

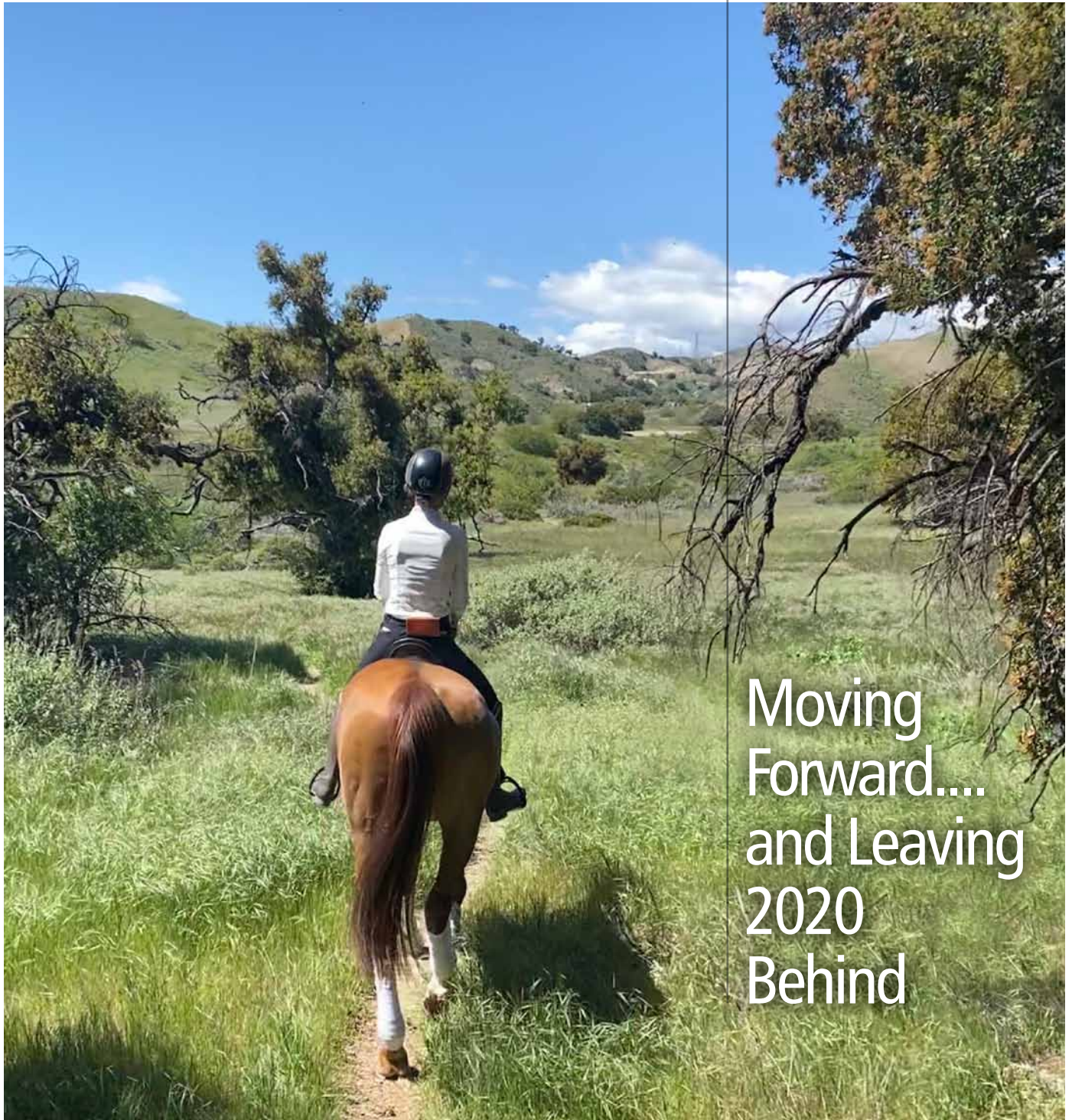


The Dressage
Foundation

News 

Building U.S. Dressage Through Your Generosity

2020 EDITION



Moving
Forward....
and Leaving
2020
Behind



On the cover: Claire Darnell, past Young Rider Dream Program participant and organizer of this year's "Quarantine Classic" to benefit TDF (see page 7), enjoys hitting the trails with her horses and students. On this beautiful California day, she's riding Harrold S, a 2012 KWPN (Vivaldi x Fidermark x Ferro).



The Dressage Foundation News

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Message From TDF President & CEO, Beth Baumert

DEAR TDF FRIENDS,

The historic year of 2020 is nearly behind us, and Americans are looking forward to a much better 2021. The immediate TDF family has been struck especially hard, and I know some of you have been deeply impacted too.

Health is at the top of our wish-lists now—the health of family and loved ones, the health of our nation, it's businesses, industries and economies, and the health of our non-profits, including TDF.

Sometimes I muse that a non-profit that feeds the poor and saves the children is more important than one that builds the sport and the art of dressage. Well, they **are** more important, but in times like these I feel proud that TDF helps create and promote harmony and beauty. The world needs that more than ever now.

The Dressage Foundation is built on very solid ground because our basics are good. TDF measures itself primarily by how much it gives away—and that figure grows and grows. If you're getting this newsletter, it's because of you. Thank you.

Here's how you can keep helping TDF:

- Notice talent that needs assistance and guide grant-worthy applicants to apply for TDF awards.
- Please keep giving to TDF—small, medium or large. Encourage members of your GMOs and folks at your barn to give. Donors of all sizes are so valued. You can find the list of TDF donors on pages 18-19. Find your name, and know you are appreciated! Without our donors, we are nothing!
- Finally, please give us your ideas and your advice. Let's hear from you. Most important, we want to know how you are. Please email me at BethBmrt@aol.com. Or email Jenny at jenny@dressagefoundation.org.

Many thanks, and please stay safe and healthy. Let's look forward to creating more harmony and beauty in 2021!

Cheers,

Beth Baumert

"In times like these I feel proud that TDF helps create and promote harmony and beauty. The world needs that more than ever now."





Help is on the Way

THE YEAR STARTED STRONG – every week, Grant Committees were busy awarding grants to dressage clubs that were planning educational events for the spring, summer, and fall months. Then, as you know, all plans came to a screeching halt because of COVID-19. While a few groups were able to hold events early in the year with the help of TDF grants, many were left wondering if financial support would still be available once events could resume.

Good news was delivered! All clubs that received grants, but had to postpone their events, will receive the funding once the events can be rescheduled, even if that's not until 2021.

The help will be significant.

In addition to other grants already awarded this year, TDF is set to send an additional:



A COVID-Era Event

IN 2019, Midwest Dressage Association committed to hosting the USDF Instructor/Trainer Program in 2020. The first two workshops were held in January and March, but the May workshop got caught in the pandemic-forced cancellations.

Even though original plans had to be changed, organizer Cheryl Figures hoped that the \$2,000 Violet Hopkins Fund grant would still be

available, and was relieved to find out it was. The third workshop was held in August and she said, “Due to the COVID-19 precautions, we had some unplanned expenses to keep everyone safe, and we also had a lower income because we reduced the number of auditors so we could social distance. What a tough year to host this Program; we are grateful for the help from TDF!”



Instructors, masked and socially distanced, at the Instructor/Trainer Program


Outside the (Sand)Box

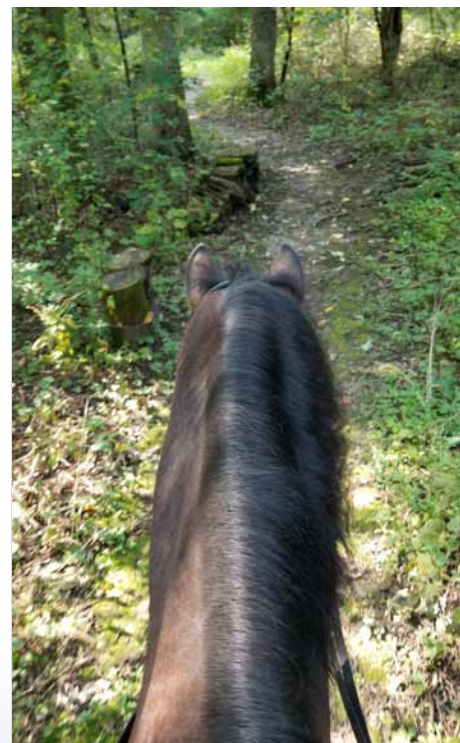
WHAT DO DRESSAGE RIDERS DO when events and shows are cancelled, and their plans for the year have been derailed? For those who were able to continue riding during quarantine, they got outside of the arena for some fun activities with their horses!

USDF Certified Instructor and TDF grant recipient, Megan McIsaac, has always believed that getting outside the arena is good for the horses and riders. This year has allowed her and her students some extra time on the trails.

Megan said, “I strongly encourage everyone to go on a trail ride once a week for our horse’s well-being, as well as for our own. It is great to get out of arenas and enjoy the fresh air, beautiful colors, and to do something different. In Wisconsin, we have horse friendly parks with wonderful trails!”

Grant recipient Leah Majkrzak said, “One of our favorite special things to do is to trailer to the local cross-country venue; it’s a low-stress trip for the horses and there are jumps small enough to walk or trot over.

“To make for a positive experience, there is a lot of relaxed walking through the water before tackling it at higher speeds. The dressage horses absolutely love it. It’s refreshing for their minds and fun for their riders, too. Small logs are impressive to dressage horses!” 



Megan McIsaac enjoys hitting the trails

Leah Majkrzak makes a splash on a cross-country course



Cross-Training for the Good of the Horse

WHEN CARLY TAYLOR-SMITH traveled from California to Wellington with her horse, Rosalut NHF (“Ludo”), in January, she couldn’t have guessed how the year would end. “TDF’s \$25,000 Anne Ramsay Grant for U.S.-Bred Horses made it possible for us to go to Florida and receive regular lessons with Debbie McDonald, which put my riding into a whole different ball game. We had some great results and wins at Global before heading back to California.”

Once home, the world changed. However, that didn’t stop Carly from moving closer to her dressage dreams, while having fun at the same time.

“Cross training is an important aspect of my training system and something I do with all my horses, no matter what age or what level. I’m a firm believer that they shouldn’t spend all their

time in the arena and should have enough variety in their work to keep them interested and happy. Taking them out on regular hacks is part of their weekly routine, as it gives them a chance to unwind. And they really enjoy it!

“I also do cavalettis or jump the horses when I can, and quite often I hit the beach, which is probably my favorite thing to do. Exposing them to different activities and situations can really help make them braver and less spooky, especially if you start doing it with them at a young age. It’s also a great way of keeping the horses fit, and riding on all kinds of surfaces, within reason, can help strengthen their legs and prevent injuries.”

Carly Taylor-Smith and Rosalut NHF



Carly and her horses frequently enjoy the sun, sand, and sea



Flexibility – An Important Life Lesson

FORMER YOUNG RIDER INTERNATIONAL DREAM PROGRAM participant, Hannah Irons, has had quite the year. Regarding her 2018 trip to Aachen with the Dream Program group, she said, “I still have the image of true expression and precision stuck in my head from watching the riders at Aachen. To be among the best in the world, it isn’t good enough to just ride through each movement of the test correctly. Each step must flow together in perfect harmony, showing the horse’s true brilliance. I still remember Andy Thomas saying, ‘It’s not about making one thing 100% better, it’s about making 100 things 1% better.’ That idea really stuck with me and I have applied it to my riding, particularly when preparing for this show season.”

It’s apparent that Hannah took those lessons to heart, as she was recently named the 2020 USEF Young Rider Champion at the Festival of Champions!

“This year has definitely been a life lesson that goals and plans have to be flexible, and I admire USEF’s commitment to making the championship safe and successful,” Hannah shared. “I last qualified and competed at the Festival of Champions in 2016 in the FEI Pony division. To be back in the Young Rider division and take home the champion cooler was a great reminder that continuing to push forward, even during the challenging times, is worth it. I am so grateful to have the privilege of developing a partnership with Bella, a smart, loveable, and opinionated mare, and am excited to see what the future holds. Thanks to The Dressage Foundation and its donors for such an amazing experience in Aachen that I will cherish forever.”



Photo credit: Emma Miller, PS Dressage

New Challenges Create New Opportunities

EARLY IN THE QUARANTINE PERIOD, Claire Darnell knew that she wanted to provide a way for riders to receive feedback from licensed dressage judges, despite the cancelled shows. So Darnell Dressage created the “Quarantine Classics,” a series of virtual shows to benefit nonprofit organizations. Claire, a 2003 participant in the Young Rider International Dream Program, approached TDF about being the beneficiary of the third show.

The “Quarantine Classics” were a resounding success. Not only was Darnell Dressage able to donate \$2,000 to TDF, donations were also made to two other nonprofit organizations – Ride On Therapeutic Horsemanship and Mini Therapy Horses. We are grateful for the support of Claire, Darnell Dressage, and the riders who participated!





From Washington to Wellington to a Big Win

As the inaugural recipient of the \$10,000 Debbie McDonald Fund Grant for Pacific Northwest FEI Riders, Jennifer Williams' year started with a journey from Washington to Wellington with Million, a 17-year-old Danish gelding owned by the Million Syndicate.

While in Wellington, Jennifer and Million had the opportunity to work with Debbie McDonald, Oded Shimoni, Steffen Peters, Charlotte Bredahl, and Christophe Thealett. With their help, Jennifer and

Million achieved their goal of breaking 70% at Grand Prix.

After her time in Wellington, Jennifer said, "The journey was a beautiful one. It was hard, exhausting, and magical in every way, and I came away feeling so inspired and hungry to maintain my current level of discipline. I am incredibly grateful for all the opportunities TDF's Debbie McDonald Fund grant afforded me! I know that it was successful in taking my riding and training to the next level."

Training didn't stop when Jennifer and Million returned to Washington. After a summer of putting into

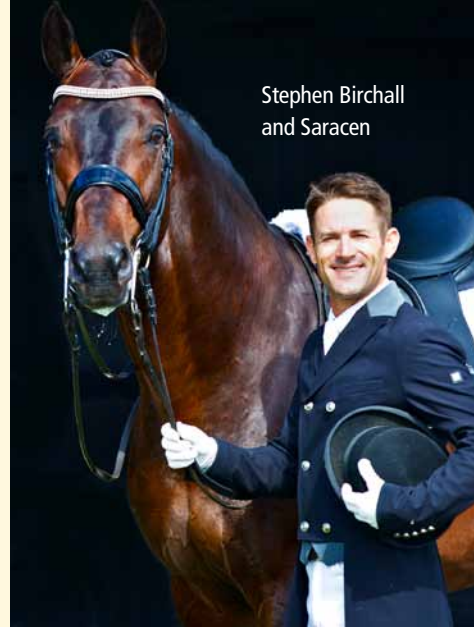
practice what they learned in Florida, they were invited to the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, where they captured the Grand Prix National Championship with an overall score of 70.824%.

As the highest placing Grand Prix rider to have previously competed at a North American Youth Championship, Jennifer also received TDF's Patsy Albers Award of \$2,500. She said, "Thank you to TDF and its donors for giving us the extra support that we needed to turn this next chapter into a reality."



Jennifer Williams and Million

Photo credit: Susan J Stickle



Stephen Birchall and Saracen

Photo credit: S. Hellner Photography

Stephen Birchall Receives 2020 Debbie McDonald Fund Grant for Pacific Northwest FEI Riders

The \$10,000 grant that took Jennifer to Wellington this year will give Stephen Birchall of Newburg, Oregon, the same opportunity in the future. When it is safe to do so, Stephen will use the \$10,000 grant to travel with his horses to Wellington, Florida, for training and competition.

He said, "Thank you to TDF for selecting me for the Debbie McDonald Fund Grant! I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to represent the Pacific Northwest dressage community."





New Fund Spotlight

Over the past several years, many donors have given generously to create and support new Grant Funds. Inaugural grants have recently been awarded from two of TDF's newest Funds.

Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund

In October 2019, Lynn Palm established the Western Dressage Fund to provide financial support for educational events, as she believes that the classical training principles of dressage are applicable and beneficial to all levels of riders, breeds of horses, and riding disciplines.

Kentucky Dressage Association received one of the first grants from the Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund, for a socially-distanced clinic held in June.

Feedback from the 12 riders was overwhelmingly positive, with one rider saying, "This clinic really helped me with my confidence when riding. I learned a great deal about the sport's history, scoring, attire, and tack. It was a great introduction to Western Dressage!"



Instructor Joann Coy teaches a rider at the KDA Western Dressage Clinic

Team Tate Mentorship and Leadership Fund

Barbara Strawson recently received the inaugural grant from the Team Tate Mentorship and Leadership Fund, which was established by the Tate Family to provide financial assistance to professionals to further their business, leadership, and riding skills.

Barbara plans to use the \$5,000 grant to train with her mentor, George Williams, to attend the Women's Leadership Summit in Washington D.C., and to attend the USDF FEI Trainer's Conference.

Barbara shared, "It is a blessing to be honored as the first recipient of this grant, especially during these trying times. Not only will this grant help me improve my business skills, it will also help me during a crucial training time with my horse as he advances to the FEI Levels. This grant will support my goal of inspiring younger trainers, especially women, in building their own small businesses. Additionally, my students always reap the benefits of time spent with my own continuing education. Thank you, TDF and Tate Family!"



Team Tate Fund
inaugural recipient,
Barbara Strawson

Photo credit: Ryan Sennewald

A True "Gift" from the Gifted Fund

Thanks to your generous support, the awarding of grants has not slowed down this year. In fact, TDF has received the most grant applications ever... and the year isn't over yet.

Your gifts are helping riders like adult amateur Anna Cluxton. Like so many, this has been a tough year for her. However, as a TDF grant recipient, she knew she could look forward to getting help for her riding goals.

Anna's Story:

When I first received the news that I had been selected for a grant from TDF's Gifted Fund for Adult Amateurs, I was so grateful to receive help to work toward my riding goals. Little did I know that a global pandemic would add another layer of gratitude.

On February 4th, I underwent a preventative mastectomy with reconstruction. I knew in advance that it would require at least eight weeks of not being able to ride. I spent the first week hospitalized, as the reconstruction surgery was very complicated. I was not allowed to leave the house for the next four weeks, let alone visit the barn, out of concerns for infection.

I was then given clearance to return to work as an equine and human massage therapist; however, Ohio had closed massage services on March 19th due to the pandemic. So, while I now had a lot of free time to ride, I had little to no income to help cover expenses.

In May, I decided to close my business. Without the grant, I'm quite sure I would not have been able to do my week of intensive training. With the grant, I happily scheduled a

week of training with my trainer, Amy Rothe-Hietter, and my horse, Danny.

After our wonderful week of training, I rode in a schooling show and scored a 61% in my first attempt at Second Level Test 1! I was super happy, even though I know we have a LONG way to go to be consistent at Second Level. I had a second surgery mid-July, requiring another six weeks off. However, I have continued to ride when I can, take lessons, watch videos, and stay healthy and active.

In normal times, I would have struggled to have been able to take a week off work to focus on my riding. With the closing of my business this year, there is no way I would have been able to do this weeklong intensive without the support of this grant. It was truly a "Gift" and I will be forever grateful to Carol Lavell, TDF, and my trainer for helping this strange and frustrating year evolve into something wonderful for me and my horse.



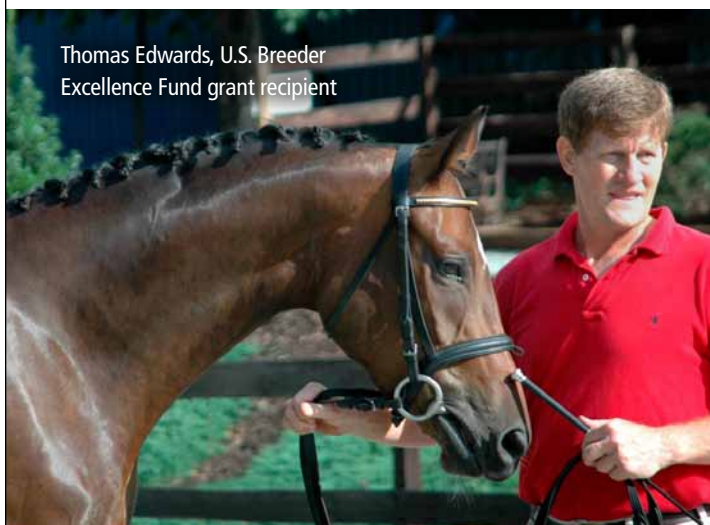
Read Anna's full report >>
www.dressagefoundation.org

Anna Cluxton and
her Morgan, Danny



Your Donations Matter in Uncertain Times

All the *good* that our grant recipients have been able to receive this year is because of you! Your donations are the reason that, despite this year's circumstances, dressage enthusiasts can continue learning and improving.




Thomas Edwards, U.S. Breeder
Excellence Fund grant recipient

Photo credit: Arielle Perry

THOMAS EDWARDS, breeder at Fairview Farm, shared his thanks for receiving a grant this year, saying, "I am incredibly blessed and gratified to be selected for TDF's U.S. Breeder Excellence Fund grant to help pursue my dreams! It is an amazing opportunity. I look forward to June 2021 when travel is (hopefully) back to normal and I can fly to Germany to see firsthand some of the venues, stallion stations, and the fabulous horses themselves. I look forward to learning much and will attend with an open mind and humble heart."

ELEANOR MILLERSCHIN shared, "I am so grateful to receive TDF's Karen Skvarla Fund grant for young professionals, to continue my riding education throughout 2020. This opportunity wouldn't have been possible without the grant. Thank you to the donors and TDF for giving me, and many

other equestrians, the opportunity to pursue learning opportunities we wouldn't be able to participate in otherwise. With this grant, I look forward to improving myself and using what I learn to help other horses and riders." 

Donate today!

While this has been a difficult year, you can ensure future support of the dressage community with your gift today.

Your donation will be used to support grants for instructors, adult amateurs, judges, dressage clubs, youth, and more. Together we can continue to march forward in support of U.S. dressage!

Secure online donations can be made at www.dressagefoundation.org.

Checks can be mailed to:
The Dressage Foundation
1314 'O' Street, Suite 305
Lincoln, NE 68508

Questions?
Call Executive Director
Jenny Johnson at (402) 434-8585.



Young Professional
Eleanor Millerschin



TDF's Legacy Society



THE LEGACY SOCIETY honors and thanks supporters who include TDF in their Will or estate plan, or who establish a gift with TDF that provides income for life (Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts).

Through their generosity, Legacy Society members are ensuring that the sport they love will continue to grow and thrive for years to come.

Legacy Society Members

Founding Members – The Boomer Family



Lowell and Gladys Boomer*



John and Lynn Boomer



Jim and Lois Boomer*

Carol Alonso
Lois Arnold*
Cynthia Aspden*
Dr. Anne Barlow Ramsay
Karen Blake
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Cyndi Craig
Ralph and Freddie Dreitzler

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Violet Hopkins*
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Lazelle Knocke*
Linda and Edward Lambert

Carol and Tom* Lavell
Michael Matson
Sophie Pirie
Linda Rands
Mike and Kathy Rowse,
Silverleaf Farm
Anne Sushko
Martha Wolfson*
Ronald Woodcock *

**Honored Posthumously*

Is The Dressage Foundation named in your Will? Please let us know, even if you wish to remain anonymous, so we can thank you personally and speak with you about how your gift will make a lasting impact on the sport you love.

If you have not yet included TDF in your plans, you are invited to join TDF's Legacy Society through:

- ▶ Gifts from your Will or Trust
- ▶ Beneficiary Gifts
- ▶ Gifts that pay you or someone you choose

Please contact Jenny Johnson, TDF's Executive Director, at (402) 434-8585 or jenny@dressagefoundation.org to discuss your legacy gift.



Giving Back in a Meaningful Way

By Carol Alonso

TDF Legacy Society Member and 2017 Century Club Member—Team #293 with El Gavilan (Julio)

LIKE MOST OTHER PEOPLE, as I advanced in my life and my career as a physicist, I became interested in giving back to organizations that mean something to me. For example, the colleges and universities that shaped my life's career and thus enabled me to become charitable. And like most riders, some of my favorite organizations tend to be related to animals and their humans! Or to humans that need animals... Or to animals that need humans... You get the picture.

What drew me first to The Dressage Foundation was the Century Club. It is such a nice goal, and one of the few aimed at older horses and riders. Loving and taking good care of my horses through their old age is important to me, more important than winning ribbons. All of my horses have so far lived to be in their late 20s, and I've never sold a horse; they are family members. My first horse, an off-the-track Thoroughbred, lived to be 30, and we were starting to practice our Century ride when he died. In 2017 I rode a First Level freestyle (which by invitation we had competed two years earlier at the US Dressage Finals in Kentucky) as our Century ride on my 26-year-old PRE "Julio" when I was 75. My beloved Julio is gone, but I have his 5-year old son, Lord Nelson, and my goal—don't laugh!—is to ride him in a "Super Century ride" when I am 100. That way, every ride I have will be a Century ride!

I like the idea of a non-profit foundation whose mission is to provide direct support for maintaining the art of dressage. This is so important in an age when the various

competitive horse sports are managed more like corporations as part of the "horse industry." The Foundation is there to help deserving riders who sincerely want to advance their knowledge of dressage and perhaps pass it on to others. It's more about education than about winning international events. I like that.

We all like the idea of giving back, and after a successful life, our bequests—big and small—become an important way to do that. What I'm doing in this case is combining a Horse Trust to take care of any horses I own when I die with a Legacy bequest to the Foundation. That is, the Trust will ensure that whatever horses I own at the time of death will be either properly sold to good homes or properly retired, with the sales income fed back into the Trust, and the final Trust balance bequeathed to The Dressage Foundation.



Carol Alonso
and Julio



Photo credit: Sherry Stewart

Never Give Up

A Q&A with Century Club Members

Three new Century Club riders were asked about their horses, favorite memories, and advice they would share with younger riders. Here's what they had to say...



Team #429 – Roslyn Brendzel (age 74) and Horej (age 26)



Team #442 – Michael Pasqual (age 77 ½) and Firenze (age 22 ½)



Team #444 – Page Lyon (age 73) and Albert (age 28)

What do you like best about riding dressage?

Roslyn — I love how when I do something right, my horse gets round and light.

Michael — I like the challenge of always learning something new.

Page — The technical/precision aspect.

Favorite memory with a horse?

Roslyn — It will have to be my Century Club ride. Horej knew it was a special day and he was perfect. It is very special to grow old

with your equine partner and know that not everyone gets to do a Century Club ride. It had been my goal for three years and I met it. I had major back surgery three weeks after my ride and I didn't know if I would be able to ride again. Thankfully, I am back in the saddle, still with Horej.

Michael — Riding my Century Club test will always be a favorite memory!

Page — Riding on my grandparent's farm with my father, who instilled my love of horses.

(continued)



Never Give Up

A Q&A with Century Club Members (continued)

What is your horse's favorite treat?

Roslyn — That's easy. Carrots, carrots, and more carrots.

Michael — Flo's favorite treat is a banana.

Page — Carrots; Albert does not like peppermints.

What is your favorite exercise to do with your horse when training/riding?

Roslyn — I think my favorite part of riding is the lateral work. Horej seems to instinctively know what I want him to do. It's the one time I think we are truly one.

Michael — Flo and I both enjoy doing the lateral movements.

Page — Serpentine; they help me to focus on turning, changing my rein and leg, plus they help with the horse's bending.

What advice do you have for younger riders?

Roslyn — Never give up. Keep trying and practicing. But remember your horse is your partner. Engage your horse in what you are doing.

Michael — Be patient with yourself and with your horse. Some lessons are easily learned, and some are never learned, but keep trying. Never give up.

Page — To keep riding AND exercising with Pilates, yoga, weights. When young, one never thinks they'll get "old" with aches and pains. As with horses, movement helps to keep us limber.



About the Century Club

The Century Club recognizes dressage riders and horses whose combined ages total 100 years or more. To join the Club, the horse and rider must complete an application form with The Dressage Foundation, then ride a dressage test of any level at a show or event. Due to COVID restrictions, virtual rides are also being accepted!

TDF is proud to be the home for the Century Club and honor the seniors of our sport in this special way.

Thanks go to Platinum Performance and all the Century Club sponsors for their generous support!

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Celebrating 10 Years of a Permanent Home

IN 2010, TDF's Past President & CEO, John Boomer, led a fundraising campaign to surprise his father, Lowell Boomer, with a permanent office for the Foundation in downtown Lincoln, Nebraska. Lowell, who founded TDF in 1989, had long hoped for TDF to purchase an office space and secure its future in the birthplace of both USDF and TDF.

Thanks to the generous donors listed here, TDF is celebrating its 10th year at 1314 'O' Street in the heart of Lincoln. Not only did the purchase of an office condo give TDF a permanent home, the cost savings has been substantial...over \$170,000 has been saved in the last 10 years!



At "home" in TDF's office (l-r): Sara Weiss, Director of Grants and Programs; Melissa Meyer, Administrative Assistant; Jenny Johnson, Executive Director

\$50,000+	\$499 and under
Gordon E. Cadwgan, Sr.	Cathy Alexander Anne Appleby
\$10,000 - \$30,000	Beth Baumert Sarah Blackman Barbara Cadwell Kevin and Inez Campbell The Carr Family L. Dwight Cherry Dr. and Mrs. Dana Cooley Cynthia Dunoyer
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\$1,000 - \$2,499	
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Maryal and Charlie Barnett	



TDF's Book of Memory

TDF'S BOOK OF MEMORY is a way for you to remember dressage enthusiasts who have passed away, to honor living dressage friends, or to give special recognition to retired or deceased horses. A donation to the Book of Memory will provide a lasting tribute to your devoted dressage friends.

The following individuals and horses have been added to the Book of Memory since September 2019.

The name of the individual being honored appears in bold italic type; donors' names appear below it in regular type.

In Memory of Dressage Enthusiasts

Carey Evans

Christel Carlson

Sheila Fowler-Bludworth

Bonnie Lemcke

Richard Geikie

Lisa Fiano

Sarah Geikie

Carol Liebman

Susan Spiggle

Pam Kimble

Georgia Dressage
& CTA

Tom Lavell

Carol Lavell

Christa Sullivan

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Renee Beckham

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Janet Foy

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Country Club

Lori Hume

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Rick Kleene

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Barbara Putnam

Fox Rothschild – Patrice

Kloss, Sarah Wentz,

and Bill Kaufman

Dia Satori

Bruce and June Shipp

Kathie Sunwall

Greg Sushko

Anne Sushko

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Northern Ohio Dressage
Association

In Honor of Living Dressage Friends

Maryal Barnett

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Anne Chapin

In Memory of Equine Friends

Aureo, owned by

Patricia McVary

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Judy Ethell Glatz

Kate Fleming-Kuhn

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Rubin Raphael, owned

by Judy Ethell Glatz

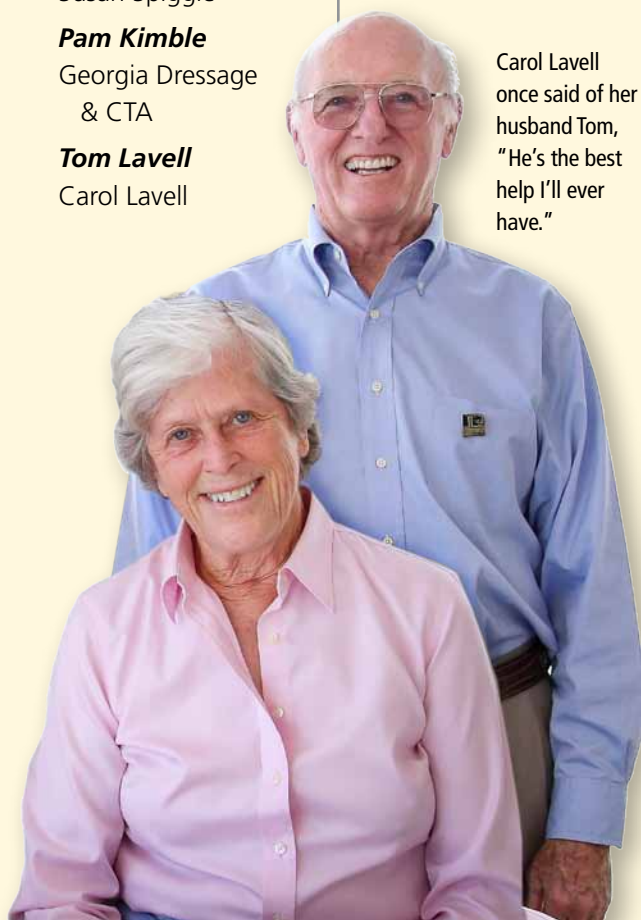
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