

# ***Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Inc.***

## ***Newsletter***

### ***Fall 2014***



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#### **The Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Inc. (TEC)**

**537 Northampton Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
413-532-1462**

**info@EquestrianTherapy.org  
www.EquestrianTherapy.org**

#### ***President's Message:***

September comes this year bringing a host of autumn activities to TEC. The riding schedule has been posted and class/therapy sessions have begun.

The first two weekends in October will see Beavers Club members replacing the south wall of the stable which they built in 1979. After 35 years of great service to TEC and our horses, the wall is no longer sturdy enough to do its work.

The Beavers Club, an organization of French-Canadian settlers' descendants in the Pioneer Valley, was organized to take advantage of its members' craftsmanship. The members donate their services to charitable agencies to build, paint and repair facilities. The Club has previously done a number of repairs for TEC. In order to do the stable repair, they will bring a crew of men to TEC together with the materials and tools needed to do the work. TEC is deeply grateful to them for their support and concern over many years.

Following the stable repairs will be TEC's Annual Horse Show, which will be held on November 1 from ten a.m. till about 4 p.m. TEC riders will have a chance to earn participation medals and compete for class ribbons. Parents and friends are invited to lunch.

Then on November 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Slainte, 80 Jarvis Avenue, TEC will have its annual Harvest Dinner with Wine pairings. Details of the evening appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Your Board of Directors has been busy and looks forward to participation in all activities from all of the members of the TEC family!

*by Sue Panitch*

*The Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Inc. (TEC) is a private 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1984 dedicated to providing physical, learning and recreational opportunities to special needs children and adults. TEC is governed by a Board of Directors and managed by the Executive Director.*

**President** - Sue Ellen Panitch  
**Vice President** – Christine Delude  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** – James Sutter  
**Treasurer** - Timothy Deshaies  
**Recording Secretary** – Debra Vega  
**Corresponding Secretary** – Torin Moore  
**Board of Directors:**

Gordon Alexander  
Dr. John Cowley  
Amy Craven  
Carla Neiswanger  
David O'Connor  
Anna-May Sieniawski  
Jill Tellier  
Atty. Thomas Wilson

**Executive Director** - Judith Zedonis  
**Barn Manager** - Nora Britton  
**Instructors:**

Nora Britton  
Karen Dahmke  
Nancy Karp  
Jeriko Perkins  
Annie Sexauer

**Volunteer Coordinator** - Alyson Bull  
**Newsletter Editor** - Judy Zedonis



Professional Association of Therapeutic  
Horsemanship International

## Director's Ramblings

Hi All,

TEC was invited to participate in the Mass Special Olympics Fall Equestrian Event on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Western Mass regional show was once again held at Equus Therapeutic in Lanesboro MA. Riders competed in a challenging Trail Class and then in an Equitation class. Four of our riders participated: Sam Pollard – Trail Gold & Equitation Gold, Kelsie Brown – Trail Gold and Equitation Gold, Nathan Stewart - Trail Bronze & Equitation Bronze, Matt Coulter – Trial Bronze & Equitation Bronze. Nora Britton, Nancy Karp, and I coached and assisted our riders. We were very proud of all our TEC riders. They were cheered on and encouraged by many family members and friends that attended the show. Each year TEC extends the invitation to our riders to participate. The interest has been growing. We are already looking forward to the 2015 Event.

Those riders that didn't attend the Special Olympic Show will have a chance to participate in TEC's Annual Horse Show on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope to see you all there to show your support for our riders.





## Membership Story

It gets harder every September to believe that the summer is nearly over and that it is again time to write to you who – as members of **“Friends of TEC”** – support The Therapeutic Equestrian Center through annual membership gifts.

TEC continues to serve over 200 children a year through its ongoing programs of physical, learning and emotional therapy. And today we are also working with our Heroes: American Veterans who are finding our services helpful in easing their return to civilian life.

While therapeutic riding is not a cure for any of the disabilities we treat, it is an amazing methodology which builds on each individual’s abilities in order to help each rider reach his or her highest potential. We see this happen on a daily basis and are always inspired by the achievements of the special people with whom we are privileged to work.

Without your help, these sessions could not happen and we are all – staff, volunteers and riders – deeply appreciative of your continued thoughtfulness.

More than ever, there is concern for The Center’s income stability. Like the parents of our riders who worry about their children’s futures when they are not there to help them, we worry about TEC’s future. Many funding sources are impacted by both the economy and their own income. TEC needs to look within its own resources to continue its work. Thus, the Membership Drive in September 2014, is an especially important one. The TEC Trust, begun by George Loughman, has reached over 2/3’s of its goal now standing at \$104,000.00. Once it reaches \$150,000.00 or more, it will annually turn its income over to TEC. The TEC Trust Committee with the leadership of Michael Kirwan (a rider’s parent), Cecile Ploran (a long time major supporter) and have funded a matching grant of \$5,000.00 to be applied as a one to one match to the first \$5,000.00 of gifts to the Trust. And, of course, as the value of the Trust rises, so will the income it provides to TEC. Your help is crucially important to reaching this goal. With your help, it can be done!

Everyone interested in Friends of TEC membership and/or supporting the effort to build the Trust Fund is invited to help by sending a check in their choice of amount to TEC, P. O. Box 6808, Holyoke, MA 01040. Please indicate on the check or on an accompanying note how you wish it to be used.

We wish you a fabulous autumn and hope we will see you at the Annual Horse Show at TEC on November 1 and at our 4th Annual Harvest Dinner at Slainte on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Annual Harvest Dinner**

Debra Flynn, owner of Slainte Restaurant at 80 Jarvis Avenue in Holyoke is again planning, with the TEC Board of Directors, a fabulous 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Dinner. This year the dinner will take place on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The evening will start at 6:30 p.m. with a social hour complete with hors d'ourves and wine tastings during which there will be a small silent auction. Wine, jewelry and a beautiful leather jacket will be among the exciting pieces displayed for sale. Dinner will be served at 7:30.

Cara White, who is the Western Massachusetts wine consultant with Yankee Distribution L.L.C. , will officiate at the wine table during the social hour and also be on hand to discuss the wine pairings with each dinner course. Yankee Distribution is a relatively new firm in the Pioneer Valley having opened in 2010 and represents an international portfolio of artisanal wines from Europe, the Americas and New Zealand. We know her enthusiasm will enhance the fine dining experience.

Reservations for the dinner may be made by calling Slainte at 413-534-4000 and must be secured with a credit card. Dinner choice must be made at the time of reservation. The all-inclusive price fixe is \$70.00 per person. This dinner has sold out for the past two years so make your reservations early!

### ***4<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Dinner Menu***

*~Soup Course ~ Roasted Pumpkin Soup topped with Cinnamon Crème Fraiche and Toasted Pumpkin Seeds served with Ryan Patrick Naked Chardonnay*

*~Appetizer~ Butternut Squash Ravioli in Sage Brown Butter Cream Sauce topped with Braised Hen of the Woods Mushrooms served with Ryan Patrick Redhead Red*

*~Entrée~ Choice of Grilled French Cut Pork Chop with a balsamic reduction drizzle, Breast of Chicken or a Vegetarian Selection accompanied by Spiced Apple Sauce with Demi-Glace Poached Fingerling Potatoes and a Harvest Vegetable Medley served with ZOLO Bonarda*

*~Dessert~ Texas Style Apple Cobbler with Vanilla Ice Cream drizzled with Dulce de Leche with Vallebelbo Moscato d'Asti*

***Half the proceeds from this dinner and all of the proceeds from the silent auction will benefit TEC.***



**TEC NEWS:**



TEC was once again pleased to offer riding to the participants from the Holyoke Public Schools summer program at Jericho. Pictured are some of our riders.

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**Wear Your TEC Affiliation for all to See!**

The TEC Hoodies have been very popular in the past. I will once again be ordering Hoodies this fall. If you are interested please let me know. Navy Blue with White Logo.

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**On Oct 4<sup>th</sup>** Glencroft Farm in Southampton will once again host a benefit Trail Ride, with a portion of each entry fee donated to TEC. Thanks to Kate Raymond of Glencroft Farm for contacting TEC to be part of this fun event. The ride is part of ACTHA's (American Competitive Trail Horse Association) Shamrock Path to support PATH International.

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**On Nov 6<sup>th</sup>** Jericho will host a full-day, resource filled Transition Summit. This conference is not a lecture. It's designed as an information exchange for parents and professionals to transition teens with disabilities for lifelong success. This program is designed to give you "what you need to know..." to confidently take every step through the 14-22 transitional years.

Call 413-538-7450 or visit [www.jerichobeca.org](http://www.jerichobeca.org) for more details.

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Special Thanks to Becca, one of our TEC Volunteers, for the beautiful pictures of our horses!



## Calendar of Events 2014

**Oct 4:** ACTHA Benefit Trail ride at Glencroft Farm

**Oct 26:** Jericho/TEC Fall Celebration

**Nov 1:** TEC Horse Show

**Nov 6:** Jericho's Transition Summit

**Nov 10:** Harvest Dinner fundraiser at Slainte

**Nov 13-16:** Equine Affaire, Big E, W Spfld

**Dec 10:** Valley Gives Day

For more info check out

[www.EquestrianTherapy.org](http://www.EquestrianTherapy.org) or call 413-532-1462

or email [info@EquestrianTherapy.org](mailto:info@EquestrianTherapy.org)

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**Reminder:** This program is supported in part by the Holyoke Community Development Block Grant Program using U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds.

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**United Way for TEC:** The Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Inc. is a qualified 501(c)(3) Agency. TEC qualifies as a designated receiver of donations through the United Way.

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**We're going green!** Please help us save trees and postage! Sign up today for electronic delivery of our newsletters! It's fast and it's easy! Just go to TEC's website, enter your contact information, choose your notification preferences and click "Send Now". Please note that TEC will never share your email address.

## TEC Class Schedule

### Sept/Oct 2014 – Session #5

**Monday:**

**Sept 8 to Oct 27, 2014 – 7 week session** (no class 10/13)

Groups at; 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**Tuesday:**

**Sept 9 to Oct 28, 2014 – 8 week session**

Groups at; 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 AM & 12:30, 4:30 & 5:30 PM

**Wednesday:**

**Sept 10 Oct 29, 2014 – 8 week session**

Groups at; 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**Thursday:**

**Sept 11 to Oct 30, 2014 – 8 week session**

Groups at; 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**Friday:**

**Sept 12 to Oct 31, 2014 – 8 week session**

Groups at; 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**TEC Horse Show Saturday, November 1st**

### Nov/Dec 2014 – Session #6

**Monday:**

**Nov 3 to Dec 15, 2014 – 6 week session**

Groups at; 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**Tuesday:**

**Nov 4 to Dec 16, 2014 – 5 week session** (

Groups at; 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 AM & 12:30, 1:30, 4:00 & 5:00 PM

**Wednesday:**

**Nov 5 to Dec 17, 2014 – 6 week session**

Groups at; 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**Thursday:**

**Nov 6 to Dec 18, 2014 – 6 week session**

Groups at; 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**Friday:**

**Nov 7 to Dec 19, 2014 – 6 week session**

Groups at; 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

**No Classes Thanksgiving week 11/24 to 11/28**

**TEC will be on Winter Break  
Classes will resume Mid Jan 2015**

Call 413-532-1462 or email

[info@EquetstrianTherapy.org](mailto:info@EquetstrianTherapy.org) for info