

Pegasus Post

Fall 2011



PEGASUS



Student Pearl gets into the Halloween spirit at our annual Pumpkin Carving Party. Visit pegasustr.org to view a fun slide show!

J. McLaughlin Hosts Reception to Benefit Pegasus Programs



Owner Jay McLaughlin and photographer Bonnie Edelman pose in front of one of Bonnie's beautiful black-and-white images of Uruguayan horses at the J. McLaughlin reception. Photo by Laureen Vellante.

On September 22, the Westport, CT, location of **J. McLaughlin** hosted a cocktail reception featuring photographer **Bonnie Edelman's** new *Sermo per Equus* series of black-and-white equine images. Edelman began documenting the lives of Uruguayan horses more than a decade ago, and her "Conversations with Horses" exhibit showcases them in their natural habitat.

J. McLaughlin selected Pegasus as the evening's charitable beneficiary in recognition of our equine-related mission. The store donated a percentage of the evening's sales to Pegasus, presenting us with a check for \$850. In addition, Edelman donated a portion of sales of her work resulting from the J. McLaughlin event.

On behalf of our students, many thanks to both J. McLaughlin and Bonnie Edelman for their generosity and a very successful evening!

Pegasus Awarded USBF Grant

Committed to supporting local nonprofit organizations, **Union Savings Bank Foundation** of Danbury has awarded Pegasus a \$2,500 grant to help fund our student financial assistance program. Many thanks to Union Savings Bank for supporting our mission!

The Rider's Closet



Founded in 2006 by **Georgina Bloomberg**, The Rider's Closet's free equestrian clothing exchange program was relocated to Pegasus Farm in July 2010. Its first year at Pegasus was very successful, thanks to our fantastic TRC volunteers and the generosity of over 120 donors from New York to California, and everywhere in between. Special thanks to our friends at **Ariat** for their incredible donation of more than 650 pairs of new children's and women's breeches.

Nearly 200 riders from pony clubs, scholastic teams and therapeutic riding centers around the U.S. and in three countries have received free apparel and boots from The Rider's Closet since last year.

The Rider's Closet is currently in great need of tall and paddock boots in children's and adult sizes. We also accept donations of new or gently used equestrian apparel such as breeches, show jackets, shirts and chaps. To make a tax-deductible clothing donation or request items, visit pegasustr.org/trc.

Pegasus Promotional Video Update

Last fall, volunteers **Cindy Searight**, **Erik Swain** and **Stephan Lemasson** shot over eight hours of HD footage to make promotional videos for Pegasus. The first one, a beautiful 5-minute montage, will be completed soon. Stay tuned to our website for the big premiere!

Help Pegasus Go Green

To conserve costs and paper, we're sending information by e-mail more frequently. To join our e-list, click the link on our home page at pegasustr.org.

Presidents Emeriti



On October 13, Pegasus' board of directors conferred the honorary office of President Emeritus upon former board presidents **Seth Armen**, **Betty Foulk** and **Tina Theurkauf** at a cocktail reception in their honor. The President Emeritus designation is conferred to any former board president who continues to serve Pegasus with distinction. In light of their decades of incomparable service to our mission, Seth, Betty and Tina are the very definition of President Emeritus.

The Pegasus of today is deeply grateful to our inaugural honorees for their years of dedicated and visionary work. To learn more about the many contributions Seth, Betty and Tina have made to our organization, visit the **Pegasus News** page of our website.

Congratulations, Seth, Betty and Tina, on your well-deserved honor!

Above: Board President Sue McGraw presents Betty and Tina with a commemorative award. Also pictured is board member Joe Cusato.



Right: Betty, Seth and Seth's wife Eloise enjoy a celebratory brunch with family and friends.

Join Us in a Warm Pegasus Welcome!

The following staff have joined our team since last fall:

Paul Cooper, Farm Coordinator
Kate Hickcox, Barn Staff (Fox Hill)
Lyndsay McDonald, Fundraising and Events Coordinator
Stephen "July" Meckley, Farm Special Projects
Shelly Pope, Director of Programs
Laura Roberts, Barn Staff
Christina Russell, Instructor
Laura Stringer, Equine Coordinator
Carissa Walberg, Barn Staff

Our Accomplished Staff Members

PATH International-certified instructor **Liz Fortes** earned her Advanced Instructor designation this past spring. **Diane Maudsley**, an integral member of our barn staff, earned her PATH International certification at the Instructor level. Director of Programs **Shelly Pope** is now a PATH International Site Visitor qualified to visit therapeutic riding centers and assist with their accreditations. Congratulations, ladies—we're privileged to have you on our Pegasus team!

Fall News from Our Chapters



Our **Fox Hill** chapter in Pleasantville, NY, bid a very fond farewell to instructor **Laura Corsun** and welcomed **Kate Hickcox** as Barn Coordinator. Six new volunteers have joined the FH crew, as well as a new horse, Blaze. He partners with FH's most independent group, who are riding off-lead at the walk.

The two dozen veteran volunteers at **Kelsey Farm** in Greenwich, CT, have welcomed an additional six helpers on Monday afternoons this fall. In addition, five new students and three new horses have joined Master Instructor **Marny Mansfield**, Advanced Instructor **Bill Prout**, and Chapter Chair **Betty Foulk**, who are proud to report that many of KF's students are now able to ride their horses off-lead at the walk.

Diane Maudsley has joined fellow instructor **Suzy Angier** in the ring on Thursdays at **New Canaan Mounted Troop** in New Canaan, CT. The program brought on two new horses this fall, Madison and Sparky, as well as a new, much-needed wheeled mounting block built and donated by the father of summer volunteer **Emily Pomerantz**. **Razz**, the Perfect Pegasus Pony adored by all, is sadly no longer with us. Friends of Razz are making donations to NCMT in his honor to purchase a memorial for the farm.

The gang at **Ox Ridge Hunt Club** in Darien, CT, enjoyed some snow-delayed Halloween fun, with apple bobbing for the horses and costumes, haunted house "stalls" and treats for the students. In volunteer news, **Claire Rodgers** was accepted into the National Honor Society, and **Annie McDevitt** is finishing up her senior project on the positive effects of therapeutic riding for children with autism. The Ox Ridge team thanks **Claire, Annie, Lauren** and **Alexandra** for making time in their busy high school schedules to volunteer.

Three Cheers for Our Volunteers!

It's no secret our success is greatly dependent on the hundreds of incredible volunteers who give their time and talent to our programs. But the *amount* of time they give is nothing short of astounding! This past year, over **300 Pegasus volunteers worked a total of more than 10,000 hours** in our programs, at our events and in the barn and office. There is simply no way Pegasus could duplicate that workforce, and on behalf of our students and staff, **many thanks** to each of you for your unparalleled commitment to our mission!

Discounts for Pegasus Students

Several local businesses are currently offering **exclusive discounts** to our Pegasus students:

All The King's Horses – Ridgefield, CT
Beval Saddlery – North Salem, NY
SecondTimeAround – North Salem, NY
Stronghold Equine Equipment and Tack – New Milford, CT

We're very appreciative of their generosity. Please join us in visiting their shops and show your support in return!

Tauk Makes a Difference at Pegasus

On October 21, nearly 50 volunteers took a break from their jobs at **Tauk**, a Norwalk-based travel company, to spend the day transforming Pegasus Farm's sensory trail and building blue-and-white cavalettis for our arena.

Tauk's philanthropic division, Tauk World of Giving, is committed to making a difference in the local community and places Tauk travels to around the world. They considered several area organizations for their 2011 project and selected Pegasus based on their strong interest in our mission. Tauk partnered with Stamford-based nonprofit **HomeFront**, formerly part of AmeriCares. HomeFront piloted a new corporate partners program this year and assisted Tauk with the logistics of their day at Pegasus.

Volunteers developed three activity stations on the sensory trail: the Herb Garden and "Scent Boxes" station, the Woodland Village station, and the Snake Hill Steering station. To learn more, and to view a slide show of Tauk's work and our horses' hilarious introduction to it, visit the **Pegasus News** page on our website.



NARHA Is Now PATH International

NARHA, the organization which accredits member therapeutic riding centers, is now PATH International (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship). Pegasus is a **PATH International Premier Accredited Center**, which means we are held to PATH's highest standards of accreditation.



Did You Know?

You can easily and securely make your gift to Pegasus via our website? Just visit **pegasustr.org** and click the **Donate Now** button.

The Lasting Impact of Your Support

\$1.3 Million
Fundraising
Goal for 2012

Additional
Donations of
\$1,065,000
Needed to
Fund 2012
Operating
Expenses

\$235,000
Raised
to Date in
Fiscal Year
2012

More than 90% of our \$1.45 million annual operating budget is funded through donations. **Here's how your gift in support of our programs positively impacts the lives of our students:**

- A \$10,000 gift fully funds a 12-week therapeutic program for 4 students.
- A gift of \$5,000 funds 1 year of basic care for a therapy horse.
- A \$2,500 gift funds 5 students' scholarships for 12 weeks.
- A gift of \$1,000 funds 1 student's scholarship for a year.
- A \$500 gift funds 1 student's scholarship for a 12-week session.
- A gift of \$250 funds 1 student's scholarship for a 6-week session.
- A \$100 gift helps us purchase educational tools and equipment for our therapeutic programs.

Our Amazing Equines



Since 1975, Pegasus has run on horsepower of the highest quality. One look at how our students' faces light up when they enter the arena will tell you all you need to know about why our gentle, intelligent therapy horses are the quiet heroes of our programs. That loving bond is a big part of why equine-assisted activities transform people's lives. To view a photo and bio of each of our therapy horses and learn more about how you can help us care for them, visit the **Our Horses** page at pegasustr.org.



Therapy horse Remy ponders how he's going to fit through the door of the new "barn" at the sensory trail's Woodland Village activity station.

Stay tuned to our website for details.

Old Salem Horse Shows – May 2012

31st Annual Pegasus Horse Show – May 2012

Spring Program Begins – March 5, 2012

Horses & Me Demo Day – February 25, 2012

Horses & Me Program Begins – January 9, 2012

Volunteer Pancake Breakfast – December 10, 2011

Mark Your Calendar!

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