

LEADERS. INNOVATORS.
MENTORS. ADVOCATES.
EDUCATORS. PIONEERS.
COUNSELORS. ADJUDICATORS.

2010

The Women In Our Industry HONOR ROLL

This theme, now in year two, celebrates the enormous, indeed disproportionate, influence women have had on our industry.

We recognize that the Morgan community, throughout its history, has not merely provided acceptance. Rather, women have proven that they are more than equal in the areas of vision, direction, accomplishment and utilization of the breed.

The Morgan industry has not been male-centric. Women have been leaders, mentors, educators, innovators, adjudicators, pioneers, counselors and advocates.

The staff of *The Morgan Horse*, has for the second year, searched our archives, asked our advisors and brainstormed in meetings to generate a long list, and then the short list that appears here. The Honor Roll is never intended to be complete. We will add names to it annually. We strive, in one issue annually, to be sure the list is as varied, diverse and colorful as the breed itself.

This year we have added one new aspect. Through communication with the AMHA membership, via email, our website and Facebook, we have invited the public to nominate one person to the list. That nominee appears as the final honoree on the 2010 Honor Roll.

Ladies, you continue to inspire us.



(Photos © Bob Moseder)



Left, top to bottom: *Van Lu Love Story* and *Van Lu Jolie*, both ridden by Judy Whitney; *Van Lu Starbuck*.

Simy Corbin A WOMAN AND A MARE

It's rare that a mare comes along that produces world champion foals with this regularity. It happened to Simy Corbin and her *Van Lu* prefix is legendary because of it.

As is so true in many cases good things come in small packages and this applies to Simone "Simy" Corbin. This petite lady, her three daughters and the unfailing support of her husband, Dr. George Corbin, created a dynasty of World Champions through the produce of one special mare, Westwold Dona Resa (Orcland Dondarling x Rena) who she acquired in 1972. Although she also owned Coralee, whom she purchased in 1971 from Fran Pugh, and produced some notable foals, the brightest star on her farm was Dona Resa. Dona Resa's outstanding foals were *Van Lu Love Story* (by *Empyrean Apollo*) 1980 World Champion Mare, and 1979 and 1980 World Champion Ladies Park Saddle and Park Harness; *Van Lu Jolie* (by *Beamington*), 1985 World Champion Mare and 1986 Park Harness World Champion, and *Van Lu Starbuck* (by *Apollo's Merry Don*), 1984 World Champion Stallion. They were all shown and trained by the Whitney Stables. Cindy Noble took me to *Van Lu Farm* to meet her one day and there was Simy meticulously cleaning the stalls of her beautiful horses making sure everything was just right!

Gael Jaeger

Carol Simpson BEHOLD A HORSE OF GOLD

Raised on cattle and stock horses in the Sutter Buttes area of Northern California, Carol Simpson went to a horse sale in 1982 intent on buying a Quarter Horse...until her eyes beheld Primavera Valdez, a golden buckskin Morgan stallion bred by Dick and Phyllis Nelsen.

Over the course of the next two decades, Carol Simpson brought many converts to the Morgan breed, first by campaigning her exceptional stallion in West Coast, open stock horse classes. Once Valdez's striking color and talent had turned their heads, Carol, by her unrivaled enthusiasm and advocacy for the Morgan breed, won their hearts. At this time, stock horse classes were not a popular venue for Morgans. Carol, singlehandedly, set out to do something about that with "her horse" and her own unique one-on-one style of marketing. She was a principal founder of the Morgan International Cow Horse Association (MICA), and Carol and Valdez became the centerpiece of articles from our breed journal to the local West Coast papers.

Carol, using Valdez as a poster boy, regenerated an interest in the Western working bloodlines and the colorful horses that carried those lines. Valdez traced directly to Justin Morgan on every single line of his pedigree, most within 12 or 13 generations, and Carol was instrumental in preserving these rare lines through the many get of Valdez.

Carol Simpson, in the '80s and '90s, was the catalyst for a renewed national interest in Morgan stock horse competition and colorful Morgans.

John Hutcheson



Above: Carol Simpson with Primavera Valdez in 2005.



Right: Beth Benard's foundation sire, Equinox Locomotion. Below: Beth and Canequin's Look Out.



Beth Benard MAVEN OF VERSATILITY

In an era of specialty breeding programs, Beth Benard has bred Morgans with the breed's most often lauded specialty, versatility. Results show she has been successful at this goal.

Beth Benard's Canequin Morgan Farm epitomizes what Sport Morgans are all about. With a careful selection of Government/Ben Don crosses beginning with her foundation sire, Equinox Locomotion, Beth began breeding sport Morgans before the phrase was even coined. Peruse the list of AMHA Open Competition and Medallion winners each year and you are sure to find at least one Canequin Morgan—and in 2009 there were six different horses among the recipients, in as many divisions, one of them winning his Bronze Trail Medallion at the age of 25. Canequin Morgans have also garnered many USEF Horse of the Year awards and USDF medals, been the mounts of Pony Clubbers at Nationals, and have been purchased for breeding programs outside the U.S. They truly are a great representative of Morgan soundness, stamina and beauty! These versatile animals compete in combined driving (at the international level, amongst Beth's crew is a two-time USET Singles Driving Team Member), eventing (competing through Preliminary/CCI*), dressage (through 4th level), competitive trail champions, and hunter jumper champions. There is even an AMHA Sport Horse Award Winner and several more who are close to achieving that goal. Beth Benard and her

(Photos © Wendy LeGate and Lu Young)

The Women In Our Industry



UVM Valcour (above) and Beam's Nighthawk (right) have both been inducted into CT Hall of Fame.



Canequin horses are truly ambassadors for the breed—showing the horse world what a wonderfully talented package is contained in the powerful, versatile Morgan horse.

Nancy Johnson & Liz Gesler

Chris Cassenti MORGAN CEO

When Lady's Enticement died just a few weeks ago, Chris Cassenti set up a shrine to the mare at April's UPHA Chapter 14 Spring Premiere. It gave generations who loved the mare a chance to share and to grieve. This gesture is typical of Chris who has a nurturing and caring bond with our community.

Chris Cassenti should be honored just because she thinks right. She didn't need a market survey to make a business out of introducing new people to Morgans through a lesson program. It just made sense and she has been a leader and a role model in this area. She has ridden every horse in her care as a champion, which is what every trainer should do. It has never mattered to Chris whether she was passed a hunter, a road hack or an equitation horse, they all had a right to succeed. Witness her titles with UVM Valcour and Beam's Nighthawk. When fate handed her the great park mare Lady's Enticement, Chris rode her like a lady. From Chris every young trainer receives a word of encouragement to further their success, and every peer will get a phone call if an urgent need is perceived. Chris has given more of her time to organizing than many professional trainers can afford. She does not think a Morgan show is too small for her to attend; she thinks if they are small, she had better attend. She was a leader with academy programs and she keeps in touch with her roots at the Rowley Riding and Driving Club. That's where people start and she's all about getting them started! Her single peculiarity is that she keeps her important files in her kitchen oven. They'll never be destroyed. She'd have to turn the oven on for that to happen! According to Chris, I look too serious, so she nicknamed me "Smiling Steve." Now I smile when I see her coming. Everybody should!

Stephen Kinney

Elberta Honstein DOYENNE OF THE DESERT

Matriarch of three generations of women who breed, train, show and promote the Morgan horse. Their horses, like their ranch buildings in New Mexico, demonstrate that you do not have to sacrifice beauty for function, rather one drives the other.

Elberta Honstein is the mast of Roy-El Morgans. Business woman, Morgan horse breeder and enthusiast, youth supporter, Elberta or "Mrs. Espanola" as she is well-known in her community of Espanola, NM, is involved in many of the city's events. She is greatly loved and admired by the 4H'ers in her hometown; for years she has been a resource for their activities. As a consummate hostess at the farm, she shares information about the beautiful and steadfast Roy-El Morgans and her deep knowledge of the Native American art from her area. Occasionally, one can catch her riding or driving one of the Roy-El Morgans! This gracious, warm lady is a friend to all she



Above: "Mrs. Espanola" as the 2009 Española Fiesta parade marshal.

(Photos © Howard Schatzberg and Casey McBride)

Congratulations Grandma!

We would be nothing without
your love and support.
You are a woman with true class
and unparalleled grace.

We love you so much!

STANDING AT STUD

Roy-El's Grand Opening (Grandiose x Roy-El's Countess)



Roy-El's Grand Slam

(Eethree Supreme x Porvenir Honey B)



PROSPECTS AND FINISHED STOCK FOR SALE



Roy-El Morgan Farm

Erlene Seybold,
Manager/Trainer/Instructor/Breeding
Manager

Elberta Honstein, Owner
Debbie Seybold, Consultant
1302 N. McCurdy Road
Española, NM 87532

(505) 753-3696 or (505) 603-6016

E-mail: elberta@roy-elmorgans.com

Website: www.roy-elmorgans.com

meets. A supporter of local, regional and national competitions such as the New Mexico State Fair, the Kachina Morgan Horse Show and the Grand National, she gives generously of her time and energy. The Morgan horse is fortunate to have Elberta Honstein as a fan.

Georgie Green



Left: Ling Fu Wylie, Susan Fu, and Iann Fu Longenecker. Right, top: Iann and Dragonsmeade Icon in 2009; Right, bottom: Ling and HVK Obsidian in 2007.



Photos © Howard Schatzberg

Susan, Ling & Iann Fu FAMILY OF SAMARITANS

These women are a one-family support system for the Morgan breed, for their horses, for equine professionals and for their friends, but they will be the first to tell you that the Morgan breed has done more for them. It is characteristic of the way they think.

Susan Fu, Ling Fu Wylie and Iann Fu Longenecker, along with Kee Fu (affectionately referred to as Father Fu) compose the amazing family that is Dragonsmeade. Let me say first and foremost that all three of these women would tell you that Kee is the one responsible for all of their successes, but since this issue is about women in our industry we will focus on them. Both of the girls love of horses was nurtured and encouraged early on by Susan, who had ridden as a child. Growing up in New Mexico both Ling and Iann were able to enjoy riding the alfalfa fields and irrigation ditches on their Morgan mounts and if you happened to pass the local drugstore you just might see Bantry Bay (AKA Dudu Fu) tied to the railing outside while the girls were inside getting ice cream. Trail rides lead to horse shows, instructors and trainers, and soon Susan was driving the dually cross country with trailer, horses and daughters in tow. Morgans now became an overwhelming passion and the family was hooked. Ling and Iann worked hard and soon were a force to be reckoned with. Ling's love of equitation was highlighted by winning the Saddle Seat Gold Medal on Amarillo Liberty and Iann's bent to the hot performance horses earned her the Junior Exhibitor Park Saddle World Championship with Java's Charmer. With Susan cheering them on there was no stopping this family act and the awards and accolades that followed. A few horses eventually lead to many and the Dragonsmeade prefix started to appear on registration papers and show ring performers. When the equine numbers reached too many to comfortably "board," the decision was made to purchase a farm in Kentucky and the rest is history. It is truly a family operation with everyone contributing their special talents to make everything run smoothly. All this being said, it would not be enough to just raise nice horses and have a beautiful farm.

The Women In Our Industry



Georgie Green
with husband
John.



Below: Travis Filipek
with Triple S Nugget.



(Photos © Howard Schatzberg and by Abbie Felton-Trexler)

These three women have always, without exception, believed in paying it forward. They give back tenfold what they have received from this industry. Whether it is mentoring a young rider, helping someone to obtain a horse, or supporting their wide group of friends, these ladies give back. Susan has served on the AMHI board as vice-president, Ling is a regional director with AMHA and Iann works on the Grand National show committee. More recently the Fu family (with Kee Fu as architect) has been heavily involved with the Morgan Pavilion project at the Kentucky Horse Park and ensuring that Morgans will hold a prestigious place at that facility. These three gracious women have taken sportsmanship, dedication and devotion to our breed to a whole other level. We are fortunate to have them as friends.

Larry Bolen

Georgie Green AMHA'S FIRST LADY

Georgie Green was the first female president of the AMHA, from 1985-1989 and again from 1993-1996. In addition to her time in office, she selflessly served on the AMHA Board Of Directors for 27 years. But when it's all said and done, those were just a few of her too many to mention contributions to the breed. She does it all with enthusiasm, authority, and style that are unmistakably Georgie.

I first met Georgie Green more than 35 years ago. She was standing on the rail at a horse show holding a grooming bucket, her daughters' show coats, an extra number or two, cheering on her husband and daughters. I watched Georgie Green at the Red River Horse Show last year still doing all of the above, and also acting as the paddock master. I can't figure out if this was a promotion or not!

For all the years that I have had the joy and privilege of knowing her, Georgie has worked on show committees, boards, on taskforces, putting on horse shows, and organizing clinics, all so that her family and our families can enjoy their Morgan horses. Several years ago, USEF recognized Georgie Green's dedication to the horse industry by awarding her their coveted Sportsmanship Trophy; no one was ever more deserving. Her energy, her generosity, her sense of humor and her kindness have served as an example to me and to many others. No matter how complex the problem, Georgie looks for a solution; no matter how difficult it might be, Georgie makes the right choice, not the easy one. I am honored to call Georgie Green my mentor and my friend.

Ellen DiBella

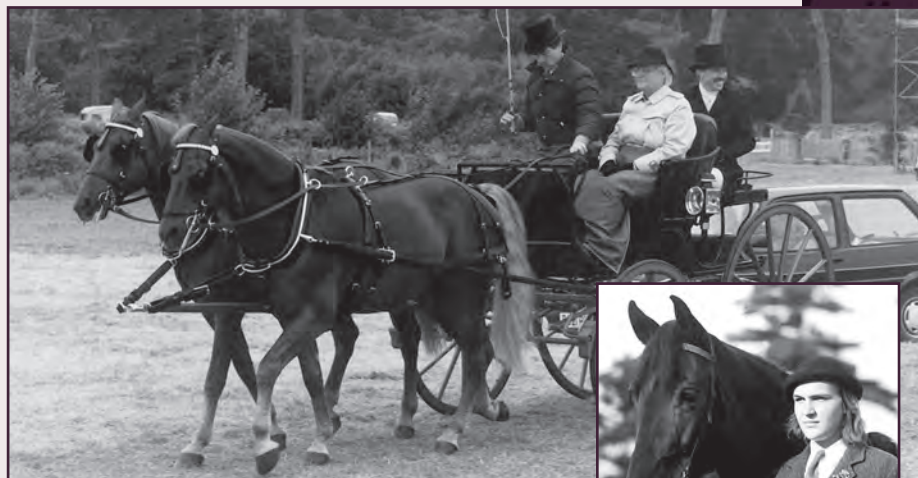
Travis Filipek REINING GRANDE DAME

From her assiduous promotion of the Morgan reiner to her enthusiastic encouragement of today's Morgan youth, Travis' unwavering work ethic is inspirational. She's been on the AMHA's Working Western Committee for years, is an AMHA Youth Person Of The Year, has won several World Championships on her Morgan reiners, and is an integral organizer of the Grand National Reining demonstrations.

When someone asks you to think of a person that does a lot for the working western disciplines within the Morgan horse breed, Travis Filipek immediately comes to mind. I don't know how she does it, but to watch her at a show is truly amazing. She never appears to tire from all the responsibilities

of being a show manager. She always remains helpful, positive and encouraging to those that are both showing and those who are helping with the show. She treats everyone as being important to the success of the show. Travis works hard to get as many people involved as she can. She comes up with innovative ways to grow the events and keep people enthused and interested. Travis is a great representative and asset to the Morgan horse industry.

George Arnold & Jane Pietenpol



Above: Margaret Gardiner and Larry Poulin with Kennebec Count and Kennebec Russel. Right: "Peggy" with her first Morgan, Carita, in 1936.

Margaret Gardiner HARNESSESSING A VISION

Margaret Gardiner's singular gift to the Morgan breed—outfitting and competing internationally with her homebred Morgan pair trained by Larry Poulin—has been historic. Like Batell and other Morgan founders, she not only had vision but she backed it up with persistence and personal resources. That the Morgan enjoys its place today in the world of combined driving is in no small part the result of her important effort.

Margaret was introduced to Morgans at the age of 12 when she purchased her first mare, Carita. In the years since then she's spent time fostering her Kennebec breeding program, adding an impressive list of mares to her herd.

Margaret Gardiner has spent a lifetime breeding Morgan horses that compete successfully in open competition both nationally and worldwide. Her careful and well researched breeding program has produced horses that are as well known for their soundness and good temperament as they are for their versatility and athletic ability.

She enhanced the Kennebec Morgan reputation and that of the Morgan horse when a pair of her Morgans, Kennebec Count and Kennebec Russell, took the international driving world by storm finishing first in dressage and 6th overall at the 1985 World Combined Driving Competition in England with Larry Poulin. They also won the National Pairs Championships three times. The quintessential versatile horse, Kennebec Morgans have won national acclaim for carriage driving, dressage, eventing, working western, endurance riding and open showing. She has possessed a vision not only of how Morgans should be bred, but also how they should be utilized.

Mary Small



In Loving Memory of "Benny" Kennebec Mark

April 12, 1977—June 29, 2009

Benny was the epitome of a Morgan horse: Beauty, Brains, Bold Spirit, a Kind Soul, a Big Heart and an Even Bigger Trot, all in a 14.3 hand bay! Benny was my best friend for 21 years and saw me through many of life's trials. He taught me patience and how to become a better horsewoman. I hold tight to my memories of our rides and drives together.

*Dearest Benny,
I long to hear your soft nickers. May
God keep you safe, now and always.
Love, Kim*



DOUBLE K FARM

Kimberly Kochis

*2032 Herbert Akins Road
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526*

Nancy Eidam CROWN JEWEL OF THE NORTHWEST

Hardworking, honest, generous. Nancy Eidam is a great promoter of the Morgan horse in the Pacific Northwest. She's constantly at the forefront of the youth scene in her area, organizing Youth Of The Year contests and introducing children to the Morgan breed.

For the past 20 years, I have been blessed with the opportunity to be mentored by a woman who should be *summa cum laude* in *The Morgan Horse Women's Honor Roll*. Nancy Eidam's first horses were Saddlebreds and Arabians, but she chose the Morgan as her life's work and the whole breed has benefited.

Breeding has always been Nancy's passion, and with her degree in architecture from the University of Oregon, she applied that attention to detail to create each of over 125 Morgans who carry her "Crown" prefix. Every day in her barn is a lesson in Morgan history, as well as type and conformation. I am continually astonished as to how she can look at a horse and tell you its pedigree based on how they look and, many times, by how they act! She tirelessly promotes the Morgan, volunteering immense amounts of time and talent to projects such as the Oregon Horse A-Fair, Northwest Horse Expo, and the Hermiston Horse A-Fair. She has touched countless lives through lessons, youth programs, being on the AMHA Board for almost a quarter century, judging, educating, and entertaining. She believes that the wonderful Morgan horse can be the best vehicle to create and develop a young person's character and talents. Nancy has received every honor AMHA can bestow, and being added to this Honor Roll is well-deserved. I am proud to be among those who benefit from her fount of knowledge and generosity of spirit. Thanks, Nancy!

Dallas McLarney Bolen



Above: Funquest Monarch, Nancy and Funquest Roadmaster.

Right: The inscription on Jane's tombstone captures her irreverent sense of humor. Below: Jane with one of her favorite dogs.



Jane Steffenhagen SHE DID IT HER WAY

Jane Steffenhagen was an animal person. She loved her Morgans and her German Shepherds and she really loved them if they had character, expression and not just a little spunk! Her sometimes stern MidWestern exterior belied the actress and story teller behind the facade. She was as colorful as the animals she bred, showed and loved, as you will see in this tribute from one of her best sparring buddies.

Jane Steffenhagen, of HyLee Farm, was one of the most competitive, hard-nosed business women with whom I have ever had the privilege to be associated. Whether show horses or German Shepherd dogs, she saw what she wanted, went after it with relentless zeal and took it to the top. The Schutzhund world was dominated by German men until Jane became involved. She established a kennel in Germany so she could compete on an even playing field. She fought her way to the top to become the first woman to win the world Sieger Trials. That, coupled with being from the USA, made her well-respected and, I expect, feared in Europe. She once called us and said she finally found the ideal dog. She had just come back from the emergency room where she had a number of stitches put in her arm from a bite from the 10-week-old puppy. In Jane's true character, she laughed it off. Her daughter Jackie Sweeney says, "Mom always loved the horse with attitude. Trainable, but with enough self-worth not to let someone change who they were." She lived & competed on the edge. Expected perfection and would settle for nothing less. No challenge was too rough. When she passed away last year we lost one of a kind.

Thomas Caisse



(Photos © J. Goss and Carl Farasy)

CHOSEN BY OUR READERS

Jeanne Mellin Herrick THE HORSE'S ARTIST

Whether it be via print, art or through her extensive knowledge of Morgan bloodlines, Jeanne is an educator. A well-respected author, she wrote the book on Morgans, literally, in *The Complete Morgan Horse*. She is beloved in our breed for the beauty she creates on the canvas, in the breeding shed, and with her pen.

The list of Jeanne Mellin Herrick's accomplishments is only equaled by that of her contributions. When it comes to caring about the Morgan horse, it would be hard to surpass her devotion. An exceptional horsewoman, writer, artist and breeder, Jeanne is an internationally recognized expert on the Morgan horse.

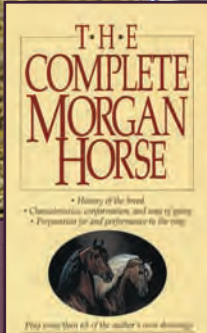
A little know fact—Jeanne was a member of Margaret Cabel Self's (another well know author) "Junior Cavalry of America" and spent her youth "jumping anything she could find" on her first horse Bonny. It was Bonny that led her to write an article for *The Morgan Horse* in 1953 and many more articles followed. Jeanne's first book on the breed, *The Morgan Horse* was published in 1961, followed by *The Morgan Horse Handbook* in 1973. Finally, *The Complete Morgan Horse*, which was derived from her two earlier books, was published in 1986 and is still sold by the AMHA. Most consider this an invaluable addition to a complete library on the Morgan horse.

With her husband Fred, Jeanne was behind the planning of the Emyrean, Applevale, Saddleback and Aquarian breeding programs and the subsequent Morgan blood that has found its way into the background of many of today's exceptional stock. Certainly her special stallion Elm Hill Charter Oak made his mark with 156 fine offspring to his credit, and it was Jeanne's belief in this stallion that brought him to our attention.

Equally important is Jeanne's generosity. Over the years whenever the request has been made to help with a contribution that will benefit a club or event, Jeanne has been there to willingly support with a donation. Certainly our New York State Morgan Horse Society has benefited more times than we can count, and she's shared her talents well beyond our region as her special logos and artwork can be recognized across the country.

And who hasn't been touched by her friendly nature? If you've ever run into Jeanne at a show, you'll find her most willing to say hello and if asked she'll provide whatever background she can to help you understand the blood in your pedigree.

Finally, how many of us are lucky enough to have one of her paintings or sketches on our wall? If you do, I bet that you, like me, smile each time you look at it, as Jeanne has a rare talent for bringing a Morgan to life with all of the expression and beauty that connects us to this breed. Part of this is our affection for the horse, but in equal part it is that it's a "Jeanne Mellin," and her love for the Morgan horse is in every stroke of the brush. ■



(Photo © Shane Shiflet)



Top: Fred and Jeanne Herrick were inducted into the New England Morgan Horse Association Hall of Fame in 2009. **Second from top, left to right:** Jeanne published *The Complete Morgan Horse* in 1986; Jeanne and Saddleback Supreme. **Third from top, left to right:** A sculpture of Elm Hill Charter Oak; Elm Hill Charter Oak and Jeanne. **Bottom:** "The Herd Sire" painting.