



The Riding Centre News

THE RIDING CENTRE • 1117 E. HYDE RD., YELLOW SPRINGS, OH 45387 • WWW.RIDINGCENTRE.ORG • SPRING 2023

The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same...

By Carolyn Bailey and
Louise Soelberg

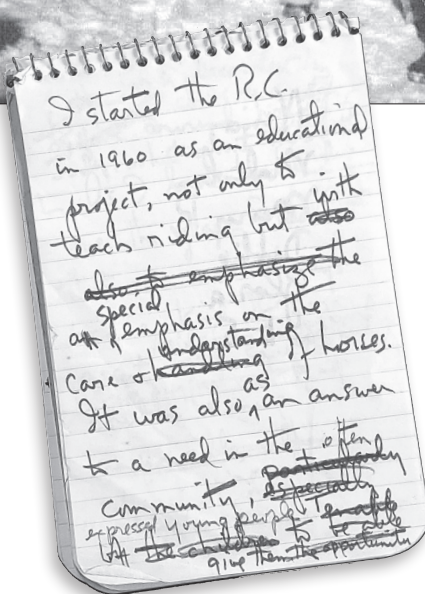
I was recently given a small notebook from Louise Soelberg's daughter, Jessica Andrews. As you know, Louise founded The Riding Centre and was a mentor to me and many others. Her philosophy of good horsemanship resonates throughout every aspect of what we do. The notebook contained her notes for an interview she would give in the 1970s to a local newspaper.

After reading through and interpreting (after all they are just notes) her iconic writing, I realized that what The Riding Centre does — and sometimes struggles with — today is also what Louise contended with 50 years ago. I think for anyone who loves The Riding Centre, her words of wisdom are worth hearing now, so here are the transcribed notes in the form they are written, as an interviewer (Judy) with a question and Louise's answer:

JUDY: I have often wondered, Louise, how you started The Riding Centre?

LOUISE: I started The Riding Centre in 1960 [1959] as an education project, not only to teach riding, but with a special emphasis on the care and understanding of horses. It was also an answer to a need in the community, often expressed by young people, to give them a place where they could be in a safer, pleasant environment.

As I look back over the years, I realize that our work always had a kind of therapeutic accent. Aside from the improvement in their physical well being, we saw children becoming more self-reliant, more responsible, more self-confident, and certainly they had an enormous enjoyment in their affectionate friendship with the horses. This led us to offer this kind of experience to disabled children, not only



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Louise Soelberg contended with
50 years ago.*

An excerpt from a notebook with handwritten notes from Riding Centre founder Louise Soelberg and Paint at The Riding Centre, circa early 1980s.

NOTEBOOK PHOTO: REGINA BRECHA;
PHOTO OF LOUISE: LISA SMITH

for the physical benefits, but also to enlarge their confined worlds.

In 1974, we started the first pilot program with three small children. The program has been growing steadily since. As you know, Judy, funding is our biggest problem, and we depend on donations and grants, as well as organizing some events of our own, such as an annual horse show and ride-a-thon, in order to support the program. Our instructors are certified at the Cheff Center for the Handicapped, which is the largest training facility in the country.

And there, Judy, you have it in a nutshell. 🐾

Ride-A-Thon 2022— Ride, donate, share!

By Carolyn Bailey

Since 2020, and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Ride-A-Thon, our most successful fundraiser, has become primarily virtual. Although our riders still ride an obstacle course with 10 challenges during their lessons, parents and other kind people wishing to participate can do so online. Virtual participation and donating have never been easier. Online you can sign up to support your rider, or choose the horse you are “riding.”

Horses include beloved horses from past years, boarders’ own horses, and our school horses today. No horse has ever been as popular as our very own Beau. For years, this sweet liver chestnut gelding, donated to The Riding Centre years ago, has held pride of place as the all-time money maker. Beau seems an odd choice since he has plenty of issues with changes in the arena, veterinarians approaching him, and deer appearing out of nowhere. On the other hand, he offsets these behaviors with his soft kind eyes, his smooth canter, and his willingness to please. Many thanks to everyone who chose Beau, and every other horse, to help us surpass this year’s goal of \$10,000. Your continued generosity helps The Riding Centre fulfill its mission to teach good horsemanship to anyone who wants to learn, regardless of ability. 🐾

The Riding Centre

STAFF MEMBERS: Carolyn Bailey (Manager and Head Instructor), Adriene Kramer (Assistant Manager and Instructor), Regina Brecha (Instructor), Marsha Casdorff, Rowan Coburn-Griffis, Greg Fry, Yana Garing, Jody Garrett, Elise Laskowski, Renee Laskowski, Hannah Lawson, Jennifer Lawson, Janetta Lewis-Jennings, Susie Nickels

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Jill O’Banion (President), Janetta Lewis-Jennings (Vice President), Marsha Casdorff (Secretary), Sylvia Ellison, Colleen Iungerman, Stephanie Lawson, Susie Nickels, Carol Van Ausdal

NEWSLETTER: Editors: Marsha Casdorff and Jill O’Banion;

CONTRIBUTORS: Carolyn Bailey, Adriene Kramer, Janetta Lewis-Jennings.

DESIGN & PRODUCTION: Matt Minde

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Volunteer Spotlight—

The Amazing David Williamson

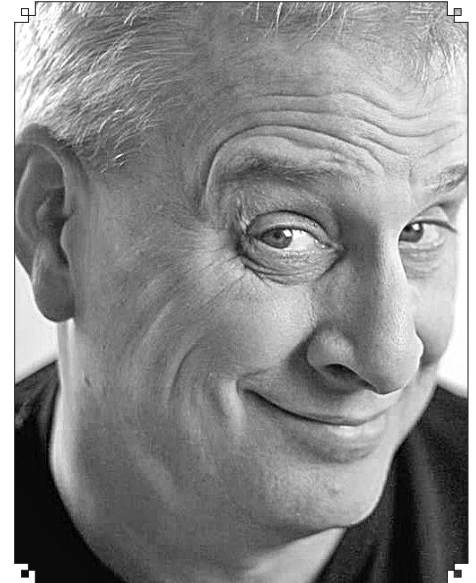
By Carolyn Bailey

I can still remember a sunny day in 2001 when a tall, thin man came into the barn yard, leaned on the fence, and asked about getting his wife started in lessons because they had recently returned to the area. Little did I know the impact he and his family would have on The Riding Centre.

The man was David Williamson, a Xenia native who is a world-renowned magician. When his wife told me that magic was his profession, all I could think was “Who does that?”

But what a great magician he is. As his wife and two children became more involved at the Centre, David saw our constant need for fundraising and stepped right up. Hosting benefit shows from the Kuss Auditorium to the Cedarville Opera House, David has captivated audiences with his energy, humor, and sleight of hand. Words cannot describe the way David makes magic come to life, whether he’s on stage or in the barn yard, since he always has a deck of cards or silver dollars handy.

When Covid came to our world in 2020, David used his computer skills to take our biggest fundraiser, the annual Ride-A-Thon, virtual, helping make it the most successful ever. David is responsible for most of the artwork we use and



Our hero, David Williamson. His most recent magical fundraiser, David Williamson’s Wonders, took place at the Emporium in Yellow Springs on Saturday, January 14.

PHOTO: BEN WILLIAMSON

designed our website.

Over the years, he and his family have adopted a retired school horse and several aging dogs, moved hundreds of bales of hay, and David was even known as “Bucket Man” one cold winter, arriving at the barn most mornings to break ice out of the stall buckets. The Riding Centre would not be the magical place it is without David. Thank you! 🐾

New in 2023: Focus Lessons

By Adriene Kramer

New for 2023 we are excited to offer special “focus” lessons that spotlight specific topics and are separate from our traditional lesson program. These opportunities are open to riders with their own horses and for our most advanced students, so they can experience more of a “clinic” style of education with two of our instructors, Regina Brecha and Adriene Kramer.

Focus lessons will be structured to include both an unmounted theory section and actual riding, with number of participants determining lesson duration. Sched-

uled dates and topics so far are as follows: March 26: “Handling a Horse Through an Obstacle Course”

May 28: “Riding a Dressage Test”

June 11: “Jumping Grid or Course Day”

Check our website (ridingcentre.org) and Facebook often for updates.

Also for riders with their own horses and advanced riders, Regina will offer monthly groundwork sessions again this year, and Adriene is continuing to offer monthly drill team practices. For more information or to sign up for any of these events, contact Regina and Adriene (theridingcentre@gmail.com) or sign up in The Riding Centre tack room. 🐾

‘Fun Raisers’ for All

By Janetta Lewis-Jennings

For equestrians who enjoy the challenge and experience of competition, The Riding Centre provided spring and fall dressage shows organized by Regina Brecha, and a fall hunter show put on by Carolyn Bailey. Add in the tack (and other horse stuff) sale run by Marsha Casdorff and Susie Nickels, and we had a recipe for success.

Jim Nealon’s clinic and Lori Miller’s clinic each offered learning experiences for those working to improve their horse and rider skills. Adriene Kramer taught several drill team classes to help horse and rider learn to coordinate their movements in group patterns. Regina offered horsemanship classes that gave students an opportunity to learn about the connection and care of horses from the ground. She also set up an obstacle course day so participants could guide their steeds over, through, and up to different obstacles, either mounted or on foot, to help develop trust and quiet fears.

For those who like to run and walk on their own two feet, Terry Luzader put on the annual Therapeutic Clip Clop 5K, a fun and profitable event thanks a lot to our generous sponsors, especially Wagner Subaru.

The annual Ride-A-Thon, organized by Carolyn, has always been one of our best fundraisers and a great way to involve our students. With the onset of COVID-19, David Williamson set up an online version to help The Riding Centre continue its fundraising. Now, David and Carolyn have combined their efforts to make the Virtual/Real Ride-A-Thon a profitable fundraiser that reaches out to many more people.

Jen Lawson and Regina gave us all a Halloween surprise with the first and hopefully annual Halloween Open House, open and free to all. There was food, fun, haunted trails, a scavenger hunt, and more. The beautiful weather brought in quite a crowd, from princesses to goblins. I even spotted a skeleton horse and rider! Generous donations made even this free event profitable.

We all look forward every year to receiving our beautiful new Riding Centre calendar, filled with amazing photos of our horses and The Riding Centre. Regina lived up to our expectations with her 2023 edition.

Just a reminder that an extremely easy way to support The Riding Centre painlessly is by choosing The Riding Centre Association as your charity of choice with Kroger’s Community Rewards program (our number is AF920).

A big shout out to all those who gave on Giving Tuesday and all those who give of their time and/or money all year. Where would we be without you?

Cindy Minton-Piatt and her apprentice, Regina, brought in several grants. We are very grateful for their work and the support of Community Health Foundation; the Dayton Foundation; Della Selsor Trust; Morgan Family Foundation; Rotary Club of Springfield, Ohio; the Springfield Foundation; and the Yellow Springs Community Foundation.

We are always grateful for being a part of the beautiful Glen Helen, and we thank the Glen Helen Association for sharing it with us.

Lifetime Members

- Andi Adkins
- Carly Bailey
- Carolyn & Chris Bailey
- Rosemary & Jim Bailey
- Bob Baldwin, Jr.
- Myra & DJ Banion
- Mr. Birtle
- Adrian & Joysan Edwards
- Stephanie Fitzgerald
- Laura Funderburg
- Sara Garing
- Yana & Dave Garing
- Vikki & Dale Hazelbaker
- Adriene Kramer
- Jill O’Banion
- Cindy Minton-Piatt
- Nina Myatt
- Jean McCally Tebay
- Jessica L. Andrews & Timothy W. Toothman

Family Members

- Anna Williamson & Marsha Casdorff
- Nora Kaulk & Patty Erhardt

- Lauren Miller & Hans Jacobson
- Lisbeth & Hal Johnson
- Jen, Hannah, Sophia & Stephanie Lawson
- Lily Woods & Sarah Maxwell
- Caroline & Janelle Sturgeon

Individual Members

- Caitie Myers Beaudion
- Katherine Berg
- Annette Biehler
- Regina Brecha
- Lynn Caldwell
- Cynthia Culbertson
- Janetta Lewis-Jennings
- Terry Luzader
- Margaret Maddox
- Zoey McKinley
- Liz Mersky
- Lynn Mishler
- Jim Nealon
- Susie Nickels
- Annie Self
- Alma Shipley
- Maggie Stack
- Lizzie Stoermer
- Nicole Suzel
- Yvonne Vadeboncoeur
- Carol Van Ausdal

Wanted! Used horse stuff

Please consider donating any tack, riding clothes, or other horse-related items for our upcoming tack sales. Our yearly tack sales usually coincide with our horse shows. Donations may be dropped off at The Riding Centre tack room.

Our List of Contributors...

...and how you can join it!

- Adopt a Horse (yearly).....\$1,200
- Donate towards: Endowment, Buildings, Special Projects, General Fund.....(Any amount)
- Become a Member (yearly)
- Family.....\$100
- Individual.....\$75

Special thanks to: Dr. Brett Ellis of Veterinary Associates Animal Hospital, Dr. Brad Luckenbill of Pony Express Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Kathleen Lennon, and Dr. Ashley Appelhans for keeping our horses healthy and sound; Cedarville University for providing students for the hundreds of hours of volunteering for our therapeutic program; Diane Dubose, Sean Oberschlake, and Chad Wilt for the wonderful hay they provide (our horses thank you too!).

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS:

Businesses

- AC Service Company
- AmazonSmile
- Ball Corporation
- Can’t Stop Timing Company
- Clem & Thyme
- Current Cuisine
- Dane Harding Insurance
- David Williamson Productions, Inc.
- Emerald Green Pro
- Gem City Equine
- Glazed Donut Eatery
- Gregg Neumann Equine Chiropractic
- Happy Equine Saddles and Fitting
- Howliday Inn Boarding
- Kramer Equestrian, LLC
- Kroger Company

- Liberty Mutual
- Kenny Hoyle, CJF
- Minna Construction
- Ocean Marketing
- Pony Express Veterinary Hospital
- Runners Plus
- S & D Trucking
- Sheila Dunphy Pallotta, LLC
- Spencer Building Group
- The Chris K Group Inc.
- The Tacky Horse
- Two Men and A Truck
- Veterinary Associates Animal Hospital
- Wagner Subaru
- WA Hammond Drierite Co., LTD
- Wesbanco Bank
- YS Greene, LLC

Individuals

- Anonymous (2)
- Rachel & Jansen Adkins
- Gilah Pomeranz & Shep Anderson
- Douglas Anspach
- Zachary Arnold

- Dan Badger
- Carly Bailey
- Carolyn & Chris Bailey
- Rosemary & Jim Bailey
- Bob Baldwin Jr.
- Myra & D.J. Banion
- Aida Merhemic & Bob Barcus
- Brian Barletto
- Armando Bautista
- Christina Bautista
- Eumelia Bautista
- Brenda Baxter
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- Daphne & Fred Berge
- Annette Biehler
- Melissa Bautista & Matt Birdsall
- Thomas Birdsall
- Alexander Bochenek
- Lori Bostick
- Kaethi Seidl & Bob Brecha
- Regina Brecha
- Asha Brogan
- Amber Browder

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- Pat Brown
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- Mary Ciavarrro
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- Maggie Dean
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- Dana Doll
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- Diane Dubose
- Ray Dudek
- Barbara Duncombe
- Steve Dunham

- David Edmunds
- Joysan Edwards
- Patty & Peter Erhardt
- Mary Ester

- Mary Fahrenbruck
- Olive Finch
- Pamela Fisher
- Karen Flipper
- Greg Fry
- Isaac Fry



ABOVE: Ghouls galore in Haunted Hidden Valley; the upright ones are Jill O'Banion and Joan Townsend.

PHOTO: SARA GARING



LEFT: Spooky fun; Josie Breckner gets her face painted by Eva Hall.

PHOTO: CAROLYN BAILEY



RIGHT: Santana the magic dragon.

PHOTO: REGINA BRECHA

Scream until you're hoarse—

RC's Halloween Open House, 2022

By Carolyn Bailey

Thanks to the many donated hours from Riding Centre employees Jen Lawson and Regina Brecha, The Riding Centre hosted its first ever Halloween Open House on Saturday, October 29. To describe the open house as successful does not do it justice.

Open to the public at no cost on one of the most beautiful days this fall, this event was magnificent. Scores of

adults and children, many in costume, attended, and there was something for everyone to enjoy. Activities included a scary scavenger hunt, fearful face painting, and a weird walk through our lovely Hidden Valley trail, full of witches, ghosts, goblins, and possibly a bobcat!

Costumed school horses joined the fun for plenty of photo ops, and of course there was candy for all! As the day drew to a close, there was cider and s'mores to enjoy. 🍂

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 11	Adriene Kramer Clinic
April 2	Lori Miller Clinic
8	Riding Centre 5K Clip-Clop Fundraiser
May 13	Spring Dressage Show
August 12	Jim Nealon Clinic
September 9	Fall Hunter Show
10	Fall Dressage Show
October 1-31	Annual Ride-A-Thon

For more information, check www.ridingcentre.org and our Facebook page.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS (From Page Three)

- | | |
|--|---|
| Nicole Galiber | Mary Mullins |
| Sara Garing | Nina Myatt |
| Yana & Dave Garing | |
| Jody Garrett | Donna Pollex-Najarian |
| Eve Fleck & Brian Gaughan | Jean Nealon |
| Lezlie & Mark Gillespie | Mark French & Jim Nealon |
| Holly Gossett | Susie & Rick Nickels |
| Lari Graver | Bonnie Nuckles-in honor of beautiful Maisie |
| Bethany & Jordan Gray | |
| Jill Greenblatt | Jill & Doug O'Banion |
| Chris Greer | |
| Rowan Coburn-Griffis | |
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| Renee Laskowski | Millicent Townsley |
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| Terry & Mark Luzader | Sara Webb |
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Antioch College; Community Health Foundation; The Dayton Foundation; Della Selsor Trust; Glen Helen Association; Morgan Family Foundation; Rotary Club of Springfield, Ohio; Springfield Foundation; and Yellow Springs Community Foundation.

