



# PARAGRAPHS

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



In Oregon's Willamette Valley, winter is almost over, the roses have had their President's Day pruning, pansies have been planted to promise spring, and daffodils are almost ready to bloom.

And at USDFD in California our first clinic is ready to welcome nine disabled drivers (and some spectators and volunteers) to train under Hardy Zantke and be classified by Joann Benjamin, all under the watchful eye of our organizer and Vice-president Diane Kastama.

In the spring, when the northeast crawls out from under its snowy blanket, Mary Gray will gather the drivers in her neck of the woods and offer clinicians to train and instruct those aspiring to compete for positions on Team USA.

Summer will find us looking for drivers in Middle America who will fill another clinic in the mid region of the continent.

USDFD member Paul Roberti is schooling us on corporate fund raising with the goal of developing an instrument he and others will use to invite large corporations to provide funding for our team to go to England in 2014 with their equipment and equines. His knowledge and energy will be a great asset to the funding of our dream. Was it Bloody Mary who said "You gotta have a dream. If you don't have a dream how you gonna have a dream come true?" We believe her. We have the dream. Now we have to make it come true.

We are so excited about our steps into the future that we are once again mailing you a copy of the newsletter. We don't want you to forget to open it on our web sit (usdfd.com). We are introducing you to members of our Board of Trustees, starting with our Education Committee: Joy Adamski and Susan Guinan, although Susan did opt to tell you about a famous and fabulous horse and opt out of the bio thing. We want you to learn about the wonderful resource we have in the people who make up our Board.

In the spring newsletter, assembled by a USDFD volunteer (for whose talent, skill, and generous donation of her skill and time we are forever grateful), we can report on the rip-roaring success of our first clinic for 2014, give you the details for the Northeast Clinic at Mary's, and introduce two more Board members. Until then, Happy Easter!

—Bev White

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**USDFD.ORG**

## MISSION AND PURPOSE

*United States Driving for the Disabled, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, seeks to improve the lives of physically challenged individuals throughout the United States and Canada by providing the experience of driving horses in a safe and challenging environment.*

*Our mission is to provide the extraordinary benefit of therapeutic driving to as many people as possible through sharing knowledge, experience, and serving as a resource for innovations in adaptive equipment for drivers, trainers, and programs offering carriage driving.*

*The Sybil Dukehart Memorial Fund seeks to provide financial assistance to equip and train disabled drivers through providing scholarship funds to applicants.*

*USDFD fosters opportunities for drivers to compete in national and international amateur competitions by training and providing financial support for Team USA.*

Articles and photos are welcome. Please include name and email address of author. Label photos with identification of subject and photo credit. High resolution digital files are preferred. Contact Office for additional instructions. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length.



## HIDDEN CREEK'S JONES

**What incredible willingness by this horse to volunteer his experience and understanding toward the success of another partner.**

—by Susan Guinan, USDFD Board of Trustees and serving on the Education Committee



**Katja Karjalainen, a Paralympian representing Finland**

**THE BOARD MEMBERS** were asked to write about ourselves, but I would really rather speak on behalf of the wonderful horses that are our partners in serving those with disabilities. They are so much more interesting than I am. Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center is my home facility and we share that home with some extraordinary creatures. I'd like to share the story of Hidden Creek's Jones with you. Although Jones is not a driving horse, I think his story is worth sharing.

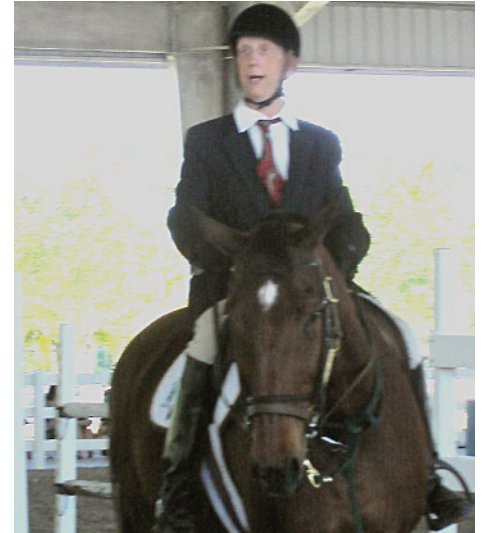
Jones started his career as the jumping partner of Margie Goldstein Engle, U.S. Olympian, earning the 2003 AGA Horse of the Year accolade, accumulating the most show jumping points in the United States. Margie and Jones were partners until 2009 when he was retired to Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center. A formidable 16'3 Dutch Warmblood that could be intimidating to anyone who met him, he settled into his new environment easily even though it is quite different from his previous home and job. Some of his attendants at the farm don't have much to say and some have lots to say but in a language that is quite loud at times and different from those in his past home. His riders were different too, some with no contact, others no leg and they seemed at times to be flopping from side to side. Some ride independently while others are led. But all say thank you and give him a pat and are happy when he shares a ride. So life at Vinceremos is different, with different challenges and different goals.

Jones offers his riders an opportunity to develop their independence, camaraderie, communication and to build self esteem while improving their skills as horsemen and equestrians. These riders are faced with cognitive, physical and emotional disabilities,

but all have individual capabilities that are the focus of Vinceremos. Jones has taken these riders to the Special Olympic Equestrian Games where they have earned recognition for their accomplishments.

Jones has also been a partner and contributor to riders working to qualify for the 2012 London Paralympic Games. He was partnered with Katya, one of two members of the Paralympic Team from Finland. The team wasn't able to bring their horses due to the cost and contacted Vinceremos looking for an alternative. Vinceremos was able to lend the team 2 horses, one being Jones. Now please remember Jones has a show jumping background. Katya arrived on Tuesday for her Dressage competition. The jog was Thursday; she would be judged on him the first time on Friday, and then again on Saturday in her freestyle. We weren't asking much of Katya or Jones. Two days to build a relationship, learn the test and the freestyle. It all worked; Jones learned quickly the meaning of the double whips that Katya carried as aids and that Katya didn't always fully see where they were going so, tip-toed around deep corners on instinct. What an amazing combination. What incredible willingness by this horse to volunteer his experience and understanding toward the success of another partner.

So to sum up Hidden Creek's Jones, he is a show jumping legend, who in his lifetime has partnered with an Olympian for the U.S., a Special Olympian from Vinceremos and



**Chris Nardone, a Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center Special Olympian**

a Paralympian who went on to represent Finland in London 2012. What a career; what a humanitarian; what a horse.

P.S. Hidden Creek's Jones has been nominated for the "Horse Stars Hall of Fame," a partnership between the USEF and the Equus Foundation to honor the talent, spirit and courage of exceptional horses in the sport and public sectors. The inaugural inductee will be named March 8th at The Fete Cheval in Wellington, Florida. I will keep you posted. 🇺🇸



**Olympian Margie Engle on Hidden Creek's Jones in 2003**

## JOY ADAMSKI USDFD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Joy has had a love for horses and driving for her entire life. It was not until she began working at Pegasus Farm in Hartville, Ohio that she was able to fully develop her love for driving. Starting as just an able-bodied whip for their driving program, she quickly started preparing to get her certification to teach driving classes at the farm.

Currently a PATH, International certified driving instructor, she is teaching classes and sharing her love of driving with many different people. She has taught driving to students as part of the at-risk youth programs, the "Veterans Salute" program, as well as in the therapeutic driving classes offered at Pegasus Farm.

With the help of some very special horses and dedicated volunteers and staff, Pegasus Farm program participants become well-rounded, self-confident individuals.

Through these programs, Joy has witnessed first hand the empowerment that the horse gives a student from the driver's seat. Whether the goal is learning to drive for competition, or purely for recreation, Joy believes that everyone should have the opportunity to get in the carriage and drive, and her favorite part of teaching is when a driver is able to accomplish something that they didn't think possible.

She looks forward to working with USDFD in creating educational opportunities through clinics for those individuals just looking to have some fun, become more effective drivers, or who are interested in finding out if driving is something they would enjoy doing (and she thinks everyone will enjoy driving!) Joy is also working to promote veterans driving through the USDFD. ¶



Joy with their driving pony Patsy, (Haflinger/Welsh cross) in the carriage with Ron Eckland, one of the veterans.

## BLACKHORSE FOR HEROES

Brad Bertele is President of Blackhorse for Heroes Inc. Brad has developed a successful Carriage Driving program for veterans of any disability. There is no charge to the veteran and they have found it works, especially well with PTSD.

They plan on having 3 turnouts by this summer with 9 veterans competing in CDEs and marketing veterans and the sport of carriage driving.

See a short video of the program at [www.blackhorse4heroes.org/](http://www.blackhorse4heroes.org/).

Our program, United States Driving For Disabled (USDFD), has offered to collaborate where possible. Our success with CDE competitiveness is sure to be able to help.

## VETERAN'S SALUTE PROGRAM

The Veterans Salute program has always been a very special program offered at Pegasus Farm in Hartville, Ohio. The program began in 2006, and in addition to driving offers riding lessons to veterans.

The program is financially supported through grants and donations, and the volunteers who assist in these classes are all veterans. Those volunteers also provide support in promotion of the program, as well as fundraising, and recruitment of new participants and volunteers.

The volunteers of this program also provide a "Veteran's Canteen" area that provides light snacks and refreshments, and a place to sit and visit with comrades. On occasion, veterans have simply come out to the farm just to visit and talk, and have chosen to not take part in the equine activities. This feeds into the laidback atmosphere of the barn while the veterans program is being offered.

The Veterans Salute program has its own day, and this allows for the veterans to form relationships with each other. They look out for each other, and support each other both at the barn and outside in their day to day lives. There are countless examples of the veterans supporting each other outside of their driving and riding activities.

If a member does not make it out to their lesson, they are often given a phone call to see how they are doing. Once a veteran actually drove over to a fellow veteran's house and convinced him to come back out to drive in class. This is just an example of the camaraderie that these men and women have for each other.

Veterans driving in the program have a wide range of disabilities. Many of the veterans have "hidden disabilities," such as post traumatic stress disorder. Driving a horse gives all of these individuals, regardless of

disability, increased self-confidence, a sense of accomplishment, and something to look forward to. Veterans are able to drive in the indoor or outdoor arenas, as well as around the farm, including the trails that go through the woods on the property.

The veterans at Pegasus Farm also participate in the Farm's annual Ronald McDonald House Charities Horse Show where drivers have participated in activities such as dressage, cones, marathon obstacles, as well as obstacle courses. The show allows the veterans to show off what they have learned throughout the year. This year the veterans program has been invited to drive as part of an exhibition class at one of the Northern Ohio Quarter Horse Associations shows, where they will also be guests of honor at the evening dinner and bonfire. ¶



**Para-Equestrian Developing Driver Clinics  
presented by  
United States Driving for the Disabled.**



**March 16, 17 2013  
Oak Run Farm  
8450 Happy Camp Road  
Moorpark, CA 93021**

Clinicians: **Hardy Zantke**, ADS & USEF "R" Combined Driving Judge, FEI Combined Driving Judge and Para-Equestrian Judge. Competed in pairs and 4-in -hands; served as Chef d' Equipe for many USA teams competing abroad.

**Jody Cutler**, ADS "R" in Pleasure Driving and Dressage, ADS "S" in Combined Driving, USEF "r" in Pleasure Driving

**Diane Kastama**, World Champion in Para-Equestrian driving Grade 1. Competes at Advanced combined driving single and pair.

**Followed by Spring and Fall Clinics in Florida, Northeast and the West. Clinicians TBA.**

Come improve your driving skills, learn about local, regional and international competition opportunities for the Para-Equestrian. Driving is a great equalizing sport. Come see and feel the freedom of being behind the lines in a carriage. Everyone is welcome to attend and audit. Clinics will provide instruction in driven dressage, hazards and cones. Lessons will be adapted to the skill level of each driver. Bring your own horse and carriage or let us know if you need to borrow a horse and equipment.

There will be a try-it-and-see-you-like-it for the future para-equestrian driver in the California and Florida clinics which provides a chance to get behind the lines and in a carriage to feel the thrill of driving.

Contact Diane Kastama [dkastama@verizon.net](mailto:dkastama@verizon.net) , 805-343-6026 also visit [www.usdfd.org](http://www.usdfd.org)



Do you have one of these?



If not you're missing out on one of these



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Sybil Dukehart: Founder  
Mike Muir: President 2000-2003  
Mary Gray: President: 2003-2005  
Debra Banfield: President 2005-2011

## OAK RUN FARM CLINIC REPORT

Jody Cutler's Oak Run Farm was host to the first USDFD clinic of 2013. There were nine participants, one of which had never driven. Hardy Zantke and Jody Cutler gave two lessons a day.

Joann Benjamin (USEF/FEI) classifier assessed and classified six participants. Whip r Snappers Driving Club loaned their equipment and with Brass Oak Driving Society funded the cost of insurance. Food was donated by volunteers, participants, and anyone who foolishly asked, "Anything I can bring from town?"

Hardy Zantke and Jody Cutler worked with drivers to improve their hazard times. Diane

demonstrated driving hazards and cones. Geoff and Sharon Gee bought food and loaned their horse and equipment

A videographer filmed all day Saturday and will make a promotional video for USDFD to use in promoting more drivers and clinics.

There is a clinic planned for New Hampshire in June at Mary Gray's facility and plans are afoot for Texas, Kentucky, and at The CDE at Inavale (Oregon in July) and at Shady Oaks in October.

To quote Diane, "Now on to the next clinic."