



NEWSLETTER



Spring 2017

Volume 2, Issue 1

The official Newsletter of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation.

Welcome to the Harness Horse Youth Foundation summer activity preview and highlights of our alumni – and another opportunity to thank our continuing supporters!
Here is our calendar of events – come see us in action!

2017 HHYF Travel Calendar

June 3	Diamond Creek Open House, PA
June 17 – 21*	Harrington Raceway, DE
June 25	Fair Winds Farm Open House, NJ
June 27*	Rosecroft Raceway, MD
June 29*	Ocean Downs, MD
July 5 – 8*	Leadership Program, Goshen, NY
July 11 – 15*	Vernon Downs, NY
July 18 – 22*	The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono, PA
July 27	Delaware State Fair, DE
July 29 – Aug 2*	Gaitway Farm, NJ
August 4 – 5	The Meadowlands, NJ
Sep 16	Open Space Pace, Freehold, NJ
Sep 21	Great Frederick Fair, MD
Sep 27 - 28	Hoosier Park 4 th Grade, IN
Oct 27 – 28	Breeders Crown Hoosier Park, IN

Applications must be completed for the events marked with *
Deadline is May 15 • Don't get shut out!



Roy's spring time "parents" were very proud when he won the HHYF final race on Hambletonian Day in 2016 – so a special commemorative blanket was made just for Karen Dennis to display...and, no, Roy doesn't wear it!

Special Thanks to our Conditioners!

HHYF programs could not continue without all of our volunteers! We salute the following stables who are generously taking time to condition the HHYF horses this spring. They will undoubtedly have them fit and "spit-shined" and ready for the "Grand Circuit" which begins in mid June.

Brett Bittle, Don Brittingham, Travis Ceppaluni, Karen & Eddie Dennis, Ron Millman, Chris Ryder, Andrew Stafford and Jody Stafford (Stables).

HHYF would also like to thank Henry Eicher and Mike Stephenson – these two gentlemen recognized that HHYF needed additional stable members and stepped up, agreeing to lease Golden Rose and Cindy Jodine to HHYF for the summer. It's always exciting to see just how new horses react to the HHYF routine – stay tuned and we'll report back in the fall!



Our summer travel team of **John Reames** (our faithful truck driver, back again for a second year [above right]) and interns **Katie Eick** (winner of the Harness Racing Museum's age 14-16 Colors Design contest [above left]) and **Amy Pruner** (who will just return in time from her FFA trip to Ireland [far right]) along with Miss Ellen and our stable of trusty steeds, will hit the road soon. Come visit us!





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Sam McKee 1962 - 2017



All of harness racing recently lost a true gentleman, friend, and supporter with the passing of Sam McKee!

He was always upbeat and positive about whatever projects he worked on for HHYF.

Please join our board in expressing our sincere condolences to Sam's family.

In the months to come, HHYF is hopeful that we can in some way honor his memory by finding ways to mentor young people who are enthusiastic about racing just as Sam was.

"The man, the myth, the legend."



Justin Irvine to Washington, DC

When the American Horse Council hosts its 2017 Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum this June in Washington DC, Ohio's own Justin Irvine will be there to represent the Harness Horse Youth Foundation and harness racing.



Irvine will be joining representatives from the American Quarter Horse Association, Arabian Horse Association, Morgan Horse Association and United States Pony Club as the youth panel shares not only their breed's initiatives to involve young people but also offers ideas about how the entire horse industry can do a better job with their efforts.

The young teamster's trip to Washington would not be possible without the generosity of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Assoc. who immediately stepped up with sponsorship money.

Renee Mancino noted, "Active youth in Harness Racing is important to our sport's longevity. If we don't support and promote our youth there will be no future. Harness Horse Youth Foundation has been there for 41 years leading the charge, putting our youth first and providing them opportunities to do, see, and be the next voice for harness racing, it is the OHHA's pleasure to contribute to their work."

Irvine's invitation to address the AHC provides an opportunity to expose a whole new audience to the efforts of HHYF. An alumnus of HHYF Introductory Camp at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono and two years of the Leadership Program, 15-year-old Irvine is already an accomplished horseman, winning his first charted drive on June 5, 2016 with Mark Ford trainee Cruising Hill at Goshen Historic Track.



Ellen Taylor HHYF Executive Director outlined the sequence of events which led to this opportunity. "Sometimes cool things happen from seemingly random incidents. While waiting to board the plane for Las Vegas in February, we met AHC President Julie Broadway. She mentioned the Youth Panel opportunity and I immediately accepted. From there, I thoughtfully reached out to Justin (and his mother Renee) who has demonstrated excellent public speaking skills. He accepted, OHHA graciously sponsored, and harness racing benefits!"

The American Horse Council which represents all segments of the horse industry before Congress and the federal regulatory agencies, will hold the meetings June 11 - 13, 2017.

Issue photo credits: Chris Tully, Ann-Mari Daley, Lisa Photo, Mark Hall, Anderton Photography

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HHYF in Las Vegas



(Left to right). Adam Bowden, Chris Tully, Karen Craft, Marlys Pinske, Dr. Patricia Hogan, Ellen Taylor & Lillie Brown.

At the Dan Patch Awards Dinner, HHYF presented the **2016 Service To Youth Award** to the lovely **Dr. Patricia Hogan**, who serves as a mentor to so many students looking to pursue a veterinary science degree.

In addition, she provides services for many horse retirement and rescue groups.

Her previous honors include the 2016 Equistar Award from the NY Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, the 2008 Spirit of the Horse Award from Rutgers University and the 2004 President's Award from the American Veterinary Medicine Association.

As HHYF Trustee Marlys Pinske explains "Dr. Hogan exemplifies the best in harness racing and our board is pleased to present yet another honor for her efforts."

In addition, **Dr. Hogan will host a Career Exploration Event for 14- to 18-year-olds on Saturday, June 24th** at Hogan Equine Clinic, on the grounds of Fair Winds Farm in Cream Ridge, NJ. The event, from 10AM to 1PM, will cover a typical "behind the scenes" day.

Registration is required; please contact Ellen Harvey 732.780.3700 or email ellen.harvey@ustrotting.com for more information.

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"Counselor Ron", →→ always active during our youth camp at Pocono Downs, poses with a participant wearing his old colors which he donated to HHYF.

HHYF held our annual face-to-face board meeting and elected a new slate of dedicated trustees as officers:
Ron Battoni – President,
Adam Bowden – Vice President,
Allison Conte – Secretary, and
Nicola Abrams – Treasurer.

We are also extremely pleased to welcome **Adam Bowden** to our board of trustees!

And congrats to **Allison Conte** on her USHWA Breakthrough Award too!



Adam Bowden (right) discusses the favorable outcome of a race with driver Brett Miller.

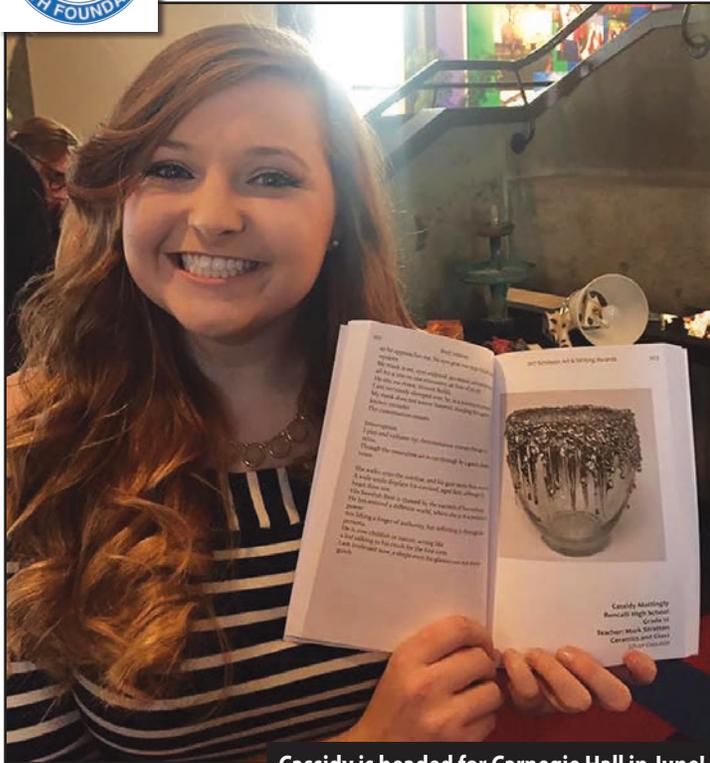


Allison Conte (center) is flanked by her family at the Dan Patch Awards in Las Vegas.



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Alumni Achievements



Cassidy is headed for Carnegie Hall in June!

Mike Mattingly participated in HHYF activities way back in the 1980s and eventually became involved in harness racing as owner while working as Regional Sales Engineer Manager at Schneider Electric. As is often the case of parents, he wanted his daughter, Cassidy, to also attend an HHYF camp which she did at Indiana Downs several years ago.

Cassidy (*above*) is now an extremely active senior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. Recently, she received the regional 2017 Gold Key Award for Scholastic Art and Writing Excellence In Visual Arts with her piece entitled "Silver Cascade" (*right*) in the Ceramics & Glass category.

And there is more: Cassidy's work also won a gold medal in the national competition and it will be showcased at **Carnegie Hall** in New York from June 2nd through the 12th!

"Silver Cascade" → Cassidy's award winning art!



Brady Galliers way back in 2011 but he still flashes that boyish smile today!





Meeting Molly

Harness racing has always been near and dear to the heart of aspiring rocker Molly D'Agostino. Her first band, Pacinello, was named after a popular pacer that raced at Vernon Downs.



Molly in action with HHYF as each year she stops by to volunteer during our Vernon week!

Pacinello, the horse, a son of Little Steven, won over a dozen races in New York in 2011 and 2012.

Pacinello, the band, formed in 2011, when Molly was still in high school, with school mates including Mollie Barbaritano. The band placed in the top 15 of the National Grammy Live: Gig of a Lifetime talent search which resulted in Arrowhead Records signing them to a contract in 2013. Over 2,000 bands competed for a chance to be signed in that competition.

"It was really exciting. We worked very hard, even as high school kids, and I am proud of that" D'Agostino recalls.

For Molly, who performs as Molly D'ago, it was fast-forward quickly. She had started playing guitar just a few years earlier, after seeing a Trans-Siberian Orchestra (TSO) concert with her dad, giving up the clarinet.

"That was my first concert," she says. "From that point forward I knew what I wanted to do. Their guitar work is awesome. I was exposed to a lot of different music by my dad. I grew up listening to Southern Rock, Classic Rock, whatever my dad was listening to. Dad even played drums in Pacinello with us when we toured. He had played 20 years ago, but then he stopped. Having him in the band was great. He has been a great influence."

But there have been other influencers, too "Chris Caffery (TSO guitarist) has been a great mentor. He has really helped me through this," Molly comments.

Academically, Molly moves forward rapidly too. Pursuing a law degree, the motivated artist earned her Associate of Arts in Public Policy from Mohawk Valley Community College in one year; her Bachelor of Arts in pre law from SUNY Polytechnic Institute 1.5 years and is working on her juris doctorate from Barry University School of Law in just two years. Degrees will give Molly a good place to fall back on, in case music doesn't work out, but with her work rate and dedication, she may never need to practice law.

Molly attended HHYF camp about ten years ago at Vernon, and the camp left its mark on her. She says, "I knew about racing from my dad, Joe (a driver/ trainer), but the camp gave me a firm foundation and allowed me to start applying my knowledge. I got to start paddocking as I got older. And I helped at Vernon camps after that and once at Goshen, too. Music is my primary goal, but camp gave me that

The 2017 **HARNESS HEROES** trading cards will be available soon! If you haven't started collecting yet, perhaps this is the year?

base I needed, to understand the structure. Being able to relate to the other campers has helped, too."

Molly's musical trajectory took an upward turn when she became a solo artist in 2014, signing with Los Angeles-based R&R Entertainment. Her first solo album, Vici is due to be released this spring. Latin for "I conquered", the title reflects the viewpoint of Molly's music, which defies easy description. Molly wrote all the songs and plays all the guitar parts on the album, in addition to singing.

"It's like Lynyrd Skynyrd had a BBQ and invited Halestorm to grill the meat, Shinedown to bring a salad and Katy Perry to make some strawberry shortcake," she observes. To this writer, her voice shows shades of Melissa Etheridge and Joan Jett. "I am really excited about the album. SO many people have helped out and given me a chance. I owe them all a lot."

This spring and summer, Molly will be on the road, opening for the All-American Rejects and others. The 22-year-old also owns and runs her own business, Vertica Entertainment, which creates and records custom wedding songs.

While Molly was focusing on her development as a solo act, Pacinello broke up, reformed and broke up again. That time tested Molly's skills as a writer and as a solo singer. She did a lot of recording in her home studio during that time.



Molly in action pursuing her dreams of great music!

"I never sang with Pacinello," Molly told the Syracuse Times last year. "But I was playing with someone and sang something and they helped me gain the confidence to do it. I was always writing and we pitched the idea of a solo album and management liked the idea. The whole idea of the album is about being a girl in music. It's about being a strong person, believing in yourself and not taking any (guff). You have to believe in yourself. But Satchel (aka Russ Parish of the comic rock/glam metal band Steel Panther) really helped me understand that. You can't let the politics bother you, you just keep working."

"Nobody can see your vision the way you do, even when you are told no. It's just another step in the right direction," she concludes. "HHYF helped me understand that and I want that experience for others. It's important."

For a sample of Molly's music, check out Come Home on CD now.

<https://www.cdbaby.com/cd/mollydago>



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HHYF Accepts Credit and Debit Card Donations

Did you know you can make credit and debit card donations directly to HHYF by using the PayPal Donate button on our website at HHYF.org?

You can!

Simply hit the donate button, enter the amount you want to donate and then select pay with credit or debit card.

PayPal will take you to a secure guest payment page where you can safely send your donation via your card through PayPal.

It's quick, easy and safe.

Helping Hands



HHYF NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Our 2017 fundraising goals are far short of our budget. Please consider a donation now in order for HHYF to continue our quality programs.

Your check, no matter what amount, will make a difference.

Mail today to: HHYF, 16575 Carey Road, Westfield IN 46074.

HHYF also accepts credit card donations through the *PayPal* button at HHYF.org

All donations are tax-deductible as allowable by law.



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HHYF continually promoting Harness Racing!



Riley Ceppaluni greets booth visitors with a smile – she can hardly wait until she is old enough to attend camp like her older brother Travis!

HHYF loves our volunteers!

The Ceppaluni family (**Chris, Shannon, Travis, and Riley**) are always willing to represent us in the New Jersey area and on April 8, they, along with HHYF trustee Nicola Abrams, set up a table at Rick's Saddle Shop in Cream Ridge; this was a busy day as Rick's hosted their 23rd annual Easter Egg Hunt so lots of kids were swarming the store. Flyers and applications for the Gaitway program in July and Youth Beats were distributed!



Busy day at Rick's with Easter Egg Hunt and Breyer horse painting!

Thank You!

To everyone who continues to support HHYF and the next generation of Harness Horsemen & women

HHYF is pleased to be a part of the upcoming **Announcer's Workshop** with **Ken Warkentin** on **June 17** at the Meadowlands.

As a tribute to **Sam McKee**, the late Meadowlands announcer who started calling races at age 14, the USTA and the Harness Horse Youth Foundation

have teamed up to provide travel grants, if needed, for high school and college students attending the class.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Ellen Harvey at ellen.harvey@ustrotting.com or call 732.780.3700.



Last call for HHYF scholarship applications.

Deadline is April 30

This could be **you** in the picture
Visit HHYF.org for applications!



GALLO BLUE CHIP SCHOLARSHIP 2016

2016 Gallo Blue Chip Scholarship Presentation at The Meadowlands (l. to r.)
Ellen Taylor, Natalie Martuscello, Rob Scharf, Garrett Chellis, Jordan Scharf.

Newsletter designed and produced by: ChrisTullyTrot.com



Harness Horse Youth Foundation
 16575 Carey Rd.
 Westfield, IN 46074

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HHYF Mission Statement:

To provide young people and their families information and experiences with harness horses in order to foster the next generation of fans and participants



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2017 Officers

- Ron Battoni – President
- Adam Bowden – Vice President
- Allison Conte – Secretary
- Nicola Abrams – Treasurer

2017 Trustees

- Tony Alagna
- Ryan Avenatti
- Lillie Brown
- Corey Callahan
- Karen Craft
- Emily Gaskin
- Paul Fontaine
- Julie Miller
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- Chris Tully



Ellen Taylor, **Executive Director**
 Keith Gisser, **Project Manager**

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Please note: HHYF will soon be moving our office.

CURRENT CONTACT INFO (remains the same):

Email: ellen@hhyf.org

cell phone: (317) 908-0029

web address: hhyf.org

Stay tuned for changes to mailing address, office phone and fax numbers.

We appreciate your patience during this process!