

Stuff & Things...

A letter from the President



It was a little over a year ago that Joell and I decided to devote ourselves to the creation and development of Square Peg Foundation. We didn't know for sure how this would all come together, but we knew we had to do it. We had seen how we could help people change their view of themselves. But we also knew what this work does for us. Building this organization puts meaning in our lives, beyond our love of the animals and our care for our clients. For this meaning and purpose we are grateful to everyone involved.

Every day Joell brings home stories from the barn. She tells me about horse antics, kids' and adults' breakthroughs (or melt-downs) and new things she's learned. For me this is more than "how was your day, honey". It connects me with our work. I would miss out on a lot of wonderful stuff if we didn't share the stories and that daily connection keeps our work at the front of my mind.



Square

There are many reasons for people to feel like they don't fit in. Our mission of turning "I wish" into "I can" is even more powerful than we first imagined, because it's about overcoming fears. Self-esteem and dignity are the keys to overcoming those fears. That can be found in work and play in a supportive environment and



Happy Spring!

After what was a record amount of rainfall this winter, the Square Pegs entourage is looking forward to a well-deserved spring. Daylight savings has given us another hour of sunshine and we hope to make the most of it. We are all shedding our winter shagginess in exchange for beautiful shiny summer looks and, with the exception of the mess we are making leaving scads of winter hair and sweatshirts lying around, things are looking great.

doing something you enjoy with a diverse group of people whom you come to understand and respect. Along the way, we all develop patience, diligence and problem solving skills, and learn the value of responsible action. A key question for us is "How can we use this experience and this relationship, with the horse and within this community, to change the way people view themselves?" You run a program differently when it isn't about winning ribbons.

It's my job to develop the Square Peg organization to expand the reach of his work beyond Joell's personal touch. There's more to that than just the insurance, accounting, and business processes that have consumed so many of my days recently. We are building a self-sustaining organization that will live on beyond us, and we are doing it through all the wonderful people and animals this effort is bringing into our lives. So whether you are a friend, donor, client, parent, or volunteer, I humbly thank you all.

Darius Christopher Dunlap
Executive Director, Board President
Square Peg Foundation

DONATIONS

The Square Peg Foundation has applied to the IRS for non-profit 501(c)3 status. Pending that decision, we have obtained Fiscal Sponsorship from the Community Initiatives Fund, an independent operation of the San Francisco Foundation. This ensures that your cash donation is tax-deductible. We are now able to take donations via the website. For more information, or to make an on-line donation, see

<http://www.squarepegfoundation.org/donate/>

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a very important part of Square Peg's operations. With summer right around the corner, your help is needed and appreciated now more than ever. The following are some tasks and projects that we could use your help on.

Please contact chris@squarepegfoundation.org if you would like to commit some time and effort.

LAUNDRY!

This task is desperately needed. Horse laundry includes saddle pads, girth covers, rags and towels. Laundry averages about 3 regular sized loads per week. Laundry needs to be done at your facility. Or, we have a vendor who will do professional laundry services for approximately \$9 per load including delivery. She also does blanket washing services, which we could really use after this very muddy winter.

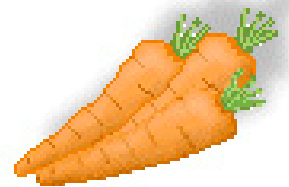
HORSE CARE

We need people who can commit to help around the barn on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Each shift of about 2 hours may include:

- Tacking and un-tacking of horses
- Feeding of grain
- Blanketing of horses
- Grooming and bathing and fly-spraying (only natural products used, no pesticides)
- Tack cleaning
- Cleaning water buckets
- Stall picking

CARROT FUND

The Square Peg Foundation is able to purchase bulk carrots from Albertson's market for a reduced cost. Kids of all ages love to feed the carrots to the horses. As you know, our equine Square Pegs work hard and LOVE their treats! We have a large envelope in the tack room available for cash donations to the carrot fund. Give generously and give often. The horses thank you for it.



LESSON POLICY

For years, we have tried to be understanding about lesson cancellations. But it's time now to be very clear. Except under emergency/unforeseen

circumstances, 48-hour notice is a MINIMUM time required for cancellation of lessons. Please remember that we have instructors, horses and volunteers staffed for lesson times. Cancellations play havoc on the schedule. Email is always a good way to tell us of other plans and the more notice you give, the better. Our Board of Directors has voted unanimously to charge full price for lessons cancelled with less than 48 hours notice. Thank you for understanding.

TACK AND SUPPLIES WISH LIST

- Draw reins
- Cotton Lead Ropes
- ATSM approved helmets
- Summer Horse blankets in sizes 76" to 82"
- Manure fork and grass rake
- Muck buckets
- Polo Mallets, size 49" and 52" and arena polo balls
- Electric and battery operated clippers
- Biodegradable soaps, laundry and shampoos and cleaners – we like Method cleaners, they work great and they are easy on the environment
- Larry's Horse Wipe - this is the all natural fly repellent and coat conditioner that we use, with 10 horses in the program, we use lots of it, it's available at most tack shops as well as through our preferred vendor, Pastorino Hay.



SQUARE PEG FALL GALA

Golden Gate Fields Racetrack in Albany, Ca has so very generously offered the use of their beautiful Turf Club as a venue for a Fall Gala event. In a joint effort between Square Pegs and GEVA, a Thoroughbred retirement and rescue operation in Glen Ellen, Ca, we have a fantastic opportunity to host a first-class event in a beautiful venue that can seat up to 400 people. We need volunteers for silent and live auction donations, invitations, ticket sales, decoration committees and so much more. Don't be shy! Contact [Joell Dunlap](#) at if you would like to help make our first annual event a real show-stopper.



Thanks to our Sponsors

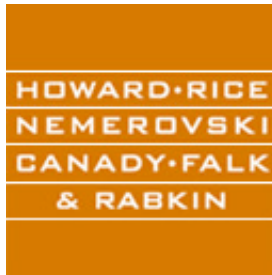
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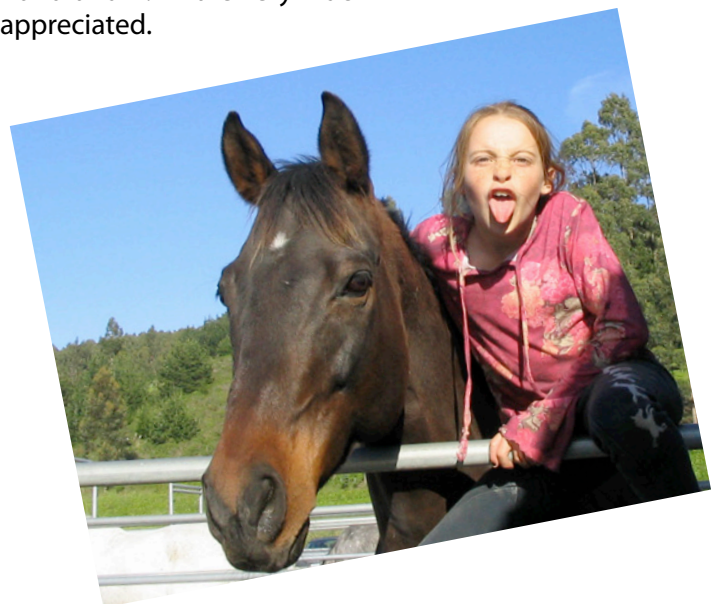
Thank you to our Donors!

Tom Douglas and his family of Kings Mountain have donated a vaulting barrel, complete with gymnastic pads to the Square Peg Foundation. The kids have had a fantastic time working on new and improved vaulting moves. Sadly, the vaulting barrel, has no official name yet. Your suggestions are hereby officially elicited... Thank you Tom! Thank you also to Phillip Lim, who put us in touch with Tom.

Thanks also to Susanne Shade, Marta Bright and Ruth Hoddinot, Caprice Tennefos, Portia Mortenson, Charlotte and Hanna Rice, Chris Brisher, Mia DiGiovanni and Dana Pastorino for the donations of tack.

Thank you to Mehrdad and Dawn of Saddlery Solutions for the huge box of tack including bits, reins, stirrup leathers and of course, the famous plastic horse leg that gets lots of use in practicing putting on wraps and boots.

Thank you to the Bell Family, Ann and Peter Barden, LeeAnne Snedeker and to Leslie Hernandez for their generous cash donations. Thank you to Huckleberry Youth Programs VIP-Girls for their kind honorarium. All are very much appreciated.



SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULES

Summer is right around the corner and everyone wants to know about summer camps. This year's camp schedule promises to be the best yet. We've published the camp schedule on-line [here](#).



Simone and Gigi, camp '05

Some (good) things never change, we will continue to limit enrollment in each camp to 5 in order to ensure a hands-on experience for each camper.

Morning camps are scheduled from 9:30am until noon and afternoon camps run from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. Camp fees are \$325 each. Enrollment is first-come, first served. As usual, we tailor each camp to the needs of the campers and so some camps are already dedicated to beginners and of course, the ever-popular polo camps.

Send your reservations now via email to reserve your spot! Camps fill fast so don't wait.



Enrique Diaz, Polo in the Park '04

Polo camps are going to be the very best ever. The Horse Park Polo Club is dedicated to helping Square Pegs develop our polo skills. Enrique Diaz of Argentina has committed to helping make this year's camps something to remember. He's promised coaching and strategy help for our '05 camps. Thank you Enrique!

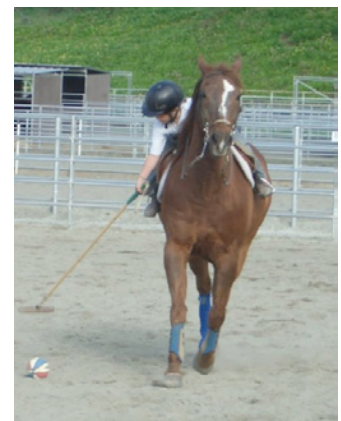
ADULTS CAMP, TOO!

As for the adults: We have heard your suggestions and advice for an expanded adult program and are very pleased to tell you about our plans for summer riding retreats!

Summer riding retreats will be overnight camps held specifically for intermediate riders. We will have specific

camps for children and for adults and even one for families. We are working with several venues for spectacular settings and course schedules. Mounted activities will include cross-country jumping, trail rides, polo practice and dressage. Un-mounted activities will include saddle fitting, horse care and management, horse psychology and dealing with fear issues related to riding and horses. In addition, we are working on activities and guest speakers/instructors for things such as yoga and drumming for specific camps.

Check the website for more information as summer gets closer, but also feel free to write us with your comments and ideas for retreat locations and activities.



Paige and Chester, HMB Pee-Wee Polo

VIEW OUR LESSON SCHEDULE AND CAMP CALENDAR [ON-LINE!](#)