

In 2007, the Parole Board issued findings similar to 2005 after hearing from the Bohoveskys and later, separately, from McCain and LaBarbera.

That July, the board's ruling on LaBarbera, who had been on parole at the time of the Bohovesky murder, spoke of a likelihood he would return to crime if released. Mentioning his good disciplinary record in prison, it went on to say "The Parole Board finds more compelling the brutal, senseless and merciless nature of your murder of an innocent teenager with so much promise."

Adding that "prior efforts at rehabilitation and leniency were not beneficial," it concluded "You are a dangerous predator."

At the time, LaBarbera was at the medium security Arthur Kill Correctional Facility on Staten Island. He is now confined at Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Washington County, a maximum security prison, a possible indication that he has had discipline problems since his last parole appearance.

In denying parole to McCain in August 2007, the board said, "This panel respects your right to continue to maintain your innocence. However, records indicate and you readily admit you made admissions" about having a role in Bohovesky's death. More compelling than his accomplishments in prison programs, the board's decision said, was "the particularly heinous nature of this crime." His release, the board said, "would so deprecate the seriousness of the crime as to undermine respect for the law."

At the time, it was comforting to hear the Parole Board speak about the killers in such harsh terms, thinking it indicated the officials realized the two men should never be loose in society again.

But now it's two years later and there are new hearings scheduled and once again Lois Bohovesky and her son will head to Manhattan and make their case.

She's circulating petitions asking that parole be denied again, and so is Murphy, who is also president of Camp Venture and Loeb House. He's recruited another Pearl River fixture, Bill Schule, founder and former head of BuddyBall Sports for children with disabilities, to build a Web site for the cause.

"People will be able to go there in a few days and either download a petition to carry around or sign one electronically," making it easier for people to show their support.

Murphy, who, like Lois Bohovesky, is in his late 70s, is also planning to create a small nonprofit organization to cover the costs of the Web site and of printing, gathering and mailing the petitions to Albany. Murphy hopes that will keep the Web site operational to help Peter Bohovesky and others to carry on the effort to block the killers' parole even after he and Lois Bohovesky are gone.

Right now, that effort is moving quickly, with Murphy offering his personal Web site as a place for the public to turn until the new one is up and running. He's also asking the county, five towns and all the villages to pass resolutions urging the denial of parole. Those resolutions and petitions impressed parole authorities last time, Lois Bohovesky says.

She and her son are now girding for their victim's impact statements on April 3.

As in their two previous visits, Lois Bohovesky will tell how her thoughts are seldom far from Paula and the life she might have had - as an artist, actress, mother and aunt.

She recalls her own childhood, when family gatherings meant all the cousins seeing each other. "There was a whole tribe of us," Bohovesky smiles. But now, when she has family and friends to dinner, Peter's daughter, Abigail, is the only child. "There should be empty chairs," she says, for the children Paula never got to have.

She's now introducing Abigail to the theater, just as she did with Paula. "I want to make memories," she says, something she's done for children for decades as founder and driving force of the Hudson Vagabond Puppets.

She believes the men who killed Paula should stay in prison for life, a recognition that there's no parole from death for her daughter.

Reach Bob Baird at rbaird@lohud.com or 845-578-2463. His column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

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