



Ripley was one of the most amazing dogs ever to step paw into Babylon Shelter and Last Hope. This perfectly behaved, eight-year-old Cockapoo was

surrendered to Babylon Town Shelter in 2015 by a young owner who loved him but couldn't afford to keep any dog. The man barely had a roof over his own head.

After a short stay at Babylon Shelter, I moved Ripley to Last Hope in Wantagh. It didn't take long before Ripley had a fan club made up of Last Hope volunteers, and an adoption application from Mary who met Ripley during her Friday shift. She had recently lost both her dogs to old age.

**Bon Appétit Magazine Video:** Before Ripley went home, Last Hope received an invitation the equivalent of Cinderella rescue dogs being invited to the prince's ball. Bon Appétit magazine asked Last Hope to bring shelter dogs to their NYC studio to tape a video of our pups enjoying a three-course gourmet meal prepared by renowned Chef Jean-Georges. Each shelter dog would be dining with a blind date—a celebrity social media dog. The video would promote the magazine and adopting homeless dogs from shelters.

The filming was taking place the morning of the day Pope Francis would fly to NYC. We were invited to Bon Appétit because of a recommendation from the Schwartzman Animal Medical Center (AMC), also in NYC. Last Hope's Pammy Sue was a Kentucky puppy mill Shih Tzu used for breeding, then discarded because of a broken leg.

Once at Last Hope, Pammy Sue had orthopedic limb repair in 2014, courtesy of "AMC to the Rescue." Then, she was adopted by her foster mom, Sue. After her leg healed, Pammy Sue was invited back to the AMC to do a photo shoot which was used to showcase "AMC to the Rescue," their pro bono veterinary program, in an AMC financial publication.

**Our Chef:** Jean-Georges Vongerichten is one of the world's most famous chefs, and the restaurateur behind many three- and four-star restaurants worldwide. He prepared two different Michelin three-star menus for the blind dates in different versions of the video "Doggy Bag," and in the videos, greeted his "patrons" to ask them how they enjoyed their meal, and whether they'd be dining with him again.

**Our Canine Cast:** As Sue and I viewed the city maps listing where streets would be closed for the Pope's visit and the UN General Assembly meeting, we feared we'd be stuck in the city with our selected dog stars because of gridlock and security checks. Pammy Sue, a Last Hope Bloodhound puppy named Jelly and my late Charlotte, an English Toy Spaniel from a Lindenhurst hoarder house and Babylon Shelter alumna were our first choices. Jelly felt under the weather the day before his celebrity opportunity, and Ripley filled in for him. In retrospect, we couldn't have picked a better dog actor than Ripley. Plus, our Bloodhound puppy never would have had the attention span for this task.



*Chef Jean-Georges poses with Ripley and his blind date Marnie during the filming of a 3-course gourmet meal video for Bon Appétit magazine in 2015.*



*Remarkable Ripley, alumna from both Babylon Shelter and Last Hope.*

tablecloth holding her leash to keep her in place. I was so tempted to devour Charlotte's short ribs when a tantalizing tidbit fell on the floor next to my nose.

Ripley moved to his new home with Mary later the same day. Years later he welcomed a little Shih Tzu sister named Maggie, displaced by divorce, and in 2022, Twister, a southern transport tiny Terrier afflicted with heartworm. Ripley was the perfect big brother and pet every day.

His Mom Mary is extremely careful about bringing her dogs to the vet. She was with Ripley two weeks ago when, at age 15 or 16, he was released from the pain from fast-growing oral tumors that seemed to appear overnight. Remarkable Ripley spent his whole rescued life as a completely agreeable pup. We believe he remains a perfect pet and canine celebrity at the Rainbow Bridge.

**TheStudio:** The dogs sat at a lovely table covered with "Lady & the Tramp"-trademark red and white check gingham. Their candles were lit (yes, really!), and their wine poured by the debonair French waiter who was actually Philippe Vongerichten, director of operations at his father's restaurants. Ripley rehearsed first. He did well but then tried to climb over the table. Thankfully, the candles weren't lit or the wine poured yet. Trainer Adam worked on Ripley's sit/stays in the lobby while Charlotte's video was filmed. The result was a flawless performance by our talented Mr. Ripley.

Ripley had the pleasure of the late Marnie Chihuahua's company during his feast. In 2012, Marnie was

rescued from a Connecticut shelter when she was a matted Shih Tzu about ten years old with a head tilt. After 14 teeth were extracted, her tongue always hung out of her mouth. At the time, she was the most popular senior dog on Instagram with 1.8 million followers. The duo wolfed down roasted marrow bone with salmon roe and brioche croutons, then orecchiette and meatballs with fresh ricotta. Their waiter offered them a glass of water to clear their pup palates before enjoying a peanut butter ice cream sundae for dessert. To see Ripley's video, go to: [www.bonappetit.com/people/chefs/article/jean-georges-vongerichten-doggy-bag](http://www.bonappetit.com/people/chefs/article/jean-georges-vongerichten-doggy-bag).

Meanwhile, my Charlotte, who dined with Manny the French (who is still a social media star), was not as cooperative. She kept running off stage to find me in the audience, so I became her pup puppeteer, lying on the floor under her

## POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by the Suffolk County Police Department's Third Precinct and other police and law enforcement agencies:

### CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Brentwood: Someone broke the glass on a door at Vida Mas Farmacia at 63 Wicks Road, Feb. 22.

•A window on a 2015 Toyota was broken while the vehicle was parked on Madison Avenue Feb. 20.

North Bay Shore: A resident of Louise Drive called police Feb. 20 to report that someone damaged the door to her home.

### PETIT LARCENY

Bay Shore: A wallet was stolen from inside a 2020 Jeep that was parked on Awixa Avenue Feb. 23. Police said a window on the vehicle was broken to gain entry.

•Someone stole \$600 worth of perfume from Macy's in the Sunrise Mall on Feb. 20.

•an amplifier was stolen off of a shelf at Pep Boys on 1321 Sunrise Highway Feb. 23.

•In a similar incident, someone broke the window on a 2003 GMC while parked on Awixa Avenue, but nothing was reported stolen.

West Bay Shore: A frying pan and two mattress pads were stolen from Home Goods, 828 sunrise Highway Service Road Feb. 11.

Islip: An assortment of nicotine patches was stolen from the 7-Eleven store on Union Boulevard Feb. 21.

•Beer was stolen from the 7-Eleven store, 2269 Sunrise Highway, Feb. 18.

West Islip: A backpack was stolen from inside a 2010 Honda that was parked on West Court Feb. 17.

Central Islip: Two chain saws, the value of which were not included in the police report, were stolen from Home Depot on South Research Plaza Feb. 15.

### GRAND LARCENY

Central Islip: The catalytic converter on a 2009 Honda was stolen while the vehicle was parked on Cypress Street Feb. 22.

•In a similar incident, the catalytic converter was stolen off a 2009 Honda.

Bay Shore: Three, 1,000-gallon propane tanks, were stolen from North Clinton Avenue Feb. 20.

•A 2001 Mitsubishi was stolen out of a parking lot on South Denver Avenue Feb. 8.

•Four tires and rims were stolen off a 2019 Honda parked in the Acura car dealership at 1930 Sunrise Highway Feb. 16.

### BURGLARY

Brentwood: Cash and a speaker were stolen from inside of an apartment on Brentwood Road Feb. 21.

Bay Shore: A safe was stolen from Midas, 1743 Sunrise Highway Feb. 21. Police said the thief or thieves broke into the shop, took the safe and fled.

### ARRESTS

Driving While Intoxicated or Impaired: Mario Benitez Mart, 40, of 37 Thrush Dr., Brentwood; Madison Cedeno, 41, of 71 Old Brook Rd., Dix Hills (also charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance); Braylan Galdamez, 31, of 288 Poplar St., Central Islip;

Robbery: George Foster, 52, undomiciled;

Assault: Boris Arriaza, 35, of 69 Michigan Ave., Bay Shore; Scott Lebron, 57, of 1265 Ackerson Blvd., Bay Shore;

Menacing With a Weapon: Nieves Reyes, 45, of 25 New York Ave., Bay Shore;

Criminal Possession of a Weapon: Dorsey Rountree, 26, of 500 Atlantic Ave., Bellport;

Petit Larceny: Aniq Tasnim, 29, of 256 American Blvd., Brentwood; Maisha Yaseen, 22, of 256 American Blvd., Brentwood;

Milton Allen, 20, of 36 Grove St., Hempstead; Michael Tolle Jr., 31, of 101 Chanel Dr., East Shirley (also charged with Grand Larceny); Chaki Ligon, 39, of 230 Rabbit Run, Riverhead; Jeffrey

Recek, 56, of 4 East Walnut St., Central Islip; Michael Renzulli, 39, of 127 46th St., Islip; John Hewson, 55, of 25 Weeks Rd., North Babylon; Christopher Sawyer, 38, of 1035 Dixon Ave., Copiague;

Grand Larceny: Hamna Chaudhry, 34, of 16 Joseph St., Bay Shore; Antonios Kanakis, 32, of 193 Union Ave., Lynbrook;

Criminal Possession of Stolen Property (Credit Card): Carl Francois, 56, of 109 N. Arizona Rd., West Babylon (also charged with Grand Larceny);

The charges against those listed are allegations and the cases are still pending in the courts. Individuals charged and whose names appear in this column may submit documentation to us at a later date that the charges have been dismissed or that they have been found innocent and we will include that information in this space in a timely manner.

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