's premier evaluator of non-profits, awarded P.B.B. the highest rating for sound fiscal management: 4 stars. "Less than a quarter of the charities we've rated have received our highest rating," wrote Charity Navigator's executive director, Trent Stamp, in October, "indicating that Puppies Behind Bars outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate in the most fiscally responsible way possible."

BOOKED BY MICROSOFT: In early 2006, Microsoft and American PHOTO magazine will launch a series of five coffee-table books highlighting select non-profits around the globe. The fourth will focus on ten of New York City's most notable non-profits, P.B.B. among them. Noted photographer Ian Wingfield and

writer Nicole Tourtelot, who provided the images and text for the book, went with American PHOTO publisher Richard Rabinowitz to the Fishkill Correctional Facility last February to see the prisoners and puppies at work—an experience they won't soon forget.

HEART OF THE HAMPTONS: Board members Kathy and Billy Rayner held a lovely reception at their house in East Hampton in July, raising \$26,000 and promoting P.B.B.'s work to new potential supporters in the high-powered summer community.

ROMANCING THE STOGA: With its annual More Than Words awards, Harlequin Publishing honors five women involved in non-profit work, awarding \$10,000 to each of their charities. Every honoree is paired with a top Harlequin author, who then writes a short fictional story about her. Gloria Gilbert Stoga and P.B.B. were among the five chosen for 2005, and their tale should be a real page-turner. The women and charities will be feted at a dinner at Lincoln Center this spring.

MASTER WORK: A fan of P.B.B.—and vice versa—since the first prison-raised explosive-detection dogs went to work for him in 2002, Ken Silva, former kennel master for the N.Y.P.D. Bomb Squad, is now training inmates in the Wallkill and Mid-Orange prisons. "I did not know how the inmates would take to the idea of a former cop in their midst," Gilbert Stoga admits, "but they are thrilled. They look to him as someone from whom they can learn a lot."

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