

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

## ***Newsletter***

### ***Spring 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:***

For TEC, Spring always brings the promise of good weather for all our riders, staff and volunteers. This year, we are all welcoming Springtime more happily than ever after a winter of alternate snow, melt off and ice! March brings promises to our riders who have endured the cold and to their friends – both volunteers and horses who look forward to seeing them each week as well as to the instructors who look forward to working with the children to reach new goals.

It is also the time of the year when the preparation done during the winter for the annual "The Future Begins Here" gala, TEC's major social and fund raising event moves from the planning stage to the action that makes the event such a bright spot in the year. Because the Gala is sponsored by the Holyoke Mall at Ingleside, the participating children's agencies receive 97% of the funds raised. The only expenses for the event are printing and mailing costs.

Future is an event with a steering committee always ready to try new ideas and Future 2014 will see a number of changes. The first of these is location. Future will be moving from the area surrounding the Customer Service Desk on the first floor to the area immediately in front of Macy's.

Plans include a raffle with cash prizes (tickets for this will be available at TEC), for the Live auction to be set up between the escalators with the silent auction tables intermingled with the various food stations to make it possible for people to make dinner choices while perusing the tables.

*continued on page 3*

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



**PATH**

**INTERNATIONAL**

Professional Association of Therapeutic  
Horsemanship International

— MEMBER —

## Director's Ramblings

### Welcome to the Spring edition of TEC's Newsletter

I would like to express my thanks and much admiration to all those volunteers and riders that braved this harsh winter to continue attending classes at TEC. Even though we were forced to cancel many of the classes due to the extreme weather, when we were able to hold class we had an enthusiastic turnout. Definitely a hardy dedicated group of people.

With the coming of better weather TEC is once again in high gear! We have new horses, new instructors and new programs. With much more to come!

We are pleased to announce that TEC is now working with the Springfield Veterans Center to provide equine activities to our vets. This program has been in the works for a long time. Thanks to the efforts of the "Friends of Veterans" and a generous donation from Smith & Wesson this program is now a reality.

With the addition of Jeriko Perkins, an advanced PATH instructor to our staff, TEC will now be able to offer a mentoring program for those who want to become PATH instructors.

TEC now has a new website thanks to the efforts of Tim Deshaies and Mik Mueller of Montaque webworks. It is still a work in progress but new information will be continually added. If you have any suggestions, articles or photos you would like to share, please feel free to email your submissions to [info@EquestrianTherapy.org](mailto:info@EquestrianTherapy.org)

TEC is also encouraging everyone to sign up for our e-Newsletter. It will take me a little time to get used to this format but it will be a big savings for TEC if we don't have to mail the newsletter. Any help and/or advice on how to better format the e-Newsletter would be greatly appreciated!



*Think Spring!*

**President's Message:** *continued from page 1*

And what a great menu the Fine Dining Group has designed for 2014! The Delaney House is planning an Italian Welcome Table which will include sliced Italian breads and crostini, sliced meats and cheeses along with a marinated artichoke and mushroom platter with a roasted red pepper garnish, sweet Vidalia onion/cucumber salsas with banana pepper garnish, mimi penne pasta Florentine, tortellini, fresh mozzarella and cherry tomato pesto salad and Bruschetta with tomato, basil, northern white bean and tuna with fresh shaved parmesan. Wow! And if anyone is hungry after that the main course selections are fabulous. Eastside Grill will be serving New Orleans Barbecued Shrimp over cornbread waffles with a side of coleslaw. For a gourmet vegetarian experience Chandler's will present an asparagus and roasted tomato casserole with a variety of salads while the Whately Inn will serve a scallop brochette featuring large sea scallops wrapped with applewood smoked bacon on a bed of saffron rice. Alina's Ristorante will offer Brasato and its famous Beef Short Ribs while The Federal will take us south of the border for Pork Belly Taco's and chili-lime/cabbage /pickled vegetables. And for a really grand finale, Joe Stevens of Hofbrau Joe's German Steakhouse will be serving that magical and elegant flaming dessert Bananas Foster.

Dinner is included in the price of the ticket.

Uno's Chicago Grill will be on hand with the Paper City Brewery to provide cash bars, all proceed from which also will be given to the participating children's agencies.

The Live and Silent Auctions will again be full of an eclectic group of offerings. For auction lists and updates to Future plans, everyone is invited to visit <http://futurebeginshere.org/>. The website is being constantly updated. TEC's treasurer who also acts as treasurer for Future has been working hard to make this website more interesting and helpful. He has had many hours of help from TEC volunteer Jill Apollonario.

James Sutter will again manage the Live auction for all the agencies. The Children's Library at the Holyoke Public Library and Holyoke Rows, Inc. are TEC's partners in the gala. TEC Board vice-chair is managing TEC's tables for the Silent Auction and the entire board is working hard to collect auction items.

While the website has all the information on ordering tickets, TEC will also be mailing an invitation letter and card shortly.

All of TEC's riders, their families and friends are invited to join the TEC board and volunteers to work on making this event a success. It raises fully a quarter of TEC's operating budget. Auction and Donor forms, raffle tickets and general information are available at TEC.



*Sue Ellen Panitc*

**TEC has just launched a brand new web site!** If you have a moment, check it out, browse around and let us know what you think! The site has a great new look and lots of new features, including latest news about TEC, upcoming events, class schedules, a full calendar, a photo gallery, newsletter archives, online donation opportunities and much more! We'll be adding more pictures and calendar updates as events come up, so check back often! The new site will be a great resource for riders, volunteers, and people interested in learning about TEC! We now have the ability to post notices on our website, so if the weather is not suitable for riding, we'll post it! We're sure you'll like the site's new look and the new benefits! Our web address is <http://www.equestriantherapy.org/>

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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.**

## **23rd Annual Gourmet Dinner Live Auction/Silent Auction**

at the Holyoke Mall at Ingleside

**Sunday, May 4th, 2014 6:30pm**

### **Tickets \$35**

in advance or \$40 at the door

### **Dining**

Alina's Ristorante  
Chandler's Tavern  
The Delaney House  
Hofbrau Joe's German Steakhouse  
Eastside Grill  
The Whately Inn  
The Federal

### **Cash Bar**

provided by Uno Chicago Grill & Paper City Brewery

### **Coffee**

donated by Starbucks

### **Live Music**

by Eric Bascom and Blue

### **Live Auction**

by Auctioneer George Lewis

### **Event Emcee:**

Channel 40's own Dave Madsen

### **50/50 Raffle Drawing!**

### **Schedule of Events:**

6:30: Hors d'oeuvres  
6:30 – 8:40: Silent auction  
7:00: Buffet dinner begins  
7:15 – 8:00: Live auction  
8:45: Cash Drawing  
9:00: Silent bidding winners posted

## The Horses that make TEC possible



**Layla**

My name is Layla, I am one of the team at the Therapeutic Equestrian Center (TEC). I am a Chestnut Roan Belgian Draft Horse with a beautiful blond mane and tail. Some of you will probably think of me as a work horse, but I am a riding horse and a therapy horse. TEC provides physical, learning and recreational opportunities, with my help, to special needs children and adults. Because of my size and strength it is my job to take care of some of our larger riders. It is no problem for me. Remember “Big is Beautiful”! Seriously, therapeutic riding provides a tremendous amount of benefit to individuals with disabilities. But the care of all of us horses, the facility and providing necessary equipment for the riders makes the program quite costly to operate. TEC is a private non-profit and is funded by grants, donations and special fundraising events. The following “Wish List” contains just some of things that we need at TEC. I am sure you can think of other things that we could use. Thank You.

### **WISH LIST**

- Hay (remember the saying “eats like a horse”, we each eat about ½ bale of hay a day!)
- Bagged Bedding (shavings or softwood pellets make a nice soft, clean bed for us)
- Fly Spray (for horses and humans) now that it is getting warmer
- Show Sheen (for horses makes our manes and tail soft and shiny)
- Cleaning products; GarbageBags; PaperTowels; ToiletPaper; Kleenex; Hot & Cold Cups
- First Aid Supplies for horses and humans
- TEC can always use Gift Certificates to: Feed Stores, Tack Shops, Office Supply Stores, Hardware Stores
- Halter with my name on it, “Layla” remember I need a draft horse size
- And I can’t forget our resident barn cat, Eve; Cat Food (dry) & Kitty litter



*Remember TEC is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization  
Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law*

## TEC Calendar of Events 2014

- April 19:** Spring Clean Up Day  
**April 26:** ACTHA Benefit Trail Ride  
**May 4:** Jericho Recognition Day  
**May 4:** Future Begins Here Gala  
**Aug 8:** TEC Summer Picnic  
**Sept TBA:** Mass Equestrian Special Olympics  
**Nov 1:** TEC Horse Show  
**Nov 10:** Harvest Dinner fundraiser at Slainte in Holyoke, MA

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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## TEC Class Schedule

### March/April 2014 – Session #2

**Monday:**

**Mar 3 to Apr 28, 2014 – 8 week session**

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

**Tuesday:**

**Mar 4 to Apr 29, 2014 – 8week session**

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

**Wednesday:**

**Mar 5 to Apr 30, 2014 – 8 week session**

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

**Thursday:**

**Mar 6 to May 1, 2014 – 8 week session**

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

**Friday:**

**Mar 7 to May 2, 2014 – 8 week session**

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

**TEC will be on break Apr 21 to Apr 25**

### May/June 2014 – Session #3

**Monday:**

**May 5 to June 23, 2014 – 7 week session**

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

**Tuesday:**

**May 6 to June 24, 2014 – 8 week session**

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

**Wednesday:**

**May 7 to June 25, 2014 – 8 week session**

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

**Thursday:**

**May 8 to June 26, 2014 – 8 week session**

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

**Friday:**

**May 9 to June 27, 2014 – 8 week session**

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

**TEC will be on break Monday, May 26  
Memorial Day**

Call 413-532-1462 or email  
[info@EquestrianTherapy.org](mailto:info@EquestrianTherapy.org) for info