



Everyone Fits



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Where in this wide world can man find nobility without pride, friendship without envy or beauty without vanity?

Here, where grace is laced with muscle, and strength by gentleness confined.

He serves without servility, he has fought without enmity.

There is nothing more powerful, nothing less violent, nothing so quick, nothing more patient.

England's past has been borne on his back. All our history is in his industry.

We are his heirs, he our inheritance. Gentlemen - I give you The Horse”

*H. H. Eisenbart
The Kingdom of the Horse*

It's what we do

*Chris Dunlap
Executive Director*

After a long and busy summer season, we've all earned a rest. We gave the horses a break and even took one ourselves in the middle of October. It was just for a few days, but definitely what we needed.

Our work here at Square Pegs is both challenging and rewarding. Everyone seems to look forward to being around the horses and around the barns in our beautiful spot in Half Moon Bay. But it's tough to capture the essence of the experience in a way that folks understand, whether they are donors, potential partners or new clients.

We've been working on this. I spend a lot of time talking to people about what we do and why we are different. Through these conversations I've found and refined the elements to get across clearly what we're doing. In the article "Square Pegs on Horses?" I write about the process and some of the ideas we're using today.

Most of you know that we tragically lost our wonderful horse Coltrane in September. It was a shock to all of us and a difficult learning experience - especially for some of our younger friends, many of whom have never lost a pet or family member. Joell writes about it all in her article: "In Loving Memory: Coltrane".

(continued on page 2)





(from page 1) Now that we have our 501(c)3 public charity status declared official by the IRS, a lot of our work accelerates - particularly around fundraising and growing the organization. We're expanding our volunteer programs to assist in several areas, so check out my article "Square Peg Working Teams" to learn about those plans and to see where you might "fit". Come help us as we turn "I wish" into "I can!"



Summer Wrap-Up

Joell Dunlap
Program Director, co-Founder

I'm still trying to put my finger on the magic that was summer '05 at Square Pegs.

The horses were fantastic; patient, responsive and never dull. The spirit of "Everyone Fits" was in the air and we all blossomed.

Maybe it's our beautiful setting that was never hot and often just perfect for riding. Maybe it's because the lazy pace of summer means not checking my watch to see if the next lesson will begin on time. Maybe it was the discussions at the picnic table with important topics like; "Why does Oreo spell 'Double Stuf' with just one 'F'?" or "If I were Ella, I would let Dylan be my boyfriend."

If you don't know what the heck I'm talking about you are either:

- a) older than 16 or
- b) due for a trip out to the barn!



Well, they say that a picture is worth a thousand words, so I will sign off for now and let you enjoy some photos from a fantastic summer!



KATE COTA AND PEARL HONE THEIR JUMPING SKILLS

APPLE SEASON: The answer is yes. If you have an apple or pear tree in your yard and you are wondering what to do with the bruised fruit, we will and can accept your bags. This also applies if you have neighbors with the same quandry. Just bring the fruit in paper bags and leave them in the tack room. We add the fruit (apples and pears only) to the nightly grain of the horses for a tasty, nutritious treat.



PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS: We have a some new and wonderful program volunteers this year. Paul Lazarow, Kate Cota and Natalia Feliz have offered their time and services to help with afternoon barn chores. They help blanket, feed, pick stalls, groom and clean tack and the tack room. It's about a 2 1/2 hour shift.

We still need a couple of more program volunteers that are willing to help out in the same capacity on weekday afternoons. Please contact Joell via email if you are interested. (joell@squarepegfoundation.org)



BRANDON CHANG AND GIGI



MOM & DAUGHTER - GUESS WHO?

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS!

We've made some great contacts in the last couple months. Joell and Chris spoke at a meeting of PARCA (www.parca.org) and received an enthusiastic response from the parents there.

Chris has also made contacts at Stanford University that we hope will lead to some student projects and internships at Square Pegs.

Woodside International School sent a group of kids out for a introductory horsemanship session, and we're talking with Gateway High in San Francisco about something similar.

We want to expand our relationships to more organizations and agencies, providing program services to the groups they serve. Contact Chris if you have ideas or contacts.

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In loving memory: Coltrane

It is with extreme sadness that I tell you that our dear, sweet Coltrane passed away Friday, September 2nd at 1pm.

We will all miss him and his wonderful, playful, snuggly antics.

So much thanks goes out to some people who really came through for Coltrane and for us in this most trying time. Most notably: Paula Thurston, for her diligence and kindness, Dr. Gary Hanes for his heroic efforts, the Pastorino's for their excellent care and understanding, to all of the boarders and students for your calls, letters and hugs and for being so kind while I struggled through some heavy decisions. To Jim, LeeAnn and Paula for your tremendous generosity, Ben

Koertje and Dave for their amazing kindness, Lee Anne for her faith, and finally to Dr.Ashton Cloninger for his helping our beautiful Coltrane pass with dignity.

I've tried so many times to capture his amazing spirit in a memorium fitting to his wonderful, lovely self. And each time, I come up short. My words cannot give justice to his gentle, funny soul. But the children have done a much better job than me and so I include the following comments, thoughts, cards and artwork that have been offered to us in his memory.

We know that beautiful Coltrane is looking down on us from a better place, frolicking with all of our lost friends.



Namaste old friend.

SHARING THOUGHTS ON COLTRANE

"I take comfort in the fact that you gave him a wonderful life filled with sunshine, friends, yee-haw gallops, and delightful, plentiful food. I will miss him, but I feel lucky to have known him for the time I did. Very lucky."

LeeAnn

"Coltrane was an absolute gem. I'll miss his antics and his sense of humor."

Jenny and Holly

"I'm so sorry that your horse is no longer with us, but you have lots of horses left."

Simone, age 8

"He was a wonderful, sweet natured horse and we will miss his sense of humor."

Rachel and Debbie

"Our hearts are with you and hopefully Coltrane is in a happier place."

Kathleen and Lauren-Marie

"It was with sadness that I heard the news of Coltrane this afternoon. Please know that he has touched many hearts through your goodness of housing him and caring for him and loving him. I am sure that he did not wish to leave you at this time. In some ways I think he has fulfilled his job here on earth and it was time for him to move to the next place. He now opens a space for the next one in need of the loving home you can give. As I've been telling Hannah, he is now galloping with the herds in the sky, in chest high, lush green pasture, lots of equine friends and he is a stallion once again with his own band to boss and care for. The angels bring carrots every hour and a good scratch behind the ear."

Charlotte and Hanna

"(We) know how much you loved that big goofy guy, as everyone did that ever asked him if he wanted a carrot, and he will be sorely missed."

Mark, Meghan and Aidan

More Coltrane thoughts and memories on the new Square Pegs Blog:

<http://blog.squarepegfoundation.org>



NEW ADDITIONS

Most of you know the new faces around the barn, but it's time to introduce them anyway.

Annie & Skippy:

Annie is a 5 year old Chestnut AQHA mare . She's a fiery mare who loves polo and is learning to jump.



Annie is feisty and friendly and we love having her around. Skippy is a 6 year old Tb gelding. He's wonderful on the trail and is quite the polo horse as well. He even won a race at

Bay Meadows! You might never guess, from his laid-back outlook on life. Both were purchased from our dear friend Mia DiGiovanni at Zero Gravity Polo by our friends and generous supporters Jim Nickoff and Dave Lawson.

Red Power aka: Sammy

In dear Coltrane's honor, we have adopted "Red Power" from the racetrack. Red's career has been riddled with injuries. He will need some extra care from us at Square Pegs as he makes his new journey from racing to riding. He's a handsome devil with loads of personality. All our thanks to John F. Martin Racing and Peter Osuna and Mike Strohmaier for donating this wonderful animal to Square Pegs.



Reba:

At 27 years old, Reba was the oldest horse to compete in CDS (California Dressage Society) championships last year. Reba's experience as an upper level eventing horse as well as a true dressage schoolmaster has demonstrated her tremendous athletic ability. Our friend Caprice Tenefoss has generously allowed us to use Reba in the school. We are very actively looking for a sponsor for Reba so that she can continue the work in the school. If you are interested in contributing either a



full sponsorship or partial, of Reba, please contact us right away.

Domino

Loaned to us by our good friend Enrique Diaz, one ride on this beautiful, sleek, jet black polo mare and you are hooked for good. Thank you so much Enrique for the loan of Domino. She's back in Enrique's string now and any of us who got the pleasure to ride her might never be the same...



Ella:

Purchased by the Gliner Family from Mrs. Walter of the famed Vine Hill Ranch in Sebastapol. Ella is a full



17.2hh bay Tb filly. She's only three years old and she might have some growing to do!

Olaf & Debbie Update

The James Brady Riding Program for Special Children, from whom we leased Olaf & Debbie for the last 20 months, has decided they need them closer to San Francisco. We will miss them dearly. We are looking for two draft ponies to replace them.

It's Official! NON-PROFIT STATUS!



After a 7 month wait, we received our official letter declaring us a 501 (c)3 non-profit public charity! We would like to thank Janel Brynda and her team at the law

offices of Baker & McKenzie for their efforts in preparing our application, and the incorporation and governance documents. We would also like to thank San Francisco Foundation Community Initiative Funds for their fiscal sponsorship of Square Peg Foundation while our non-profit application was being considered.



HOST AN “EVERYONE FITS” MIXER

Our donor network is growing, and central to our effort to spread the word about Square Peg Foundation is our EveryoneFits mixers. These are house parties hosted by a Square Peg Supporter in their own home. These are no-pressure, fun events where people can learn about Square Pegs. No one is asked to donate at the event.

We can organize these mixers with as little as 2 weeks notice. To get started, or for more information, just call Chris Dunlap at (415) 828-2951, or email chris@squarepegfoundation.org.

Here is how it works:

1. The host invites a dozen people (or more) who may be interested in Square Pegs.
2. Everyone relaxes and mingles. Some Square Peg Foundation material is available.
3. We do a brief presentation of our mission and programs
4. After the party, we contact everyone within a few days to get their impressions and questions and to ask how they think they may like to be involved.



SQUARE PEG WORKING TEAMS

Volunteering at Square Pegs is more than just barn chores. Contact Chris Dunlap if volunteering in any of these areas seems appealing:

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

How do we best communicate the Square Peg Vision and Purpose? How do we best spread the word about our work?

DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Building our network of supporters is key to our growth and success. Help us develop and



implement plans for our fundraising and donor programs.

WEBSITE/BLOG/NEWSLETTER CONTENT TEAM

In keeping with “EveryoneFits”, we want more voices to be heard. There are many types of stories, testimonials and art that could be contributed to our efforts.

Volunteer roles that involve access to records or work with children will require “LiveScan” fingerprinting & registration with the county.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

The daily business of running Square Pegs also includes administrative work that can be a gratifying experience for the right people. We’re looking especially for folks who will help with the client and donor records, and assist at the barn as an extra “adult” for managing the paperwork and kids, and even some parents.

CALLING ALL BLOGGERS!

The Square Peg blog is ready for your submissions. Contact Chris or Joell to find out how you can contribute. We’ll be looking for stories from the barn as well as creative submissions.

You can also help by joining the “Communications Team” (see above) which will control development of the blog through editorial guidelines and definition of the review process and criteria for submissions.



DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING NEWS



Square Peg Foundation is growing and your donations allow us to continue to expand our programs and reach more people. We are working hard to expand our network of support. Your ideas, introductions, volunteering, and donations help us build a wonderful program and a great team.



Top Meghan and Olaf
Bottom Mom & Daughter Day

UNITED WAY

At least one United Way Campaign has received a request to add Square Peg Foundation to its list of charitable organizations. These listings help us greatly as we not only get your workplace donations and any corporate matching money, but also the added visibility of listing in the campaign. If your workplace has a United Way Campaign program, please request that we are added to the list.

VOLUNTEERING

We have need for volunteers in a variety of functions, not just horsey work. See the article in this newsletter!!!

EVERYONEFITS MIXERS

Hosting an "EveryoneFits Mixer" directly helps us introduce Square Peg Foundation to new supporters. All you need is a comfortable space, like your living room, and a short list of friends and colleagues who you think would be interested in our program. See the "Host an EveryoneFits Mixer" article in this newsletter for more information.

Square Peg Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization and all donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LATEST DONORS!

- GEORGE FROLEY
- PAULA & MITCH THURSTON
- DAVID LAWSON & JIM NICKOFF
- SHANNON MCELYEA
- THE GIANT STEPS FOUNDATION
- JENNIFER KUHN
- THE LAZAROW FAMILY
- PETER OSUNA
- MIKE STROHMAIER
- JOHN F MARTIN RACING
- MRS. BARBARA WALTER & VINE HILL RANCH
- DIGNAN BANES
- DR. ASHTON CLONNINGER
- BEN KOERTJE
- LEE ANNE SNEDEKER

Square Peg Horsemanship

Changes the way people...

See themselves

See the world

See themselves in the world

We turn "I wish" into "I can."





Square Pegs On Horses?

"I like your hat... What does it mean?"

I get that sort of question a lot, and I've become used to explaining Square Pegs to complete strangers without any prep, introduction, or Powerpoint slides. By trial and error, and by studying reactions and thinking about each conversation, I learn. I get better at it.

The groundwork was done long ago, of course. When Joell and I first decided to start Square Pegs, we thought carefully about what we wanted it to be and what we did not want it to become. Square Pegs is not just a cute name. It's designed to make people think and get curious.

People do get curious when they first see the logo on my hat, or when I first hand them my business card, always back-side up showing "Everyone Fits" to them before they roll it over to see the logo and organization name.

But then what? Where do you go from there? Mumble "We do a horsemanship program..." and that's it? You can imagine this important opportunity going nowhere.

Through a lot of work, I've gotten better at this. But we have to distill that learning to those essentials that all our supporters and friends can use when they have the opportunity to introduce someone to Square Pegs.



WE TURN "I WISH" INTO "I CAN"

Our mission statement is a critical element, but I find it needs to be introduced properly. I go through the "how." So, **how do** we turn "I wish" into "I can?" *"We change the way people see themselves, the way they see the world, and the way they see themselves in the world."* I start there.

THEN WHAT?

I get a lot of questions, and they come from many different directions. But there are a couple key points to remember:

Everyone Fits

We're inclusive. Part of the power of what we do is in mixing different kids and adults in a supportive learning environment.

Confidence and accomplishment

Too many people are reminded too often of what they "can't" do. Our job is to change that; to turn it on its head. This work is about growing and

learning. It's about overcoming fears. It's about facing life. This work is about how you see yourself in the world.

BUT, WHY HORSES?

Our Quote this month says it well! (see page 1). Horses are powerful, but sensitive. They are dangerous, but gentle. Just being around them is



inspiring. So they show us that there is a bigger, more interesting world out there, and time with the horses teaches us that we can accomplish more in that world than we imagined.

BUT... ALL THOSE OTHER QUESTIONS!

If you find yourself in one of these conversations, just relax and enjoy it. Let your enthusiasm shine through. And don't be afraid to say "I don't know the answer to that, so let me have someone from Square Pegs give you a call."

A WORK IN PROGRESS

If refining these ideas and crafting our stories appeals to you, then come join us as part of our Communications Team or Content Team. There is still much work to be done!