



## Kentucky Derby High Bidders at “Hong Kong by Night” Make Lasting Friendships And Support U.S. Equestrian Team

BY MARY HILTON



Photo Courtesy of Moxie Equestrian

(l to r) Wilhelmina McEwan, Marsha and Dennis Dammerman, Tami Hoag, Betsy Steiner, and Tammy and Jerry Barber touring Darley Stud in Lexington, KY.

**“The highlight of the trip was meeting our hosts and the other two guests – we just had a great time because we were with great people,” said Marsha Dammerman, an amateur hunter/jumper rider who went to the 2008 Kentucky Derby – a once-in-a-lifetime experience for her and her companions.**

Marsha was with her husband Dennis Dammerman, an investor in show horses and race horses, Tami Hoag, a *New York Times* best-selling novelist and dressage rider, and Tami’s trainer Betsy Steiner. Their hosts for the four-day trip were Wilhelmina McEwan and her brother Fred McEwan of Fenwick Farm, a Thoroughbred operation, and Tammy Barber, Wilhelmina’s partner in Moxie Equestrian, a newly launched horse gear company, and her husband Jerry Barber. This diverse group got together when Fenwick Farm and Moxie Equestrian contributed a ‘VIP Kentucky Derby Package’ for the Live Auction at the USET Foundation’s “Hong Kong by Night” Olympic benefit held on February 8 in Wellington, FL.

Dennis was high bidder on the hotly contested trip, prompting the offer of a second package, which Tami secured. “When

they decided to do a second package, then I couldn’t resist,” Tami said. “It’s a great cause and it’s something I’ve always, always, always wanted to do.”

The VIP foursome arrived in Lexington on the first Thursday in May and met their hosts for the first time at breakfast on Friday. “It was just one of those situations when you shake hands with somebody and you feel like you’ve known them your entire life,” said Tammy, a recreational rider since childhood who now heads up marketing and branding at Moxie Equestrian. “Everything we did, everyone was game for it. It was very much a band of like-minded individuals.”

After breakfast, the group launched into their VIP tour, starting with renowned Thoroughbred farms. “It wasn’t your normal tour,” noted Wilhelmina. “I know the racing end of it as



# PLANET

**A NEW DIMENSION IN RV SALES AND SERVICE IS COMING TO SOUTH FLORIDA,** brought to you by none other than RV Sales of Broward, the premier South Florida RV dealership.

**"PLANET RV"** will be the first – and only – **COMPLETELY INDOOR RV DESTINATION** in the country.

RV Sales will be moving from its two current locations to form Planet RV in a magnificent, **74,000 SQUARE FOOT INDOOR ARENA.** Planet RV will be the nation's one-stop shop for RV lovers and will include a showroom housing everything from pop-ups to luxury motor homes; a service area; sports complex; restaurant; sports bar; dance hall and much more. Visitors can relax while enjoying a quiet massage, manicure or pedicure while their children play in the game-stocked video arcade.

Planet RV signifies RV Sales of Broward's **CONTINUED COMMITMENT** to providing its customers an unsurpassed level of service and overall RV experience. From redecorating your RV to finding custom-fitted sheets, clothing, accessories and even pet products, **PLANET RV WILL OFFER IT ALL.**

An exciting new feature of Planet RV will be Riding GiGi Style, a custom-designed and patented new line of sheets created specifically to fit the needs of RV owners.

## **PLANET RV WILL ALSO FEATURE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GEARED SPECIFICALLY TOWARD THE EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY.**

Our goal with Planet RV is to make RVs accessible to everyone, and to inspire them to experience the freedom and joy of the RV lifestyle.

Whether you are leasing, selling or purchasing, looking for a weekend rental for family vacations, a large motor home in which to tour the country or a mobile office for your business,

## **...PLANET RV WILL HAVE IT.**



Call today to book  
your reservation or visit

**MYPlanetRV.com**

**954-850-4702 Cell**

RV SALES OF BROWARD IN PALM BEACH  
Full Parts & Service Department  
2788 South Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415  
561-967-1300

RV SALES OF BROWARD  
1955 South State Road 7  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33317  
954-583-3382

**RV SALES OF BROWARD IS THE LEADER IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE MOST COMPETITIVE PRICES SINCE 1986.**



Dear Friends,

For the past four years we have all been preparing for the pinnacle of sport – the Olympic Games! This month we will watch our U.S. equestrian team with pride and admiration as they compete against the world, vying for an Olympic medal and the honor that comes with representing your country. For most of us, riding in an Olympic Games was our dream. At some point along the way, we had to realistically acknowledge that we may not fulfill our dream of riding in the Olympics, but perhaps there was a way that we could still be a part of this amazing experience.

The athletes are the first to tell you that they do not do it alone. It takes a team. First and foremost are the horse owners. These individuals generously and enthusiastically provide the amazing world-class horses that can compete against the very best and win. The coaches, veterinarians, farriers, grooms, high performance sport staff, and individuals who make valuable contributions to the USET Foundation to support the athletes are all a critical part of the “team.” If you take away any of these variables, then the team is incomplete and a medal opportunity lost. You are all a big part of the “team” and the Olympic experience. Be proud of your contributions in helping get our horses and riders into the Olympic Stadium and onto the podium to hear *The Star Spangled Banner* play.

The articles and stories in this newsletter typify the people who truly make a difference in allowing our U.S. equestrian teams to have the support they need in Hong Kong for the 2008 Olympic Games. Dennis and Marsha Dammerman along with Tami Hoag had fun at the Kentucky Derby as a result of their high-bidding at our “Hong Kong by Night” benefit held earlier this year; Phillip and Evie Dutton held a fundraiser in Aiken during an eventing training session; Mary Anne and Walter McPhail contributed the proceeds from the VIP Tent at their Palm Beach Dressage Derby; and numerous media outlets and horse shows have placed complimentary USET Foundation advertisements. We are truly fortunate to have so many friends who are willing to help us achieve our mission.

Our “One Team, One Dream – A Salute to Hong Kong” benefit held in June in conjunction with the dressage selection trials was another overwhelming success, generating enough fun and support to make us all consider getting a tattoo for the Olympic cause. I would also like to thank Elma Garcia-Cannavino for her initiative and leadership in putting together a truly fabulous evening we will all remember.

And for the future – it continues to look bright! The Show Jumping Developing Riding Tour topped off their three-competition European tour with a Nations’ Cup victory at CSIO Lipica. In the words of Chef d’ Equipe, Melanie Smith Taylor, “Hearing our national anthem brought tears to everyone’s eyes. These are moments that last a lifetime. We are lucky to share them.”

Cheers and Go TEAM!

With best regards,

Bonnie B. Jenkins  
Executive Director



**Officers**

Armand Leone, Jr.  
*Chairman of the Board*  
Jane Forbes Clark  
*President and CEO*  
Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.  
*Vice President*  
Eric L. Straus  
*Secretary*  
Lawrence G. Tribble  
*Treasurer*

**Board of Trustees**

Sherry Adams  
Janice C. Aron  
Sue Blinks  
Rebecca Broussard  
Henry L. Collins III  
R. Bruce Duchossois  
James H. Fairclough  
Richard M. Feldman  
Bertram R. Firestone  
Murray H. Goodman  
Eric Hasbrouck  
E. Hunter Harrison  
Leslie Burr Howard  
C. Michael Huber  
S. Tucker S. Johnson  
Chris Kappler  
Anne Kursinski  
Kerith Lemon  
Mark Leone  
Jacqueline B. Mars  
Debbie McDonald  
Mary Anne McPhail  
Frank G. Merrill  
George H. Morris  
Jan Neuharth  
David O'Connor  
Arlene Page  
Robin Parsky  
Arthur W. Priesz, Jr.  
Wendy Raether  
Jessica Ransehausen  
Stephen T. Rojek  
Dr. Bernard Salick  
Guenter Seidel  
Melanie Smith Taylor  
Jane Thomas  
Anthony V. Weight  
Ted Weise  
Peter C. Welles  
Abigail S. Wexner

**USET Foundation Staff**

908-234-1251  
Bonnie B. Jenkins  
*Executive Director, ext. 215*  
Nancy Little  
*Executive Assistant, ext. 208*  
Mark P. Piwowar  
*Chief Financial Officer, ext. 200*  
Paul Long  
*Assistant Director of Development, ext. 201*  
Michele Zanzonico  
*Director of Annual Support, ext. 205*  
Mary-Ellen Milesnick  
*Database Manager, ext. 204*  
Cathy Pane  
*Accounting Supervisor & Office Manager, ext. 203*  
Maureen Pethick  
*Communications Coordinator, ext. 207*  
Patrick Lynch  
*Facilities Manager, ext. 206*  
Clif Cotter  
*Facilities, ext. 202*



## DERBY HIGH BIDDERS

*Continued from page 1*

much as I know the show horse people, so they got to go right into the stud barns." Wilhelmina is a former jumper who competed on the Canadian team at Spruce Meadows and was aiming for the 1980 Moscow Olympics before the U.S. boycotted. She switched to racehorses 20 years ago, earned a trainer's license, and is now part of the Thoroughbred breeding and racing scene. "They got to see Giant's Causeway breed a mare at Ashford Stud, have their pictures taken with A.P. Indy at Lane's End Farm, and see all of Sheikh Mohammed's Derby winners at Darley," recounted Wilhelmina. "I breed my mares to all the stallions at those farms and I have partnerships with all three of the farms, so I was able to give everybody the red carpet treatment."

Dennis and Marsha, who own Sand Castle Farm, know the show jumper and racehorse worlds as well. A rider since age 13, Marsha started with Western, switched to riding hunters and jumpers and has focused on competition for the past 15 years, showing in the northeast during the summer from their home in Saratoga Springs, NY, and in Wellington during the winter. Marsha's trainer, Betsy Joyce of Shadow Rock Farm in Ballston Spa, NY, rides and shows the Dammermans' horses. Chris Kappler, a member of the Gold Medal Team and winner of the Individual Silver Medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics, also competes some of their horses, including Maserati and Via Veneto, his candidate for the 2012 London Olympics – a horse the Dammermans own in partnership with Hal and Kathy Kamine. Dennis has racehorse partnerships with Centennial Farms owned by Don and Judy Little whose trainers include show jump-



*On their VIP tour of renowned Kentucky Thoroughbred breeding farms, the Derby Package winners visited Ashford Stud, Darley, and the beautiful Lane's End Farm (shown above) located outside of Lexington, KY.*

ing legends Rodney Jenkins and Michael Matz. The Lexington tour provided an opportunity for the Dammermans to see two Thoroughbreds they knew personally. "Visiting the breeding operations, we saw one of the horses that we had sold to Gainesway that was standing at stud – Corinthian," Dennis noted. "And we also saw the sire of Chelokee that we had racing the day before the Derby, so that was fun."

Tami appreciated the exclusive excursion, relating, "We got to go places that I never would have been able to go just as an individual trying to tour the farms. We went into the breeding sheds and spoke with the handlers. That was terrific. The barns were so beautiful and absolutely spic and span clean. To see the condition of the stallions – some of them in their 20s and still doing fabulous – that was fun. The Kentucky countryside is just gorgeous. The gals from Moxie were such fun and so informative too."

Saturday was Derby Day and the group started off with an elegant brunch at historic Hermitage Farm owned by Carl Pollard, Chairman of the Board/Director of Churchill Downs. Brunch guests enthusiastically responded to the annual preview of youngsters. "They did a showing of this year's foals and some yearlings," explained Tami. "They brought them out and had people talk about their breeding and what they expected these horses to be when they grew up."

After brunch, the group was driven to Churchill

Downs where they enjoyed valet parking and front door entry. "We went in through the Trainer's Gate because Wilhelmina is a trainer!" Tami marveled.

While the men went to the Fenwick Farms' Sky Terrace table on 'Millionaires Row', the ladies headed for the barns where they had passes to go into the saddling paddock. "There were thousands of people crushed up against the fence looking into that paddock and we just walked on down there! That was cool,"



*At Lane's End Farm the high bidders had their pictures taken with A.P. Indy, the 1992 Horse of the Year and a Leading Sire.*

Tami laughed. She was treated to a lifetime thrill when she spied two Hall of Fame jockeys – Angel Cordero and Laffitte Pincay. "For me, that was like seeing rock stars!" Tami said. Wilhelmina knew the two jockeys and introduced Tami to



*Betsy Steiner, Tami Hoag and Marsha Dammerman in the paddock at Churchill Downs on Derby Day.*

them. Tami admitted, "I was star-struck!"

After a respite in the Trainer's Lounge, the ladies joined the gents at the table. The group dined, enjoyed traditional Mint Juleps and the pre-Derby races, and collectively tried to hold back tears when they sang "My Old Kentucky Home." Their table was located just past the finish line where the turn starts to go around to the backstretch, providing them with a fabulous view of the race. They were thrilled to see Big Brown win.

"Watching Big Brown come from 20th post position to win the Derby was pretty special," Dennis said.

After the Derby, the group was whisked back to Lexington for dinner at The Mansion. "It was an exquisite dinner," said Tammy. "We had fabulous French wines and it went on until close to midnight. We were toasting and celebrating the day."



Photo Courtesy of Moxie Equestrian

Tammy Barber and Marsha and Dennis Dammerman enjoy Derby Day Brunch at Hermitage Farm in Louisville, KY.

Reflecting on her Derby experience, Tami said, "It was absolutely a lifelong dream to go to the Derby, particularly to go in the fashion that I did." A rider since age nine, Tami started with Western, changed briefly to jumpers, and has focused on dressage for the past 10 years, but she noted, "My absolute first love was racing." That her winning bid on the Derby Package contributed to the U.S. equestrian team heading for Hong Kong was icing on the cake. "It was win-win all the way around. I got to do something I wanted to do my whole life and then by my contribution I enabled somebody else to do something they've wanted to do their whole life. So that's a pretty terrific thing. It was a great experience and I really thank the 'Moxie Mavens' for creating such a great opportunity."

"It was absolutely great," Marsha said. "It was just very generous of our hosts to have us as guests for that event. They knew the ins and outs of how to make it a great experience. Our hosts worked really hard to ensure that they were providing a wonderful entertainment experience for us."

"We had a ball," Dennis concurred. "They were wonderful people, all of them. We all became very good friends and we really had a wonderful time."

It was also another opportunity for the Dammermans to show their support for the USET Foundation. The Dammermans recently celebrated their 10th anniversary

as Gold Medal Club members and, along with Tami Hoag, were among the initial contributors to the USET Foundation's \$20 million *Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence*.

For Wilhelmina, contributing the package was an opportunity for her to be part of the Olympic dream again. "I had always wanted to go to the Olympics. That was my dream growing up as a child. When I was a junior, I loved jumpers and it's something you can never really give up," she said. "This was an opportunity to be part of it again. I quit when I was on top and it's sort of fun coming back with Moxie Equestrian this way."

Tammy noted that the Olympics have always been a part of her life and she was thrilled to have helped the USET Foundation in its fund-raising efforts. "This is an extenuation of what the Olympics are – the coming together of like-minded people, people full of joy and positive energy, athletes – and walking away with relationships that last," said Tammy. "I've watched the Olympics my entire life and you never fail to tear up when the flag is up and the anthem is played. But now, knowing that we helped in some very small way to get an athlete there, it's just tenfold – the pride and the emotion and the connection that we feel towards the Olympic experience. It's been wonderful." ■



At Ashford Stud, the Home of Champions, in Versailles, KY, the Derby Package winners visited breeding sheds, talked with handlers, and were privy to a breeding by legendary Giant's Causeway.

The VIP guests were scheduled to leave on Sunday and they brunchd with their hosts that morning for the last time on this trip. "There were hugs and kisses and tears and exchange of emails, addresses, phones," Tammy said. "And since then, we've all been in touch, sending pictures and emails back and forth."



At the Kentucky Derby, the VIP group enjoyed traditional mint juleps and watched the race from Millionaire's Row in the Sky Terrace of Churchill Downs.



# "ONE TEAM, ONE DREAM – A Salute to Hong Kong" Raises \$280,000

BY MARY HILTON

The USET Foundation's "One Team, One Dream – A Salute to Hong Kong" raised an impressive \$280,000 to benefit the U.S. equestrian team headed for the Olympic Games.

Held on June 28 at the Oaks Blenheim Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park in San Juan Capistrano, CA, the gala hosted 275 guests who enjoyed entertainment, an international dinner menu, exciting live auction, dancing, and the extraordinary Asian-themed décor designed by Academy Award Nominee Jeffrey Beecroft.

"On behalf of the USET Foundation, I thank everyone who attended and all those who contributed so generously at this event," said USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins. "It was an extraordinary evening and the funds raised far exceeded our expectations. Our donors at 'One Team, One Dream – A Salute to Hong Kong' showed the depth of support our athletes have in the equestrian community and we are thrilled that we were able to present such a successful fundraiser and truly fun evening."



"One Team, One Dream – A Salute to Hong Kong"  
décor by Jeffrey Beecroft



The party began with cocktails served outside around the dance floor where guests enjoyed a spectacular double ice bar sponsored by Ketel One Vodka, a performance by beautifully costumed Chinese Ribbon Dancers, and the opportunity to have a personalized fan hand-painted by a calligrapher.

USET Foundation President Jane Forbes Clark delivered welcoming remarks at the outdoor podium and thanked the party sponsors – Peggy Furth and Chalk Hill for the evening's fine wines; Ketel One Vodka for the ice bar; Lillibeth Bishop and the Hong Kong Board of Tourism for the Chinese dancers and calligraphy fans; 1-800-flowers.com for the centerpieces and certificates in the guest gift bags; and Bill Reilly and Space Program for special decorations. Clark also recognized the auction donors for their generous contributions – Elma Garcia-Cannavino, Randee Crisman, Tami



Jane Forbes Clark,  
President and CEO

Hoag, Las Vegas Events, Sean O'Keefe, Sue Blinks, Debbie McDonald, Guenter Seidel, Steffen Peters, Elaine Palance, David Donaldson, Jeremy and Tracy Roenick, and Caesars Palace.

In a special recognition tribute, Clark called Elma Garcia-Cannavino to the podium to thank her for serving as Event Planner for "One Team, One Dream – A Salute to Hong Kong." Clark presented Garcia with an official USET Blanket Set and USA Flag Saddle Pad signed by the 2008 Dressage Olympic Candidates.



George and Roberta Williams, Kathy Connelly,  
Chuck and Joann Smith, Christine Talbert,  
Elizabeth Juliano and Ryan Yap

Lillibeth Bishop, Publicity and Promotions Manager for the Hong Kong Board of Tourism, introduced the "Dotting of the Lion's Eye Ceremony" – an important part of Chinese culture and tradition, symbolizing the bringing of good luck and prosperity. Steffen Peters and Debbie McDonald 'dotted the eye' of each 'tiger',

awakening them to begin their dance.

BeachFire Bar and Grill catered the fabulous dinner that offered themed stations serving sashimi and sushi, wok fare, Parisian bistro, and paella, plus a dessert buffet and coffee service.

Guests viewed a spectacular USET Foundation "One Team, One Dream" video produced by Carr-Hughes Productions, which featured equestrian Olympic highlights from Sydney and Athens. The "Born in the USA" soundtrack and the images of the U.S. flag and athletes performing brought tears of emotion to many eyes. Clark asked all the Olympians at the party to stand and be recognized as guests applauded them.

Highlighting the evening, the Live Auction led by Clark and announcer Brian O'Connor as auctioneer, with assistance from Olympians Debbie McDonald, Robert Dover, Guenter Seidel, Sue Blinks, and Steffen Peters, raised nearly \$220,000.

One of the most hilarious and entertaining moments of the auction occurred when Seidel and Dover agreed to show off their Olympic tattoos, sans shirts, for \$40,000 as encouragement to bidders on the portrait session contributed by Elma Garcia-Cannavino. Three bidders tied at \$40,000 each and Garcia-Cannavino agreed to do three portrait sessions.



Guenter Seidel  
and Robert Dover  
Olympians for Life



(l-r) George Williams, Debbie McDonald, Steffen Peters,  
Jane Clark, Courtney King-Dye, Lisa Wilcox,  
Kristina Harrison-Naness, Sue Blinks,  
and Elma Garcia-Cannavino





Katherine Federle  
and Penny Gallo



Courtney King-Dye



Jane Thomas



Akiko Yamazaki and Miki



Kristin Orr



Brian O'Connor



Lars Peterson and  
Melissa Taylor



Shannon and Steffen Peters,  
Yamazaki and Yang Families



Sue Blinks, Guenter Seidel, Alanna Sellers,  
Steffen and Shannon Peters  
and Debbie McDonald



Grainne Ward, Elaine Palance  
and Debbie McDonald



Louise and Doug  
Leatherdale

The eight wonderful items up for bid and the lucky high bidders were:

- ★ **Equine and Athlete Portrait Session with Elma Garcia** donated by Elma Garcia and David Michaud. High Bidders: Jane Forbes Clark, Marta Kauffman, and Kristin Orr.
- ★ **A Custom Bronze of Your Favorite Equine** donated by Randee Crisman. High Bidders: Akiko Yamazaki and Jeff Fuqua (tied bids and artist to do two sculptures).
- ★ **World Cup Package** donated by Las Vegas Events. High Bidder: Elma and Jim Cannavino.
- ★ **Be a Character in a Tami Hoag Novel** donated by Tami Hoag. High Bidder: Jane Thomas.
- ★ **A Night of Olympic Memories with Olympic Athletes and Celebrity Chef** donated by Sean O'Keefe, Debbie McDonald, Steffen Peters, Guenter Seidel, and Sue Blinks. High Bidder: Alanna Sellers.
- ★ **Jack Palance Painting** donated by Elaine Palance. High Bidder: Grainne Ward.

★ **Dinner Party for Eight in Your Own Home Catered by BeachFire's own Chef Cathy McKnight** donated by David Donaldson. High Bidder: Bruce Hlavacek.

★ **Golf with Olympian and San Jose Star Hockey Player Jeremy Roenick in Las Vegas** donated by Jeremy and Tracy Roenick and Caesars Palace. High Bidder: Stephen Cooper.

Additionally, 20 of the huge "One Team, One Dream" banners lining the walls of the tent were sold at \$1,000 each, which will include signatures of the 2008 Olympic Dressage Team and membership in the USET Foundation Gold Medal Club.

In high spirits after the fun-filled auction, guests headed for the outdoor dance floor and enjoyed dancing to a deejay under the California night skies.

As they departed "One Team, One Dream - A Salute to Hong Kong," guests received a complimentary gift bag, which included the USET Foundation's Olympic hat, a dressage athlete poster by Elma Garcia, brochures and a map of Hong Kong from the Hong Kong Tourism

Board, and gift certificate for Plow & Hearth, 1-800-flowers.com, Samsonite, and Cheryl&Co. ■



Michelle Gibson,  
Devon and Terri Kane



Bill and Joan Cvengros  
and Klaus Balkenhol



Tim Keener of Las Vegas  
Events and Guest



David and Anne Gribbons



Jane Forbes Clark, Akiko Yamazaki  
and Miki, Shereen and Jeff Fuqua



Axel Steiner, Anne Gribbons,  
Janet Foy, Jessica Ranselousen,  
Uwe Mechlem and Brian O'Connor



Karen Sakas, Janet Bell,  
Tom Benson, Mallory Schneider  
and Dr. Gail Hoff-Carmona



Jim and Elma Cannavino,  
Guenter Seidel, and Sean Cadell



Chinese Ribbon Dancer



## Aiken Olympic Gala Raises \$20,000 for Eventers

Phillip and Evie Dutton graciously hosted 300 guests at their Red Oak Farm at Bridle Creek Equestrian Community, in Aiken, SC, for the "Aiken Olympic Gala" on February 18. The evening raised \$20,000 to benefit U.S. Eventing riders headed for the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong. Festivities included cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, presentations, a silent auction, and a raffle.

Guests were treated to an Olympic preview presented by Captain Mark Phillips, Chef d'Equipe for the U.S. Eventing Team. Gala attendees also enjoyed the opportunity to be the guest of their favorite U.S. Event rider for the evening and to attend the show jumping phase of the High Performance Training Session given by Laura Kraut.

The silent auction featured top-notch equestrian items including framed prints depicting dressage, show jumping, and a collage of disciplines donated by Bridle Creek/Meybohm Realtors; a hunt scene oil painting donated by Brad and Bill Merry of Merry's Trash and Treasures; an eventing vest donated by Dover Saddlery;



(l-r) Phillip Dutton; Paul Long, USET Foundation Assistant Director of Development; and Evie Dutton.

10 leather bridles donated by John Nunn of Nunn Finer Bridles; and a one-day shoot donated by Jimenez Photography. Guests also enjoyed participating in the raffle, which offered quality horse and rider equipment.

Sponsors for the "Aiken Olympic Gala" included Bridle Creek Equestrian Community; Meybohm Realtors; Boots, Bridle & Britches; Old School Construction; Smith, Massey, Brodie, Thurmand & Guynn, PA; Classic Equine; Sidelines Magazine; Security Federal Bank; Aiken County Farm Supply; Red Oak Farm; Brown Advisory; and

Sundowner Trailer of Aiken.

Representing the USET Foundation at the gala were Bruce Duchossois, USET Foundation Trustee; Jack Wetzel, USET Foundation National Advisory Committee; and Paul Long, USET Foundation Assistant Director of Development.

On behalf of the USET Foundation, Long presented Phillip and Evie Dutton with a thank-you gift for their generosity in hosting the gala. ■ – **Mary Hilton**

Photo by Todd List/Bridle Creek



## Palm Beach Dressage Derby Luncheon Contributes \$10,000

Walter and Mary Anne McPhail hosted the 2008 PhelpsSports.com Palm Beach Dressage Derby CDI-W/Y at their Horse Park at White Fences Equestrian Estates in Loxahatchee, FL, on February 29 through March 2, and donated the proceeds of their VIP tent to the USET Foundation. The \$10,000 donation was earmarked to support the U.S. equestrian athletes headed for the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong.

The Derby's VIP tent was located at the foot of the International Arena and provided guests with ringside seating for USEF High Performance qualifying classes, including qualifiers for the 2008 FEI World Cup Dressage Final and the 2008 National Grand Prix Championship/Olympic Games Selection Trials. Each day, VIP tent guests were treated to continental breakfast, gourmet lunch, afternoon refreshments, and the popular 'Derby Brunch' on the final day of the show, which featured noontime equestrian entertainment followed by musical freestyle competition.

"The Palm Beach Derby is always pleased to be able to support the USET Foundation and to make a contribution to help our athletes on their important quest for the 2008 Olympics," said Mary Anne McPhail, Executive Director of the Palm Beach Dressage Derby. ■ – **Mary Hilton**



Photo by Mary Hilton

Guests enjoying the 'Derby Brunch' at the 2008 PhelpsSports.com Palm Beach Dressage Derby included Janine Will, Wendy Neitzel (back row), Linda Blake, Sharon Zaidins and Carmen Achtman (front row).



Mrs. Philip Johnson and Carol Fraser.

Photo by Mary Hilton





## Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows Join with USET Foundation to Celebrate Olympics

The USET Foundation joined with Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows to celebrate the 2008 Olympic Games on May 16 in North Salem, NY. Held in The Patron Tent at the Old Salem horse show grounds, the event offered attendees the opportunity to meet and support Olympic equestrians. Highlighting the evening was an autograph signing with three show jumping athletes – Anne Kursinski, McLain Ward, and Jeffery Welles.

More than 150 guests filled the VIP tent, including many children who lined up at the autograph table. The USET Foundation provided USET Foundation postcards featuring show jumping athletes for the autograph signing.

Decorated in a colorful stars-and-stripes theme, the tent walls were hung with USET Foundation banners, and the red-white-and-blue colors were car-



(l-r) Jeffery Welles, Anne Kursinski, and McLain Ward signed autographs at the Old Salem Farm/USET Foundation Olympic celebration.

ried through in the flowers, tablecloths, and tableware. McLain Ward's show jumping team gold medal from the Athens Olympic Games was prominently on display.

In addition to the autograph signing, guests enjoyed a DVD of show jumping athletes competing at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games provided by the USET Foundation.

Tony Hitchcock was the Master of Ceremonies orchestrating the festivities.

USET Foundation Assistant Director of Development Paul Long represented the Foundation at the event. "The USET Foundation thanks horse show coordinators Vandy Lipman, Sara Foster, and their staffs at the Old Salem Farm Spring Horse Shows for doing a great job at organizing the event, as well as Old Salem Farm owner Scott Hakim for his support," Long said.

– Mary Hilton



## Media and Horse Shows Promote USET Foundation With Complimentary Ad Placements

To assist in its fundraising efforts, the USET Foundation asked equestrian media outlets and horse show managers to run USET Foundation complimentary advertisements in their magazines, newspapers, horse show programs, and on their websites. Outlets that generously placed an ad in their publication or on their website received a gift in kind letter from the USET Foundation for their contribution. The beautiful ads featured a team rider from the discipline the outlet selected. The USET Foundation thanks the following media and horse shows for their support and generosity in placing the advertisements:

Chronicle of the Horse  
Cleveland Autumn Jumper Program  
Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Festival of Dressage Champions Program  
Del Mar Fall Festival Program  
Devon Horse Show Program  
Equestrian News  
Fall Show in Colorado Program  
FoxLea Farm Program  
Hampton Classic Program  
Horse Capital Digest Magazine  
Horse N Tack Classified  
Horse Show Review Magazine  
Horse Shows by the Bay Program

Horses in the South Website  
LA Internationale Program  
LA National & Preview Program  
Lake Placid Horse Show Program  
Lamplight Dressage Program  
Menlo Circus Club Show Program  
Pebble Beach Dressage Program  
PhelpsSports.com Website  
Rebecca Farm Program  
ShowLife Magazine  
Today's Equestrian  
Upperville Horse Show Program  
USEF Equestrian Magazine  
Virginia Equestrian Website  
Woodside Fall Finale Program





# Congratulations To the U.S. Equestrian Team at the



Photo by Susan Stickle.com

**Phillip Dutton  
and Connaught  
owned by  
Bruce Duchossois**



Photo by Susan Stickle.com

**Becky Holder  
and Courageous Comet  
owned by  
Becky and Thomas Holder, Jr.**



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

**Gina Miles  
and McKinlaigh  
owned by Gina Miles,  
Laura Coats and  
Thomas Schulz**



Photo by Michelle C. Dunn / midampphoto.com

**Amy Tryon and Poggio II  
owned by  
Amy and Greg Tryon  
and Mark Hart**

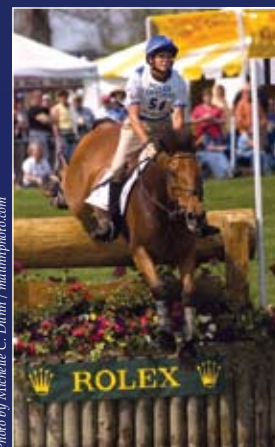


Photo by Michelle C. Dunn / midampphoto.com

**Heidi White  
and Northern Spy  
owned by Heidi White**



Photo by Kenneth Kraus / PhelpsSports.com

**Beezie Madden and Authentic  
owned by Abigail Wexner**



Photo by Kenneth Kraus / PhelpsSports.com

**Laura Kraut and Cedric  
owned by Happy Hill Farm  
and Peter Wetherill**



Photo by Kenneth Kraus / PhelpsSports.com

**First Replacement:  
Anne Kursinski and Champ 163  
owned by Legacy Stables**



Photo by Kenneth Kraus / PhelpsSports.com

**McLain Ward and Sapphire  
owned by McLain Ward,  
Tom Grossman  
and Blue Chip Bloodstock**



Photo by Kenneth Kraus / PhelpsSports.com

**Will Simpson  
and El Campeon's Carlsson vom Dach  
owned by El Campeon Farm**







# and Good Luck 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong!



*Photo by Terri Miller*

*Steffen Peters and Ravel  
owned by  
Akiko Yamazaki*



*Photo by Terri Miller*

*Debbie McDonald  
and Brentina  
owned by  
Peggy and Parry Thomas*



*Photo by Susan Spacke.com*

*Courtney King-Dye  
and Harmony's Mythilus  
owned by Harmony  
Amateur Sports  
Foundation*



*Photo by Terri Miller*

*Reserve:  
Leslie Morse and Kingston  
owned by Leslie Morse  
and Laura Petroff*





### Leslie Law

Great Britain's Eventing  
Olympic Gold Medalist  
Clinic: November 24–29



### Jessica Kürten

Ireland's Olympic  
Show Jumper, ranked #2  
in FEI World Ranking  
Clinic: November 1–6



### Capt. Mark Phillips

Great Britain's Eventing  
Olympic Gold Medalist,  
United States Eventing  
Olympic Team Coach  
Clinic: November 14–19

# Train With the Best



## Gold Medal Riding Clinics at The Gleneagles Hotel, Scotland

This fall, Cross Country International is offering three exclusive clinics for riders to learn from the best. You'll improve your riding skills while enjoying the luxurious accommodations of the famous Gleneagles Hotel. When you're not riding, indulge in Gleneagles' fabulous new spa facility or enjoy golf, tennis, falconry or one of the many activities this 5-star resort has to offer.

### Programs include:

- 5 nights at The Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland, with full breakfast and dinner each day.
- Ride for 4 days (including 3 day clinic and evaluation session) with opportunity for an extra day.
- Private gala evening hosted by your clinician including a four-course dinner, whiskey tasting and Scottish Bagpiper!
- Extended stays and non-riding companions are welcome.
- Training sessions are limited to maximum of 6 riders.

Reserve now at (800) 828-8768 or email [info@xcintl.com](mailto:info@xcintl.com).  
Visit [www.EquestrianVacations.com](http://www.EquestrianVacations.com) for more information.



**Cross Country International**  
[www.EquestrianVacations.com](http://www.EquestrianVacations.com)



# 2008 Samsung Super League Determines U.S. Olympic Team

BY KENNETH KRAUS



**A**s this issue of *USET Foundation News* goes to press, there are still three more competitions to go in the eight-series 2008 Samsung Super League and the U.S. is currently ranked at fourth on the roster of eight teams competing. The U.S. riders embarked on this tour with more than the Super League title on the line – a berth on the U.S. Olympic Show Jumping team in Hong Kong was at stake as well.

First tour stop was La Baule, France. Riding for the U.S. were Anne Kursinski, Will Simpson, Kate Levy, and Charlie Jayne. With clear rounds by Simpson aboard El Campeon's Carlsson vom Dach in round one and then Jayne's clean trip with Urbanus in round two, the U.S. squad vaulted into a tie for second place with Ireland. The Belgian team came out on top.

Next event was Rome, Italy, where the U.S. riders were Kursinski, Simpson and Jayne, joined by Nicole Shahinian-Simpson. Great Britain's John Whitaker secured the victory in a two-way jump-off against Will Simpson, placing the U.S. second. Germany settled for third. The U.S. moved into the lead for this year's Super League year-end title.

At tour stop number three, St. Gallen, Switzerland, the U.S. team members remained the same, but no one could keep up with the team from The Netherlands. The Dutch took charge with three first round clears and finished with only 5 faults on the day. The U.S. squad slotted into fourth place with 13 faults overall. The Dutch win moved them fractionally ahead of the U.S. in the league standings, bumping the Americans into second overall.

The fourth leg of the tour was Rotterdam, Netherlands, and for the second year in a row the U.S. team finished in last place despite the arrival of the top qualifiers from the U.S. Olympic Selection Trials. The team comprised of

Jeffery Welles on Armani, McLain Ward with Sapphire, and Laura Kraut aboard Cedric joined Anne Kursinski and Champ 163. Germany, keyed by a double clear ride from Ludger Beerbaum on Coupe De Coeur, was the victor. The Netherlands was a close second and Belgium finished third. The U.S. team faded in the overall standings, dropping from second to fifth place. The biggest blow came on the following day when it was learned that Armani had sustained an injury and Welles had to drop out of Olympic contention.



Photo by Erin Coughlin

*McLain Ward and Sapphire had a brilliant fault-free ride in round one at Aachen.*



Photo by Erin Coughlin

*Nicole Shahinian-Simpson aboard SRF Dragonfly is thrilled with their clear round in Rome.*



Photo by Erin Coughlin

*Will Simpson and El Campeon's Carlsson vom Dach clocked a clean trip in round two at St. Gallen.*

U.S. hopes brightened at the fifth stop in Aachen, Germany. Beezie Madden aboard Authentic joined Kursinski with Champ 163, Ward on Sapphire, and Kraut with Cedric. Germany claimed the victory and The Netherlands earned second place. The U.S. and Great Britain tied for third, but only a single fault behind the second place finisher. With the win, Germany moved into first place in the overall stand-

ings while the U.S. moved up a notch to fourth with three events remaining on the 2008 Samsung Super League tour. "The series has never been closer-fought," said U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe George Morris.

On July 7, following the fifth event in the Samsung Super League, the USEF announced the horse/rider combinations for the 2008 Show Jumping Olympic Team: Beezie Madden and Authentic owned by Abigail Wexner; McLain Ward and Sapphire owned by Ward, Tom Grossman and Blue Chip Bloodstock; Will Simpson and El Campeon's Carlsson vom Dach owned by El Campeon Farm; and Laura Kraut and Cedric owned by Happy Hill Farm and Peter Wetherill. First Replacement traveling with the team to Hong Kong is Anne Kursinski with Champ 163 owned by Legacy Stables. ■

## 2008 SAMSUNG SUPER LEAGUE EVENTS

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) May 5–11      | La Baule (FRA)          |
| 2) May 22–25     | Rome (ITA)              |
| 3) May 29–June 1 | St. Gallen (SUI)        |
| 4) June 18–22    | Rotterdam (NED)         |
| 5) July 1–6      | Aachen (GER)            |
| 6) July 24–27    | Hickstead (RIHS) (GBR)  |
| 7) August 6–10   | Dublin (IRL)            |
| 8) Sept. 18–21   | Barcelona (Final) (ESP) |



## Developing Riders Train at Gladstone For European Tour

BY NANCY JAFFER

**F**ive eager Developing Riders gathered at the USET Foundation's historic Gladstone headquarters as they prepared with coach Melanie Smith Taylor for a European tour that would mark their Nations' Cup debut.

When it originally appeared the trip would have to be scrapped for lack of funding, the Foundation stepped up to pay for it. Competing abroad is expected to return dividends in valuable experience that someday could enable these competitors to represent the U.S. in international championships.

While they were looking forward to the trip that would include such unusual stops as Poland and Slovenia, as well as the better-known Aach show (not to be confused with Aachen) in Germany, the group was impressed by being in residence at a site that is legendary in the equestrian world.

"It's a definite dream come true, being here and to ride at this facility where de Nemethy and Steinkraus and so many U.S. teams and so many great riders and horses became well-known to the general public," said Jeanne Hobbs of Pinehurst, NC, the team's alternate.

"It's kind of unheard of for one place to mean so much to so many riders," she continued. Jeanne, who is a friend and student of Mike Plumb – the only equestrian to be inducted into the U.S. Olympic Committee Hall of Fame – said she heard many stories from him about what it was like to train as a team at Gladstone.

Jeanne's teammates shared her enthusiasm.

"It's a beautiful barn. I think my horse is in Touch of Class's stall, which is exciting," said Tracy Magness of Baltimore, MD. "It was a dream of mine to be on a team since I was a little girl."

This squad was a diverse one in terms of age and experience. Jeanne, for instance, is 22, while James Benedetto of Kings Park, NY, the senior member of the group at 43, is nearly twice that old and making his second major competitive trip to Europe. His first came in the 1980s, when he traveled with Joe Fargis and Conrad Homfeld, but never rode in a Nations' Cup.

"It's always great when you get a chance to compete in Europe and ride against some of the best there are there and kind of test your skills and see where you measure up. Teaming up with Melanie, with her worlds of experience, it's just great to add more knowledge," said James, the father of two. Unlike the others, who got the red coats symbolic of team membership for the first time in May, "I just had to dust mine off," he chuckled.



*Coach Melanie Smith Taylor at the USET Foundation's Gladstone headquarters before departing for Europe with the Developing Riders' squad of Jeanne Hobbs, Michael Morrissey, Tracy Magness, James Benedetto and Alexa Lowe.*

Michael Morrissey of Bradenton, FL, the great-nephew of horse show impresario Gene Mische, has been to Europe five times, but is eager to be on his first Nations' Cup squad.

"I'll thrive on it," he declared. "I've always dreamed about riding for the team." Having Melanie as the coach is a plus, he added, explaining, "She's been there and done that."

Alexa Lowe of Upperville, VA, has trained in Europe with Thomas Voss of Germany and Albert Voorn in the Netherlands, but notes this will be a unique experience for her. "Normally, I tend to do my best under pressure, but this is definitely a different kind of pressure. You've got a lot of other people counting on you.

They're all doing their best and we're going through so much to be there that we don't want to let anybody down," she explained.

"Melanie's so positive, she's a great person to keep everybody calm and cool and collected."

For her part, Melanie said, "I'm really excited about this group. I enjoy sharing my experience and knowledge gained from other people. I hope I can offer things these riders will take with them throughout their careers.

"I feel like they have a real background as horsemen and horsewomen, taking care of their horses. Now they're at a point in their careers where they need to expand their horizons in both the show ring and with their horsemanship skills. Europe is such a great place to do that. You can't get this experience any other way."



*Coach Melanie Smith Taylor makes a point to Developing Riders Michael Morrissey and Alexa Lowe.*





# Show Jumping Developing Rider Three-City Tour Ends with Nations' Cup Win

BY KENNETH KRAUS



James Benedetto and Kannan's GiGi Z.



Tracy Magness and Tarco Van Ter Moude.



Michael Morrissey and Crelido.

James Benedetto, Jeanne Hobbs, Alexa Lowe, Tracy Magness, and Michael Morrissey – show jumpers on the 2008 Developing Rider Tour – competed in three European cities in June that provided first time international experience for these athletes. The USET Foundation contributed funding to the USEF for the tour and the athletes were eligible to receive \$20,000 in Direct Athlete Support for transportation, housing, and other costs in connection with the rider and horses' participation in this tour.

First stop was Poznan, Poland, where they competed in their first Nations' Cup, which had 18 countries represented. "The Nations' Cup course was quite big and hearty," noted Chef d'Equipe Melanie Smith Taylor. "There were a few blips the first day, with fresh horses, and getting in the ring for the first time. James Benedetto was the star of the day finishing fourth out of 69 competitors."

Magness aboard Tarco Van Ter Moude was first to go, finishing with 12 faults. Lowe riding Nadyleen was the second rider and unfortunately encountered problems when her new stirrup leather broke over the fifth jump in the middle of the triple combination. Lowe's final tally was also 12 faults. Morrissey and Crelido had a rocky start when the gelding spun around as if he had no intention of jumping. Morrissey rose to the occasion and completed the course, ending with 13 faults. Benedetto on Kannan's GiGi Z anchored the U.S. squad and incurred only four faults coming into the triple.

"I felt all the riders handled the pressure of this career-shaping experience so very well," said Smith Taylor. "I was extremely proud of them. We didn't qualify for the second round, but no shame here. Denmark won on a score of zero. We hope to emulate them next time! We have our work cut out for us for the rest of the tour, but everyone is pumped and positive. Onward and upward."

The second tour stop was Aach, Germany, just north of the Swiss border. This show featured a major Grand Prix, but

did not offer a Nations' Cup. In the Grand Prix, three of the U.S. riders had four-fault rounds. Benedetto aboard Kannan's GiGi Z, Morrissey on Crelido, and Magness riding Tarco Van Ter Moude all had a single penalty. "Those scores, however, didn't reflect how super they jumped," Smith Taylor noted.

The final tour stop was CSIO4\* Lipica, Slovenia, near the Italian border, where the Developing Riders finally struck gold. Hobbs won Friday night's Big Tour Power and Speed class on her own horse, Night and Day. "We got to hear our national anthem for the first time this tour!" exclaimed Smith Taylor. "It has given our team so much positive energy going into the Nations' Cup tomorrow, we are all very proud of her."

In the first round of the Nations' Cup, Benedetto led off with a rail down and a time fault for a total of five faults. Lowe and Magness each followed with critical clear rounds, but each rider also came home with a single time fault. Morrissey cemented the first round lead for the team with a clean trip within the time allowed.

Only three riders could participate in the second round, and there would be no dropped score. Benedetto put in a clear round and Magness finished with four faults. At this point, Austria had posted two second round clears and the U.S. had been bumped to second place. Then the final rider from Austria felt the pressure and had eight faults, leaving the door ajar for the U.S. Last to go, Morrissey and Crelido came through in the clutch. The United States won, Austria finished second, and Italy was third.

"The award ceremony was so special," recounted Smith Taylor. "To me, there is nothing in the sport of show jumping that can mean as much as winning a Nations' Cup for yourself, your teammates, and your country. Hearing our national anthem brought tears to everyone's eyes. These are moments that last a lifetime. We are so lucky to share them." ■



Bogomir Vnucec (center), President of the Slovenian Riders Association, congratulates U.S. Chef d'Equipe Melanie Smith Taylor and the American team for their victory in the Nations' Cup.



# Maxine Beard Award

## Hillary Dobbs Makes Most Of World Cup Experience

BY JENNIFER WOOD

**H**illary Dobbs of Sussex, NJ, was this year's winner of the USET Foundation's Maxine Beard Show Jumping Developing Rider Award. Dobbs is one of the most successful up-and-coming grand prix riders. At just 19 years old, she recently finished her sophomore year at Harvard University. The USET Foundation



Hillary Dobbs at the 2008 World Cup Finals in Gothenburg, Sweden.

awarded the rising young equestrian this honor because of her competitive record to date and because of her promise for the future.

The recipients of this award are chosen based on their potential to represent the United States in international competition. A Show Jumping Developing Rider is defined as a U.S. citizen who has not represented the United States in Olympic, Pan American or World Championship competition. The Maxine Beard Award was developed to assist riders in their quest for equestrian excellence. Observing international competition is a crucial component in the education of an equestrian athlete.

For winning the Maxine Beard award, Dobbs was given the opportunity to attend the 2008 Rolex FEI World Cup Finals in Gothenburg, Sweden. Dobbs walked all of the championship courses with U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe George Morris and fellow grand prix riders including Lauren Hough, Peter Wylde, Richard Spooner, and previous Maxine Beard award winner Kent Farrington.

Dobbs counts her experience at this year's World Cup Finals as one of the best weeks of her life. She explained, "To be able to walk the many courses with George and the riders was amazing and to watch those courses be executed by the best riders in the world was an invaluable learning experience. It was the first time I had seen so many of my idols that I aspire to emulate, in one venue. It was so exciting."

Seeing the top riders in her sport, such as finals winner Meredith Michaels-Berbaum, gave Dobbs pause in Sweden. She smiled, "I felt star-struck as though I were in Hollywood seeing famous celebrities. Those riders are our celebrities in the sport, and I got to see what makes them superstars."

Even more than just seeing those riders, Dobbs came away with the knowledge she gained just by watching them compete. "I learned so much from watching them and learning from their techniques," she confirmed.

In addition to seeing foreign riders for the first time, Dobbs had a great time getting to know her fellow American competitors better and spending more time soaking up information from Morris. "It is always great hearing George's input during the competitions and showing under him on a team, but it was an especially valuable experience that I had with him in Sweden. I walked countless courses with him, strategizing what I would do if I had my horses in the classes. I learned about international riding and what it takes to win in that kind of competition," she said. "The other riders were helpful as well. Richard Spooner, Peter Wylde, and Lauren Hough all contributed to a great experience in Sweden for me."

In her short career, Dobbs has already been on two gold medal winning Nations' Cup teams for the United States. Seeing the competition in Sweden made her realize that her focus on show jumping is even more important to her. She said, "It was thrilling and only made me more passionate and more determined to someday reach that level. Once you get a sense of that kind of international competition, it makes you want it even more."

Dobbs has long-term goals of qualifying for the World Cup Finals and riding in more international competitions, and thanks to the Maxine Beard Award and the USET Foundation, feels confident that she can achieve those heights. "The trip definitely confirmed my long-term goals of reaching that level of competition in the sport," Dobbs stated. "It is remarkable how my experience in Sweden could ignite ambition like it did." ■

### PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE MAXINE BEARD AWARD

2007 – Brianne Goutal  
2006 – Charlie Jayne  
2005 – Cayce Harrison

2004 – Georgina Bloomberg  
2003 – Michael Morrissey and Paige Johnson  
2002 – Molly Warmington  
2001 – Kent Farrington and Richard Rinehart

2000 – Kate Levy and Marilyn Little  
1999 – Kate Levy and Emily Williams  
1998 – Jamie Schmidt and Heather Caristo





*"Teddy" and Karen O'Connor at the 2007 Rolex Kentucky CCI\*\*\*\*.*

## Theodore O'Connor (1951 – 2008)

One pony captured the heart of the nation – Theodore O'Connor. At just 14.1 hands the Shetland/Arabian/Thoroughbred cross chestnut gelding had the heart of a champion. Competing in the rigorous sport of Three Day Eventing, "Teddy" took on challenges that would intimidate even the bravest horse.

On May 28, 2008, 13-year-old Teddy was humanely euthanized at Karen and David O'Connor's farm in The Plains, VA. Teddy suffered a severe laceration to the hind leg that severed tendons and ligaments. The injury was the direct result of a slip after he spooked and broke free from his handlers. Dr. Kent Allen was on the scene immediately and deemed the injuries catastrophic.

Teddy, bred by P. Wynn Norman, was owned by the Theodore O'Connor Syndicate and ridden by three-time Olympian Karen O'Connor. His groom was Max Corcoran.

The pony achieved an extensive list of accomplishments. At the 2007 Pan American Games in Brazil, despite his diminutive size, Karen and Teddy won the Individual Gold Medal and contributed to the United States capturing the Team Gold Medal. Previously, in 2007 Karen and Teddy finished third at the Rolex Kentucky CCI\*\*\*\*. As a result, Teddy was named the 2007 USEF/Farnam Horse of the Year and the 2007 United States Eventing Association (USEA) Horse of the Year. He also received the USEA Pony of the Year perpetual trophy. Teddy even stepped outside eventing and competed in show jumping at the 2008 Winter Equestrian Festival in Florida. Honoring the pony's extraordinary career, Breyer released a Teddy O'Connor model horse. Karen and Teddy placed sixth at the 2008 Rolex Kentucky CCI\*\*\* and were named to the U.S. Olympic Eventing Short List.

The USEF created the Theodore O'Connor Legacy Fund. Donations will be used for the construction of a new cross-country obstacle for the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event in memory of Teddy. Contributions can be made at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). ■ – Rebecca Walton



*Shelley Zlotkin of sharingVillage accepts trailer keys from Bonnie Jenkins, USET Foundation Executive Director (center). Teri Piancone, sharingVillage Board Member, holds the sharingVillage crystal lotus flower insignia, given in thanks to the Foundation.*

## USET Foundation Donates Trailer To sharingVillage's Driving For Surviving

In a handing over the keys presentation on July 14, 2008, at its Gladstone headquarters, the USET Foundation donated its horse trailer to sharingVillage Cancer Survivor Groups, Inc., a unique 501c 3 non-profit organization based in Far Hills, NJ. sharingVillage offers complimentary self-help and educational programs to cancer patients and survivors. Part of its mission is to use animals to facilitate healing. The organization's Driving For Surviving is a pediatric oncology equestrian carriage driving program that offers children the opportunity to receive physical therapy in a new and fun way – they learn to drive miniature ponies and then put on special exhibitions and take part in local driving competitions.

"We're donating our trailer because we no longer have a need and sharingVillage can greatly benefit from having a trailer of this size," explained Maureen Pethick, USET Foundation Communications Coordinator. "Now they can transport their miniature ponies and equipment to the various areas where they run their program. It's always been a challenge getting the animals and equipment to the various locations where they run the program, compete and give exhibitions."

The USET Foundation has been involved with sharingVillage since 2005. The Foundation donates the use of its Gladstone, NJ, facility to sharingVillage for the organization's annual fundraiser and has also hosted the Driving For Surviving program.

"If it weren't for the generosity of the USET Foundation we would not be able to have our children with cancer proceed with their hopes and dreams of competing in horse shows," said Shelley Zlotkin, co-founder and Executive Director of sharingVillage. "Our children's dreams could be realized thanks again to the Foundation's help."

Bonnie B. Jenkins, Executive Director, said, "The USET Foundation is so pleased to be able to donate the trailer to an organization that gives these kids the means to achieve great things and inspire us all." ■ – Rebecca Walton

# Dorothy Louis Miracle

1951 – 2008

*Longtime equestrian supporter Mrs. Dorothy Louise “Lou” McMichael Miracle, 57, of Stoneville, NC, passed away on May 12, 2008, at her home, surrounded by family.*

Longtime equestrian supporter Mrs. Dorothy Louise “Lou” McMichael Miracle, 57, of Stoneville, NC, passed away on May 12, 2008, at her home, surrounded by family.

Mrs. Miracle owned Overlook Farm in Stoneville and co-owned Windmill Ranch in Hume, VA, with jumper rider Kimberly (“Kim”) Prince Frey. An active horse owner in the equestrian community, Mrs. Miracle was the recipient of the USEF Outstanding Participation Award.

Frey rode many of Mrs. Miracle’s grand prix horses and also trained her daughter Katherine Louise Miracle. Mrs. Miracle was often ringside, supporting her daughter at horse shows.

“Lou’s generosity was evident to all in the horse industry,” said Frey. “Katherine and I had many great horses to ride and train. Even though I was a young professional, Lou trusted me with her horses and more importantly, with the training of Katherine. She never second-guessed me or questioned me. She gave both Katherine and me the chance to make what we wanted of our riding careers.”



*Kim Frey and Lou Miracle  
at the 2004 American Gold Cup.  
Photo courtesy of Kimberly Prince Frey*

USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins noted, “Her love of the sport, support of Katherine’s rising show jumping career, and generosity in helping our athletes and U.S. equestrian teams was unwavering. Lou will be missed by everyone who was lucky enough to know her.”

A philanthropist and active community member, Mrs. Miracle served in several positions of the McMichael Family Foundation and was a Madison Presbyterian Church deacon, Junior Service League member, and Foxcroft School board member.

Mrs. Miracle is survived by her daughter Katherine and son Andrew Martin Miracle; sisters, Gail Drew and Flavel Godfrey; and brother, Dalton L. “Mac” McMichael, Jr.

A funeral for Dorothy Louise Miracle was held May 16 at Madison Presbyterian Church in Madison, NC. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wake Forest Cancer Center, Medical Center Blvd., Winston Salem, NC 27157 or Morehead Memorial Hospital Foundation, 117 E. Kings Hwy, Eden, NC 27288. ■ – Rebecca Walton

# Vita Cowperthwaite Thompson

1937 – 2008

*Vita Cowperthwaite Thompson, 70, of Malvern, PA, a longtime equestrian supporter, died of cancer on February 13 at Paoli Hospital in Paoli, PA.*

Mrs. Thompson and her husband of 50 years, Richard (“Dick”) Harte Thompson, owned eventing horses including team mounts ridden by Jimmy Wofford in the 1970s and 1980s, and Karen Lende O’Connor for the past 25 years. At the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, O’Connor rode the Thompsons’ Biko to Team Silver. Biko was named the U.S. Eventing Association (USEA) Horse of the Century in 1999 and inducted into the USEA Hall of Fame in 2006.

“Vita Thompson was a remarkable woman who was passionate about horses and in particular, her own horses,” said Karen O’Connor. “She supported me through thick and thin of my career and the horses that I rode for her. The one thing that was consistent in the 25 years that I rode for her was that she gave each and every horse every opportunity to reach its potential. A Thompson horse had the best chance of any horse on the planet of succeeding.”

Mrs. Thompson also supported equestrian events. For 35 years, the Thompsons were instrumental to the Radnor Hunt

International Three-Day Event and Horse Trials. They also helped organize the Radnor Hunt Races for steeplechasers. At the Olympics in 1984 and 1996, Mrs. Thompson worked as a volunteer to support the U.S. equestrian team.

A native of Far Hills, NJ, Mrs. Thompson rode horses and fox-hunted as a child. She graduated from the Foxcroft School in Middleburg, VA. Vita and Dick Thompson had two sons, Richard Jr. (“Rick”) and James. Mrs. Thompson supported the Brandywine Conservancy, the Willistown Conservation Trust, and was a founding member of the Willistown Land Associates. A former competitive tennis player, she founded the Waynesborough Country Club. Mrs. Thompson volunteered at Paoli Hospital and served on the Paoli Hospital Foundation board for 21 years.

A Memorial Service for Vita C. Thompson was held on April 9 at St. David’s Episcopal Church in Wayne, PA. In addition to her husband and sons, she is survived by three grandchildren and a brother. ■ – Mary Hilton



*Dick and Vita Thompson  
Photo by Sport Horse Studio*



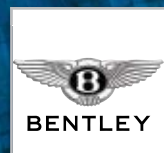
# ***The Paul Miller Auto Group***

*is proud to support*  
**The United States  
Equestrian Team Foundation**



## ***PAUL MILLER***

**Where Luxury and Integrity Live**



**1-800-35-Miller • PaulMiller.com**



## USET Foundation News

United States Equestrian Team Foundation, Inc.  
1040 Pottersville Road  
P.O. Box 355  
Gladstone, NJ 07934-9955

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. postage

**PAID**

Allentown, PA  
Permit #550

Address Service Requested

