

**Dear Abby**

By Abby, a Bernese Mountain dog



**Some Valentine's ideas for dogs**

**Dear Abby:**

I'm struggling to find a thank you gift for Valentine's Day for my dear friend who always takes care of our Sushi when we go out of town.

Any doggone good ideas?  
-Sushi the Havanese and Janie

**Dear Sushi and Janie:**

Denise Fiedler, a very original artist, is offering Valentine Pet Portraits at Maison d'Etre, February 13th, just in the nick of time. Denise will make an unusual collage portrait of your sweet Sushi for \$95-\$150. Email a photo (and name and phone number) of Sushi ASAP to Fred@maisondetre.com. Denise will have the collage ready by the end of February but she will give you a quick sketch of Sushi on February 13th so you can tease your dear friend with what's to come. Stop by Maison d'Etre (5640 College Avenue, Oakland, next to Cactus, 658-2801) from 11-2 on Saturday.

Lovely gifts like linens or earrings unrelated to canines can also be found at Terrace Gifts & Coffee, 5891 Broadway Terrace.

And not to forget: A Great Place for Books in Montclair also has some incredible dog cards for Valentine's Day. Books by Mary Oliver (*A Dog Year* by Jon Katz or *Dog Songs* are always good gifts to give.

The true gift is your friend's kindness – she has the heart of a dog.

-Abby

**Dear Abby:**

After years of working from home, I have taken a job that requires me to venture to the city. Do you have any ideas of a good dog walker that I can try out?

Though I'm a working dog now, I don't want Bummy to suffer.  
-Bill and Bumgarner

**Dear Bill and Bummy:**

Brianne Hodson, whose name also starts with B, seems a good fit. I've met Brianne walking multiple large and perky dogs in the neighborhood. You can tell she is truly a dog person by the way the canines follow and listen to her. Brianne told me that she not only walks dogs but trains and gives nutritional advice. I have a feeling she may even take dogs for overnights and root for the Giants.

Here's Brianne's info: Dog Lady Extraordinaire.com, 510-882-6677 (heartyourpooch@gmail.com). Mention our name and it may trigger a bell.

Bummy is a lucky boy.

-Abby

E-mail your comments, ideas and dog thoughts on any pet topic to Melanie Johnston and Ellen Stem at MSJ312@aol.com or fifi-afoot@yahoo.com.

**Caring for Cambodia Gala in San Francisco March 5**



**Jamie Amelio, Founder and CEO of Caring for Cambodia will be the featured presenter at the non-profit organization's Gala in San Francisco on March 5.**



**Natalie Bastow, Caring for Cambodia's Chief Operating Officer, is shown reading to some of CFC's young students in Cambodia.**

The California Chapter of Caring for Cambodia (CFC) will host a benefit gala, "Bridges to Cambodia" at the Julia Morgan Ballroom on California Street in the heart of San Francisco's financial district.

"The gala is an opportunity for current CFC supporters from all over the world and new supporters from California and in particular the Bay Area, to come together and celebrate the successes of CFC as well as to raise awareness with new and potential supporters," said California Chapter Leader Edna Cooper of Piedmont

Caring for Cambodia is a non-profit organization that delivers free world-class education to over 6,600 students from preschool through high school in one of the poorest countries in the world. CFC also professionally trains and mentors teachers and has created and sustains 21 safe, modern, technologically equipped schools.

Jamie Amelio, founder and CEO of CFC, as well as a speaker and author, is the featured presenter for the Gala. Guests will enjoy a no host bar, exquisite passed hors d'oeuvres, seated dinner, dancing and a live auction. Live auction items will include a beautiful white scarf blessed by the Dalai Lama. Also on the auction block are vacation rentals in France, North Carolina, Santa Cruz and Lake Tahoe, a personalized bike tour through Napa with a special wine tasting, and a special dinner and tour around San Diego Bay aboard a 55-foot yacht.

The Gala will be held on Saturday, March 5, at 7 p.m. in the historic Julia Morgan Ballroom in the Merchants Exchange Building at 465 Californian Street in San Francisco. The Merchants Exchange building was one of the first steel framed high rise office buildings in San Francisco and a famous survivor of the 1906 earthquake.

Julia Morgan, California's most famous architect from the early 20th century, had her office in this same building for 50 years.

Tickets to the CFC Gala can be purchased at [www.caringforcambodia.org](http://www.caringforcambodia.org). For more information, contact Edna Cooper at [embcooper@gmail.com](mailto:embcooper@gmail.com).

**CFC's Natalie Bastow to speak at high school**

Caring for Cambodia's Chief Operating Officer Natalie Bastow will be the guest speaker of the Voice Cooperative (VOCO) at Piedmont High School on Friday, March 4. VOCO and CFC Youth Club leaders Audrey Meyersieck and Tess Olcott are



**CFC Youth Club leaders Tess Olcott and Audrey Meyersieck with a collection of items being donated to CFC children in Cambodia.**

organizing the event.

In 2015 Audrey Meyersieck and Tess Olcott created the Caring For Cambodia Youth Group for students who want to be involved in the cause on an ongoing basis. The club currently consists of about 30 members who help with donations, cultural events, and other CFC events.

Last spring the club helped organize an event at the Piedmont Center for the Arts

with wonderful Cambodian dancers, authentic food, and a movie displaying the current state of Cambodia. The club has also organized drives to collect toothbrushes and other toiletries that

were sent to Cambodia for families who could not afford these basic necessities.

VOCO (Voice Cooperative) is a PHS club directed at finding interesting speakers to inspire students. Bastow will speak with students about her experiences with the organization and the people of Cambodia. Students from all grades will be able to listen to her and meet her in person. It is hoped that students will be motivated to join the CFC Youth Club to help the children in Cambodia.

"Our club is a great place for students to do the little things that can really make a difference," said Meyersieck.



**A scarf blessed by the Dalai Lama will be offered in auction at the Caring for Cambodia Gala in San Francisco on March 5.**

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