



# CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

December 2007

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**Email -**  
**Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org**  
*Subject: Centerline*

**- CDA Website -**

www.ctdressageassoc.org

CDA is a USDF member, and the GMO's members are automatically USDF Group Members.

## President's Message

The holidays are upon us once again. This is a fun time of year for me. I love cooking and entertaining, and always look forward to creating big holiday meals to share with family and friends. I hope each and every one of you has a very safe and joyous holiday season.

Thank you to all the riders and auditors who attended the Alison End clinic. I think all would agree that not only was it a blast, but it was a very educational clinic. I have never really seen how the Eckart Meyners method works, and was quite impressed. Alison had auditors and riders do unmounted exercises that helped with muscle awareness. With her trained eye, she was able to pinpoint the rider's weaknesses in their position, and give them exercises to help correct them. It was very interesting to see the difference in each horse rider combination before the exercises, and after the exercises. Alison is a very gifted teacher, and she kept the entire day very engaging, and the auditors very involved.

As I mentioned last month, we have a great new program that has been created to honor the vintage horse. Thank you so much to Ted Plaut and Vista Geewhiz for making this possible. It will recognize senior horses for their outstanding performance in the show ring, and the educational part of the program will help teach us about the needs of older horses so that we might care for them better and prolong their competitive careers. Look inside for more information about this most special opportunity.

It has been the mission of CDA to promote dressage in the northeast through education and opportunity. In keeping with this mission, our scholarship committee has been working hard to create a scholarship program to reach out to our Adult and Youth members. Look for further details in the Centerline and our 2008 omnibus to see how to apply. We want to help you grow in your enjoyment and understanding of the sport.

Now is a very exciting time to be a part of CDA. We have many schooling shows, clinics, and educational events in the works for 2008. We hope you will show your support and join in these activities, whether it be as a competitor in one of our shows, rider or auditor at a clinic, or as a volunteer. We try to plan activities that we think you might really enjoy being a part of, and will benefit from. It is always fun to make new friends in your dressage community, and promote our sport. We really want to extend a welcome to those of you who are new to the Club, or to the area. And for those of you who are shy, well, so were we, so you will fit right in!

If you have not done so already, **please note on your calendars that the annual awards party is on January 26<sup>th</sup>**. At this party we will hold our annual meeting, give out year end awards, and have lots of food and fun, including our annual silent auction. We are looking for a few more people to help with various tasks. If you think you might want to help out please let myself ([mchrisrogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mchrisrogers@sbcglobal.net)) or Heidi Nottelman ([Nottelman@att.net](mailto:Nottelman@att.net)) know. We greatly appreciate any amount of time you can spare.

Again, myself and the entire Board would like to wish all of you a very wonderful holiday season.

See you soon,  
Chris

## 2007 Calendar of Events

### December 20, 2007

CDA Board Meeting  
Fern Feldman  
203-272-0711  
Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org

### January 26, 2006

CDA Annual Awards Party  
Fern Feldman  
203-272-0711  
Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS FOR CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

According to the CDA by-laws, adopted February 11, 2006, the membership of CDA must now elect approximately ½ of the Board of Directors for a 2-year term. Of those people listed below, a total of SEVEN WILL BE ELECTED (one of whom will be a Youth Representative) at the Annual Meeting to be held on January 26, 2008. We are listing the proposed slate of Directors in this issue of Centerline for your consideration with brief bios of the candidates. If you will not be attending the Annual Meeting and Awards Party this year, you may contact me, [president@ctdressageassoc.org](mailto:president@ctdressageassoc.org), for an absentee ballot.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of directors, please contact me for more information. There will be an opportunity to write in additional candidates on the ballot.

Thank you for your participation in the governance of CDA.

*Chris Rogers Aquilio, President*

## **PROPOSED SLATE OF DIRECTORS FOR CDA (6 will be selected)**

**Chris Rogers Aquilio**

**Marisa Evans**

**John Gordon**

**Kevin Greelish**

**Donna Leonessa**

**Kim Sullivan**

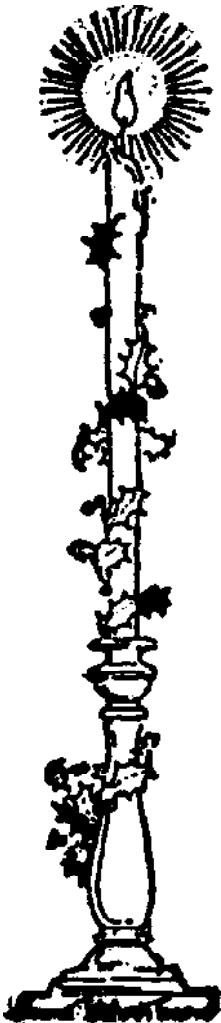
**Leslie Weiss**

**(nominations from the floor will be accepted as long as the person nominated agrees to the nomination)**

**Youth Representative (one will be selected)**

**Erin O'Neil**

**(nominations from the floor will be accepted as long as the person nominated agrees to the nomination)**



# “GETTING TO KNOW YOU”

1. **NAME:** Donna Dunbar
2. **HOMETOWN:** Mansfield, Connecticut
3. **PROFESSION:** Retired. The most demanding, fulfilling profession I can imagine!
4. **HOBBIES:** Photography, “yarn arts” in the winter, reading, organizing the Randy May Memorial schooling show and the Randy May Memorial Scholarship.
5. **FAMILY MEMBERS:** Lee (Husband), kids & in-laws (Julie/Chris, Shannon/Gary, Kelley/Matt), grandkids (Sean & Elena), Mom (Margie) and the usual peripherals: sisters, brothers, inlaws, etc.
6. **HORSES:** Hello My Friend is my retired Thoroughbred eventing buddy; Prometheus is Lee’s enormous  $\frac{3}{4}$  Clydesdale; Nalando is the Dutch Warmblood that Lou Denizard took to the PanAm Games this year; and Enchanted Paladin, a Trakehner, is my dressage partner.
7. **OTHER PETS:** Dixie and Donnie help out with the rodent population in the barn. Copper, our German Shorthaired Pointer is our resident scout. As soon as the door opens in the morning, she’s on her personally appointed rounds. There isn’t a squirrel around who doesn’t head for the trees when she hears that door. Minneapolis, our house kitty, has decided that her job is to keep the underside of Copper’s chin well polished. She rubs it daily. And then there’s Mogli. She’s five pounds of chocolate Poodle curls. I call her my little laugh machine.
8. **BARN/STABLE AFFILIATION:** We own Little Divide Farm, where the horses stay in the summer, trucking back and forth to Delante Equestrian Center. In the winter they stay in training at Delante. Little Divide is the site of the Randy May Memorial schooling show, held “Always the last Saturday in August. Always.”
9. **TRAINER:** Lou Denizard
10. **RIDING ACHIEVEMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS/EXPERIENCES:** I have been incredibly fortunate. Regardless of how tough or unfair life with horses seems sometimes, there are people who will never, ever in their lives have a chance to bet the soft noses, look into those big

brown eyes, or after a hard ride, lay a weary head against a warm furry neck. My accomplishments as a rider are only a tiny part of my life as an equestrian. (para) My horses have not always been suited for what I have asked of them, but they have always done their best. Penny, the miserable Appaloosa, took me over my first jumps to 8<sup>th</sup> place at my first competition (Huntington); Hank put me more often in the ribbons than not, long after I was told that he “just doesn’t have it”. Jolly Tinker showed me what it was supposed to be like and got annoyed when I didn’t just stay put and out of his way. Friend gave me my very first win (Groton House) by just being steady and saying “yes, ma’am” even when he must have known that my eyes were closed. I never thought I’d make it past second level dressage, if indeed I ever got that far. Enchanted Paladin and Lou Denizard have other ideas. I have qualified for my first level regional championship, my first and second level USDF Rider Award Certificates, and my first level freestyle regional championship. I no longer let goals define my potential.

**11. FUTURE RIDING GOALS:** No goals, just opportunities. Every accomplishment opens a new door and offers new challenges.

**12. HOW CAN CDA BETTER SERVE ITS MEMBERS?:** Adult riders are a highly untapped resource. Clinics, seminars, schooling shows and other educational opportunities and formats that highlight their accomplishments, offered in a way that that is not intimidating, are an invaluable means of encouraging them to join the equestrian community.

**13. WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PUT TOGETHER A MUSICAL FREESTYLE?** Such a journey! I had read about freestyles and thought they sounded like fun. Riding to music. How cool is that! It was 2004. There was a new, unrecognized competition that was to be held in the Fall: Northeast Adult Amateur Dressage Championship. I had not been riding Paladin very long. I think it was my second season with him, so he was 4 or 5. We were competing at Training Level. Qualifying scores to enter were set at 55%. I figured we could do that and went about rounding up a team among Lou Denizard’s other riders. After several starts and stops, we ended up with a team of 3: Karen Cerulli and Sonja and my husband, Lee, riding Hello My Friend were my teammates.

**“Getting to Know You” Continued from page 3**

Those riders who made it to the top 6 in each division would be required to ride a freestyle to determine their individual standing. I didn't figure that I'd end up in the top 6, but I sure wasn't going to risk having to forfeit if I did get there. Lou and I started putting together a training level freestyle. The competition was sponsored by Orange State Dressage Association. USDF does not offer a training level freestyle, but OSDA does. Everyone I asked said that Paladin would work best to music that was light and airy. I gathered every cd of James Galway that I could find. Flutes. We would work to flutes.

Well, my Guardian Angels were sitting on my shoulder. We placed in the top 6. They may have slid off for ambrosia or something after that. The freestyles were ridden in a huge indoor. Bleachers. Banners. Concessions. Huge flowers. Shiny new Ford trucks. Paladin decided that he was too young to die and that he'd rather be anywhere else. I couldn't get him around the arena. The banner was at A. The trucks were at K and H. I decided to abandon the idea of going around the arena in favor of getting as close to A as possible. So we did a dance of backwards, sideways, forward and even a baby airs above the ground. The bell rang when I was at K. We had 20 seconds to get into the arena and used every one of them. I was supposed to salute at X, but had to settle for L. "Settle" by the way never again entered into this test. After that salute, I could not get Paladin past L, and didn't try. So much for "use of arena". I had to be a little creative, but we stayed with the music.

Getting out of the arena was just as interesting as getting into it. Those trucks and the banner were still there, waiting to pounce on poor Paladin. After a minute or so of intense discussion, he tucked his head to his chest, grew a full hand taller and marched boldly where no trembling Trakehner had gone before. We came in second in the freestyle and Reserve Champion in Training.

I was hooked. Rhode Island Vintage Equestrians was a brand new organization, based at Delante Equestrian Center and founded by two of Lou's riders. We started bring in clinicians; one of the first was Ann Guptill. She suggested new music. We changed from flutes to Pop Rock. We picked music, repicked, went back to where we started, picked revised versions.....this was work! We finally decided on Yellow Jacket (trot), Tequilla (canter) and Green Onions (walk) all by The Ventures.

Now came the really frustrating part. We were putting together a first level freestyle. By the end of the season, we were trying to keep a horse that was showing at first level, but working at second level, in a first level freestyle. Paladin's gaits kept changing. As my riding improved I was better able to ride into corners and be generally more precise. All of this played havoc with our timing. We started having to cut music and choreography to keep within the 5 minute limit, and ended up with music to spare. Ann and Lou stuck with me though, and we qualified for the USDF Region 8 Championships.

I love the chicken, walnut and apple salad at Applebee. I'm often out and about at lunch time. Once I'm at my table, I take out my trusty notebook, my pen and my cheaters (drug-store reading glasses) and start working on the choreography for my second level freestyle. It's nice and quiet and I can sometimes get things figured (and refigured) to about half-way when one of the wait staff will stop to ask what I'm doing. They've never seen anyone talking to themselves, drawing in the air and making weird lines on a rectangle before. "Cool" they say, and ask where they can come and watch. I'm trying to decide whether to change my music, or to stick with The Ventures. Pal seems to like them. I can't find anything I like better.

So next time you see a grandmother riding a grey Trakehner to Pop Rock, be sure to wave!:



## New Award CDA Award Program to Honor Vintage Horses

CDA Year-end Awards recognize members and their horses for excellence and achievement during the show season and are always a special honor. Beginning in 2008, a pioneering new initiative, the **VISTA VINTAGE AWARD**, will take our program one step further and single out the best performances by our special senior horses. These are the equine partners who demonstrate that age is no barrier to competing and earning scores to make any rider proud. One need only look at American rider Courtney King and her 18 year old horse Idocus, **who** routinely dazzle us with international Grand Prix successes. Of course, many of us competing at the lower levels also ride and show our older horses with pride, and the time has come to acknowledge their achievements.

CDA member and USDF/Dressage Foundation Century Team honoree Ted Plaut has generously created this award with a \$5,000 contribution. The award honors his trusted and much-loved 21 year old Trakenher/Morgan gelding, Vista Geewhiz, who shows us all that dressage is a lifetime sport. Vista was bred by Ted's daughter, Dr. Karen Plaut, and Ted has been riding him for over 11 years. Ted and Vista frequently are seen at CDA's schooling and recognized shows, where they compete against much younger riders and horses, and usually end up with ribbons.

The difference between the Century Team program and this new CDA award is that the Century program requires that the horse's and rider's ages, when combined, must equal or exceed 100 years. The **Vista Vintage Award** is directed exclusively to the older horse, which can be ridden by a rider of any age.

Ted's rationale for creating the award is to remind us that horses today can live happy, productive and athletic lives well into their older years (as can people). Careful training, thoughtful management, and advances in veterinary care extend many horses' competitive careers.

The **VISTA VINTAGE AWARD** program will be accompanied by lectures and other events throughout the year focusing on the special needs and training of older horses. It consists of a \$200 cash prize and elegant special trophy. CDA Awards volunteers will administer the program.

How the **Vista Vintage Award Program** Works:

- Open to all CDA members, but both the rider of the horse and the owner of the horse must be CDA members
- Two awards will be presented. Each will be accompanied by a plaque and a \$200.00 cash prize. The first award will be for our own **CDA Schooling Shows and/or other Schooling Shows listed in the CDA Omnibus, or the website, or the CDA newsletter, The Centerline**. The horse/rider combination must participate in a minimum of 2 Schooling Shows, 1 of which must be a CDA-sponsored Schooling Show.

The second award will be for our **CDA Recognized Show, to be held June 7-8, 2008**.

- Minimum age for horse is 18. **No** minimum age for rider
- Scores must be submitted in accordance with all other CDA year-end award requirements

## CDA Scholarship Program

CDA Adult and Youth Scholarships—CDA offers one or more scholarships per year, per category, up to \$500.00 for youth and up to \$500.00 for adults. The scholarship can be used anytime between November 1, 2008 and October 31, 2009. Applications are open to all CDA active members as of January 1, 2008.

Application must be postmarked or filled out by electronic submission by November 1, 2008.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you applying for (circle one):      YOUTH Scholarship    ADULT Scholarship

### **On a separate sheet of paper:**

1. List in detail your service and/or connection to CDA (past, current and anticipated)
2. Summarize your riding experiences (past, current and anticipated)
3. Briefly outline your short-term goals (under two years)
4. Briefly outline your long-term goals (beyond the two year period)
5. Provide details on what you are applying for, and most importantly, an explanation of how the scholarship money is to be used and why you would like this scholarship.
6. Explain how this experience will benefit you as an equestrian.

### **General Guidelines:**

1. An applicant must be a CDA member as of January 1, 2008.
2. Scholarships must be used within the designated term.
3. Scholarship monies will be disbursed when a voucher is submitted, either as a reimbursement or as an advance for a specific program.
4. CDA scholarships cannot be used for professional training of your horse, or to supplement show fees for a professional rider to ride your horse, or for other professional or extraneous expenses (i.e., trailering, gas, food, tack, etc.).
5. The decision to award one or more or no scholarships in a given year is up to the awards committee.
6. **In return for receiving a scholarship, a recipient will be required to write an article for the CDA newsletter, The Centerline. This must be submitted within 2-3 months of having used the scholarship for the purpose given.**

All articles are to be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. They can be mailed to me at:

John Gordon  
Attn. CENTERLINE  
24 Darren Court  
Waterbury, CT 06708-3903

or  
They can be Emailed to me at [Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org](mailto:Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org)

In the Subject line: Centerline

Please send them as an Attachment in either Word for Windows, WordPerfect, RTF or in a plain text file Format if possible.

Attention Show and Clinic Organizers, Trainers, Stables and Organizations:

Don't forget to send us information about your activities for the 2008 CDA Calendar of Events!!! Send a one-line description, dates, locations, and contact person's name and phone number. We'll be delighted to include it in Centerline's regular calendar at no charge.

Thanks,  
John



Remember to visit us on the web at <http://www.ctdressageassoc.org>

What delight

To back the flying steed, that challenges

The wind for speed! - seems native more of air

Than earth! - whose burden only lends him fire! -

Whose soul, in his task, turns labour into sport;

Who makes your pastime his! I sit him now!

He takes away my breath! He makes me reel!

I touch not earth - I see not - hear not. All

Is ecstasy of motion!

~James Sheridan Knowles, *The Love-Chase*

## 2007 Advertising Rates

<u>Page Size</u>	<u>CDA Members</u>		<u>Non-CDA Member</u>	
	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year</u>
Business Card	\$15	\$100	\$30	\$200
¼ Page	\$20	\$150	\$40	\$300
½ Page	\$25	\$200	\$50	\$350
Full Page	\$30	\$250	\$60	\$400

Make Checks payable to CDA

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e-mail: [Membership@ctdressageassoc.org](mailto:Membership@ctdressageassoc.org)

**CDA Newsletter for December, 2007**

CDA BOARD MEETING Thursday December 20, 2007 at 6:15 PM  
Call Fern Feldman at 203-272-0711 or Email - [Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org](mailto:Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org) for directions.