

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

Summer 2004

Bedford and Beyond

Media investor Michael Fuchs, who as chairman of H.B.O. built one of television's biggest successes, opened his estate in Bedford, N.Y., to a whole new group of Puppies Behind Bars supporters on May 15. The evening, which was spearheaded by P.B.B. board members Cissy Viebranz and Cynthia Mas, raised \$50,000, and drew more than 100 people, who gathered on the lawn to hear about the program's star graduates.

Speaking from the stone porch of Fuchs's house, Judy Goldman, whose guide dog, Lucie, was raised at the Bedford Hills prison, talked about the freedom and confidence Lucie has given her. Then Lucie expertly navigated the porch steps, which zig-zagged between plants down to the grass, showing the assembled guests why Goldman places such trust in her guide.

The head of the Israeli secret service detail thanked the N.Y.P.D. and said,

“You know, I'm really glad you have those dogs. My guys are good, **but nothing beats a dog for detecting explosives.**”

In her remarks, P.B.B. president Gloria Gilbert Stoga described the far-flung results of the program's partnership with A.T.F., the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives. Glory,

a P.B.B.-raised dog, is working in the private security detail of Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak; Michael is a bomb-sniffer with the University of Arizona police; and Rudi is with the Italian Royal Police.

Gilbert Stoga also told the guests about the recent visit of an Israeli delegation to New York: They had brought their own secret service protection with them, but when the Israeli security team was finished checking out the venue, the N.Y.P.D. bomb squad moved in, with two P.B.B.-trained dogs. The head of the Israeli secret service detail thanked the N.Y.P.D. and said, “You know, I'm really glad you have those dogs. My guys are good, but nothing beats a dog for detecting explosives.”

It was clear to all gathered at Fuchs's home that P.B.B.'s reach extends far beyond the six prisons where inmates are raising 56 puppies to become guide dogs and explosive-detection dogs. (A pair of Labs named in Fuchs's honor will start their training at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility this summer.) Proceeds from the evening will help fund two P.B.B. initiatives: enabling inmate puppy-raisers to take a correspondence course that would certify them as dog groomers, and bringing puppies from the prisons to visit homebound elderly people in New York City, which adds to the dogs' socialization while it alleviates the loneliness of shut-ins.



Revel With a Cause:
benefit host Michael Fuchs

RECORD REVIEW



FOLLOW THAT LAB!

PART THREE: *In Which Grant Gets Serious*

BowHaus Warming

The benefit committee is already hard at work on P.B.B.'s annual fundraising bash. **BowHaus 2004 will be held on October 25 at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery City Park.** For last year's event, noted architects designed and built dog houses, which were auctioned off by Chevy Chase (*above*, with the puppy named in his honor). This year, top interior designers will create dog beds. The talent signed up to date includes **Albert Hadley, Bill Sofield, Charlotte Moss, Jamie Drake, Michael Formica,** and Hollywood costume designer **Aude Bronson-Howard** (*Analyze This; Mississippi Burning*). Three of the architects who participated in BowHaus 2003, **Michael Timchula, Carol Rusche Bentel** and P.B.B. board member **Dan Lobitz**, are also working on the new challenge of canine sleeping quarters.

Remember Grant? The little bundle of yellow Lab who arrived at Bedford Hills prison on April 8, 2003, to start his education with his inmate puppy-raiser, Roslyn? If you read the last two newsletters you know that, while Grant made friends wherever he went, his biggest failings were food and fun (as in, when Grant wanted to have fun, he wanted to have fun).

Well, Roz and Grant put their noses to the grindstone for the rest of their time together. And, on May 12, the good news came: Grant had passed his test at Guiding Eyes for the Blind, in Yorktown Heights, New York, and was entering formal guide-dog training. Roz's pride can be imagined, and her praise for Grant is heartfelt. "His greatest strength," she says, "is his willingness to show affection." Working with Grant taught Roz something new: "We have between us a mutual respect that I never experienced with any of my other dogs. He is so in tune with things that go on around him."

Indeed, Grant saved Roz from a potentially serious problem one day when she took him with her to a meeting in the prison gym. "He kept sniffing at my pockets," she recalls, "and I kept telling him to leave it." He was so persistent that she finally put her hands into her pockets to show him there was nothing in them, only to discover that she'd brought a pair of scissors from her work area. Since inmates are not supposed to carry sharp objects, she quickly told an officer that she had accidentally taken them. "I could have gotten in big trouble," she says, "but thanks to Grant's sniffing I was able to avoid a huge problem. He has a really keen sense of smell."

As a P.B.B. veteran, Roz knows the sadness of parting with a dog after being so close, and she had been mentally preparing for that difficult farewell to Grant. A new puppy raiser, Kathleen, was helping her with him, "and they just adored each other," Roz says. "I honestly think Kathleen will take Grant's departure harder than I will. I know that Grant is going to do his best, and he will be a joy to whoever has him. He is looking at me right now, putting his paw on my foot, showing me his love."



P.B.B. needs your support!

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

Collar & Leash
\$25

Embroidered
Puppy
Jacket
\$50

Sponsor
a Pup
\$3000

Puppy
Food
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Textbooks & Educational
Supplies
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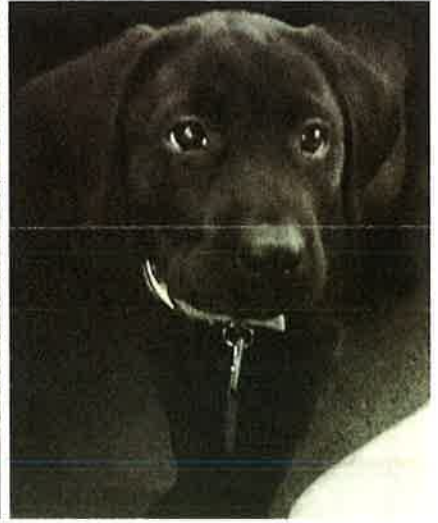
♦ "A wet nose trains for duty," read *The New York Daily News* headline for a story about Dignon, an 8-month-old Lab the paper described as "one of the newest recruits in the city's battle against terrorism." Julia Dignon, the widow of an N.Y.P.D. detective, sponsored the dog in her husband's memory. After being raised by Pamela, an inmate in the Puppies Behind Bars program at New Jersey's Edna Mahan prison, Dignon will join the 14 canines (including three other P.B.B. graduates) of the N.Y.P.D. bomb squad this summer. Dignon's story also inspired coverage in *The New York Sun*, and on **Channels 11** and **7**.

♦ *Avenue* magazine photographed the visit of Corcoran, a black Lab in P.B.B. training, to the Manhattan offices of his sponsors at the Corcoran Group, while the *Times Herald-Record* ran a story on February 12 about P.B.B.'s program at the Mid-Orange Correctional Facility in Warwick, New York.

**PUPS IN
PRINT**

A Lick and A Promise

Here are some of the puppies who entered the P.B.B. program in the past year to be raised as guide dogs or explosive-detection canines.



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

Lord's Legacy: Seven puppies entered the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in March, the largest group of dogs ever to start P.B.B. training in one prison at the same time. The success of the Bedford Hills program, which has grown to 24 inmate puppy-raisers, is due in no small part to the vision of the prison's longtime superintendent, **Elaine Lord**, who retired on March

30. "She thought outside the box," says P.B.B. president Gloria Gilbert Stoga. "She was willing to tell the corrections officers that, yes, they did need to unlock cellblock doors at 3 a.m. if a dog had to go outside." One of the new pups is named Elaine, in honor of this outstanding woman.

Sweet Sixteen: A girl in Amherst, Mass., sent P.B.B. a check for \$255, collected from her friends instead of presents on her sixteenth birthday. In the letter with her donation, she wrote that she wishes the program were at the prison where her brother is serving time, because she thinks it would really help him.

April Powers: The board of directors voted in three new members at its April 13 meeting: **Daniel Lobitz**, architect with Robert A.M. Stern, who designed a doghouse for last year's benefit; realtor **Cynthia Mas**, who has brought new muscle to the Bedford Hills program; and **Cissy Viebranz**, who has worked on fundraising as well as sponsoring dogs. "All of them have given generously of their time and talent to P.B.B.," says board chairman **Elise O'Shaughnessy**. "We're thrilled that they have been willing to make this commitment to the organization's future."

Family Affair: For the second year in a row, board member **Lori Gevalt** and her husband, **Peter**, hosted a thank-you evening for major supporters. And, once again, the evening was a great opportunity for P.B.B.'s "family" (an overused concept, yes, but it does seem that way) to celebrate its successes and share excitement about the future. The Gevalts really know how to make a group feel special.

Way to Liv: **Olivia Wilson**, known as **Liv**, has joined our staff. A graduate of Middlebury College, she read about P.B.B. in *Greenwich* magazine. "I thought it was the perfect organization," she says. "I love Labs and having the inmates raise them seemed such a cool idea." With no fulltime job available, she started volunteering in the P.B.B. office once a week. She took over from **Katie Losey** (who got the travel bug) this fall. Her family has sponsored two P.B.B. pups.

Final Exams: In 2003, an astounding 20 of the 22 puppies (91 percent) raised by P.B.B. for Guiding Eyes for the Blind passed their tests, which means they were accepted into formal guide-dog training. All 13 of the dogs being raised for A.T.F. passed their tests to become explosive-detection canines.

Labradoodle Dandy: **Bill**, the first labradoodle to complete the P.B.B. program, graduated on May 8 from the Guide Dog Foundation in Smithtown, Long Island. He is named for **Bill Hauck**, the deputy superintendent of the Edna Mahan Women's Correctional Facility in New Jersey, where inmates have been raising P.B.B. pups since 2001.

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