



CENTERLINE



CONNECTICUT DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2003

President

Nancy Blanchard
860-283-8748
President@ctdressageassoc.org

Vice President

Leslie Weiss
203-865-6156 ext. 1
VP@ctdressageassoc.org

Membership Secretary

Donna Leonessa
860-742-8110
Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

Recording Secretary

Fern Feldman
203-272-0711
Secretary@ctdressageassoc.org

Treasurer

Stephanie Rossi
860-621-7194
Treasurer@ctdressageassoc.org

Omnibus

John Gordon
Nancy Blanchard
Omnibus@ctdressageassoc.org

Centerline

John Gordon
203-573-0919
Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org

Awards

Marcie Gordon
203-573-0919
Awards@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Program Coordinator

Pam Bilodeau
860-585-8693
YPC@ctdressageassoc.org

Youth Representative

Desiree Bilodeau
860-585-8693
JrYR@ctdressageassoc.org

Board

Kari Bradshaw
860-542-5375
Kim Chimblo
860-585-8278
Debra Reinhardt
203-264-2148

CENTERLINE

Send address changes to
Donna Leonessa
3080 South Street
Coventry, Ct 06238
e-mail:
Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

Centerline is the official newsletter of the Connecticut Dressage Association and is published about 10 times annually. It is distributed to all members. CDA welcomes story ideas, informative articles and commentary. Please submit all contributions to: John Gordon, 24 Darren Court Waterbury, CT 06708

Email -
Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org
Subject: Centerline

- CDA Website -
http://ctdressageassoc.org

President's Message

The year continues to fly by and Christmas will be upon us soon. I can't believe that I am only a week away from my trip to the USDF convention in Dallas, TX. I am truly looking forward to it and have planned a much more civilized schedule of events for myself this year than I did last. I vividly recall last year's convention, when I totally ignored the warning of seasoned convention attendee Debra Reinhardt who had cautioned me to not try to participate in everything that was offered. I was so excited to have the opportunity to learn so much from so experienced and impressive of teachers that I ran myself ragged trying to attend every University session and meeting I could possibly squeeze in. Needless to say, by the time the convention ended, I was definitely on information overload and ready for a few days of relaxation time. Lucky for me, the fact that we traveled by train did allow me that opportunity to both relax and read up on all the notes I had taken, however, I did learn that more is not always better. This year's itinerary is based more on attending required meetings that will update me on the most useful information for our organization's particular needs, and of course I did throw in the Lisa Wilcox and Ernst Hoyos symposium. I'll be sure to update you all when I return.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Doreen Jensen and Tim Malin to our last board meeting. Both Doreen and Tim have agreed to become members of our Awards Committee and will work with Marcie Gordon on awards related issues. Thank you Doreen and Tim for taking on this responsibility.

Now onto the subject of our competitions for 2004. I would like to begin with a thank-you to the facilities who have agreed to the requirements needed to include their competitions as being eligible for our year-end awards. The planning is not yet final but we are hoping to double the number of schooling competitions whose scores will qualify you for CDA year-end awards. Once all details are finalized we will be including a complete listing in an upcoming issue of Centerline as well as in our 2004 Omnibus. We have been able to include facilities in areas of the state that we have not formerly offered competitions and to increase the numbers of competitions offered in other areas where we formerly included limited offerings. We will also begin to offer a High Point Award for the individual rider who earns the highest score of the day at each of our schooling competitions. CDA is working to make it easier for our members to qualify for year-end awards, make 2004 the year that you set your goal to be one of those who are honored at our annual party.

And speaking of party, don't forget to mark your calendars for the Annual CDA Party and Awards Celebration on January 31st, 2004. This will be your opportunity to congratulate our 2003 year end award winners, listen to a great speaker (Margaret Freeman), meet some great people, eat some great food, and have a great time.

Until next month,

Nancy.

Ed. Note: All current CDA members should have received the 2004 CDA membership renewal letters, which Donna Leonessa mailed in early November. Since CDA's membership year expires 12-31-2003, you are encouraged to mail in your renewal **now** so that you will continue to receive the monthly *Centerline* newsletter and our upcoming 2004 edition of OMNIBUS. If you have not received your letter, please contact Donna. Also, feel free to use the membership form included in this issue. Make a few copies of the membership form and pass them along to a few friends...CDA welcomes new members!

Calendar of Events

Dec 17

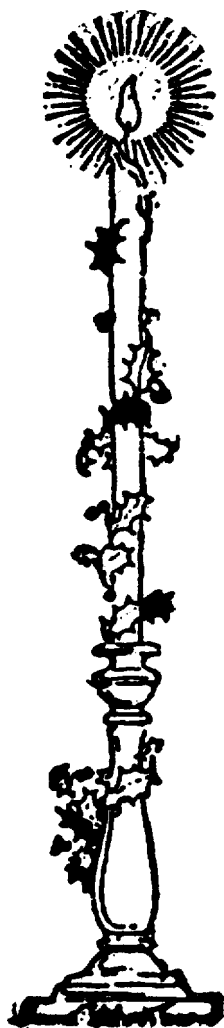
CDA Board Meeting - 6PM
Cheshire, CT
Call Fern Feldman for directions
203-272-0711

January 21, 2004

CDA Board Meeting - 6PM
Cheshire, CT
Call Fern Feldman for directions
203-272-0711

January 31, 2004

CDA Annual Party
See page 5 this issue.



“GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....” Featuring CDA member Donna Leonessa

Written by: Marcie Gordon

“Education is a key factor for me as an adult amateur rider. As the Adult Education Coordinator for CDA, I hope to bring educational events both riding and non-riding to the CDA membership at reasonable rates. I am the adult amateur’s advocate at all CDA board meetings.” This was Donna Leonessa’s reply to the question, “How can CDA better serve its members?”

“In 2003 CDA conducted several great educational clinics including a scribing clinic, show prep clinic and riding clinic. The clinic rates for participants and auditors were kept low and in some cases subsidized by CDA. I would encourage more members to take advantage of these events. If anyone has any ideas for future events or would like to help organize one, please contact me via email dleonessa@hotmail.com or at home by phone 860-742-8110.”

In addition to her involvement in CDA adult educational opportunities, Donna serves as CDA’s Membership Secretary. In this capacity, she has organized and compiled all the membership data necessary for CDA to function efficiently as a Region 8 GMO (group member organization) of the USDF. Donna has conducted several membership drives by sending renewal reminders to previous members. As a result of these efforts, there are now 186 active/current members of CDA and we continue to grow! Professionally, Donna is currently employed as Project Manager for a technology company that provides products to corporate and insurance legal industries.

Donna and her husband Kevin have resided in Coventry, CT for the last 5 years. They share their home with two adopted cats “Naboo”, a beautiful female kitty who plays fetch and “Twister”, a male kitty who loves to play hide and seek! One horse rounds out the Leonessa family as she explains, “Reizend, which means ‘charming’ in German, is a 5 year old, 17.2 hand Hanoverian. His nickname is Zen and yes he is still growing! Zen is a Gentle Giant although he is in his teenage years and can be somewhat rebellious in his work attitude.”

“Horses, fishing and skiing” are some of Donna and Kevin’s common interests. Donna credits Kevin “as the one who helps me through the dressage maze.” They are often found downhill skiing at Okemo, which is their favorite mountain. She recalls, “During our honeymoon, we skied in Taos, New Mexico which was a treat!” This active couple also enjoys fly and spin fishing on both fresh and salt water. On weekends, they often fish for trout in many of Connecticut’s streams.

Englewood, New Jersey is Donna’s hometown and where she began her riding experiences. “I’ve been riding since I was 7 at the local lesson barn. It was strictly get on your horse and go around in circles type of riding. I rode hunters/jumpers for many years off and on. I was a member of the local 4-H club in Englewood. Only one member had her own horse. There were 2 horses in the entire town of Englewood because this family’s zoning was grand fathered since the great-great-grandfather was part of the mounted police many, many years previous. I rode my bike 30 minutes to get to their place every weekend, to feed, clean stalls, groom and ride their 2 horses. Two other ‘horse-crazy’ girls joined me on the weekly trip. We rode bareback most of the time and had a grand time riding on the front lawn of the high school! I even raced one of the horses against a friend’s corvette. I almost won!”

CDA 2003 YEAR END AWARDS

Recognized Competitions

Training Level

Adult Amateur

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Amy Eisenstadt	Copacetic	69.994	1
Cynthia Giordano	Rubikan	68.988	2
Jennifer Kingsley	Hearts A Skippin	67.923	3
Heidi Nottelman	Sweet T Amber	63.583	4

Youth

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Amanda Wells	Aziano	64.532	1

Open

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Sean Cunningham	Ulysses	69.867	1
Laurie Davis Sigfridson	Isabel	65.968	2
Lisa Pierson	Amador TCV	65.410	3

First Level

Adult Amateur

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Peter Howe	Windsor Lad	66.221	1
Elizabeth Braverman	Redeemer	62.388	2
Holly Hansen	Pantera	62.157	3

Youth

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Kate Lussier	Starks Tegwich	63.547	1
Amanda Wells	Aziano	60.553	2

Open

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Jennifer Baumert	Rubikan	73.046	1
Ann Guptill	Oshin	70.017	2
Lisa Pierson	Amador TCV	64.445	3

Second Level

Adult Amateur

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Silene White	Prince of the Moon	63.229	1
Mary Beth Bain	Hartford	60.755	2
Patricia Goldblatt	Diangelo	59.098	3

Open

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Laurie Davis Sigfridson	Shine	63.094	1

Third Level

Adult Amateur

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Patricia Goldblatt	Diangelo	57.555	1

Youth

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Caroline Diczok	Dance Master	61.613	1
Alexandra Diczok	Bucephalas (Cassian)	61.587	2
Amanda Braverman	Casanova	57.267	3

Open

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Jennifer Baumert	Remy Martin	70.594	1
Ann Guptill	Magnum	65.892	2

Fourth Level

Adult Amateur

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Elizabeth Braverman	Merci Beaucoup	58.406	1

Youth

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Alexandra Diczok	Bucephalas (Cassian)	60.223	1

Open

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Laurie Davis Sigfridson	Sandrino	64.325	1

Prix St George

Adult Amateur

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Fern Feldman	Le Noir	60.800	1

Open

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Timothy Malin	Out of the Ordinary	63.160	1

FEI Intermediare I

Open

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Timothy Malin	Out of the Ordinary	62.683	1

Schooling Competitions

Introductory

Adult Amateur

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Marisa Evans	Worth the Wait	67.837	1

Training Level

Adult Amateur

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Donna Leonessa	Reizend	70.010	1
Jill B. Brakeman	Slick	67.073	2
Sandy Rabinowitz	Sequoia	66.073	3
Emily Anhalt	Whisper	60.708	4

Youth

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Megan Schlichtig	Nestor	69.027	1
Arianna Rossetti	Cinnamon Spice	64.087	2
Amanda Wells	Aziano	63.021	3

Open

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Amy Newton	Court Jester	69.797	1
Kari Bradshaw	Kamazon	60.267	2

First Level

Adult Amateur

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Beth Stadnicki	Sir Walburg	68.423	1

Lendon Gray Dressage Equitation Trophy - 2003

Adult Amateur

<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
Patricia Sheeran		74.533	Champ.

USDF Announces 2003 Hall of Fame Inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) will induct three equestrians into the USDF Hall of Fame and award two equestrians with the USDF Lifetime Achievement Award during the Salute Gala on December 4, 2003, at the USDF National Convention & Symposium in Dallas, TX. Hall of Fame inductees have made outstanding contributions to the development of dressage in the U.S. through their creativity, originality, vision, and sustained effort. Horses that have performed exceptionally in international competition may also be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Lifetime Achievement Award winners have shown a lifetime of dedication to USDF through volunteering; developing programs, projects, and committees that have contributed to the direction of USDF; and a long history of membership with USDF.

“The USDF Historical Committee is pleased that three people who embody three aspects of the history of dressage in the U.S. will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. The efforts of these inductees, along with the contributions of the other members of the USDF Hall of Fame, will be permanently recognized in the Hall of Fame at the USDF National Education Center at the Kentucky Horse Park,” said Historical Committee Chair Laura Gorretta.

The Hall of Fame inductees are:

Major Anders Lindgren, in recognition of his seminal training of U.S. dressage instructors. Over a ten-year period, almost 1,000 participating instructors learned from his systematic, structured approach to teaching dressage at the USDF Violet Hopkins National Seminars. Lindgren was an early proponent of the USDF Instructor Certification Program, and his work laid the foundation for this program.

Karl Mikolka, in recognition of his contributions to the development and promotion of classical dressage in the U.S. He trained many Lipizzan stallions to Grand Prix and in airs above the ground and introduced thousands of spectators to dressage at the Tempel Lipizzan Summer Performances. He taught many successful students throughout the U.S. and wrote several pioneering articles on dressage.

Margarita Serrell, in recognition of her leadership in raising the profile of dressage in the U.S. when it was in its infancy. She was the driving force behind creation of the American Dressage Institute (ADI) and served as its first president for six years. Under her guidance, ADI hosted shows, clinics, demonstrations, and seminars, and fielded the U.S. bronze medal team at the 1976 Olympic Games.

The following two equestrians will receive USDF Lifetime Achievement Awards:

Peter Lert, who served as USDF vice president from 1981 to 1982, Region 7 director from 1986 to 1995, chairman of the Historical and Animal Welfare Committees, and contributed to the education of dressage judges.

Marianne Ludwig, who developed the “L” Education Program for Judge Training, served as the program’s chair since its inception, and organized the first USDF European Judges Seminars for U.S. FEI and “S” judges.

“ Mr. Lert and Mrs. Ludwig have been staunch supporters of USDF and the sport of dressage in the U.S. for many years. They have each selflessly devoted their time, talent, and wisdom to local, regional, and national dressage programs, projects, and issues,” said Gorretta.

Additional information regarding the USDF Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Awards can be obtained by contacting Sarah Quick at (859) 271-7876 or squick@usdf.org.

Next year’s nominations for USDF Lifetime Achievement Award winners and inductees into the Hall of Fame are due to Sarah Quick in the USDF office by March 31, 2004.

DEADLINE FOR 2004 OMNIBUS ADVERTISING

A reminder that time is running out for the “Early Bird” special rates for advertising in the CDA 2004 OMNIBUS. The reduced rate ad deadline is Dec. 25, 2003 and the regular rate ad deadline is Jan. 15, 2004. Consider taking out a “personal” ad, a business ad, or asking a merchant you do business with to take out an ad to help support CDA and defray the cost of printing OMNIBUS. Every ad is important!

The rates and ad details are outlined in the “pink” OMNIBUS letter included in your November issue of *Centerline*. You can also print a copy of the ad form by visiting the CDA website at www.ctdressageassoc.org. You may call John Gordon with any questions (203-573-0919 or email at omnibus@ctdressageassoc.org)

2003 Annual CDA Party and Awards Celebration

This is a busy time of year.....take a moment now to mark your 2004 calendar and RSVP. Below you will find the updated information about our **Annual CDA Party and 2003 Awards Celebration on Jan. 31st**.

Who: ~ All current CDA members (you may bring your spouse or a guest)

What: ~ Catered buffet dinner courtesy of CDA

- ~ B.Y.O.B. please ~ setups and soda provided
- ~ Please bring a dessert if your last name begins with A thru L. (next year...M-Z!)

~ ***Guest speaker: Margaret Freeman:***

Margaret is a CDA member, an "S" dressage judge, and a free-lance editor and journalist. She is scheduled to cover the 2004 Olympics in Athens for the Associated Press. Margaret's topic will be:

"How To Talk Dressage to Sports Editors Who Can't Tell a Half-Pass From A Forward Pass"

- ~ Silent auction: All proceeds will help reduce member costs for future CDA clinics.
- ~ Door prizes ~ Meet new friends ~ See old friends ~ Have a great time!
- ~ The Second Governor's Horse Guard will be collecting donations of used horse and rider equipment. More on this worthy fundraiser will be in the January issue of *Centerline*.

When: Saturday evening, January 31, 2004 beginning at 6pm

Where: Cheshire, CT- home of Fern and Barry Feldman (see directions below)

Why: To celebrate **YOU**, the members of CDA and to honor our 2003 Year-end Award Winners.

RSVP: If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Marcie Gordon **before Jan. 20, 2004.**

Phone: 203-573-0919 (feel free to leave a message)

Email: Awards@ctdressageassoc.org (type "Party" on the subject line)

Directions:

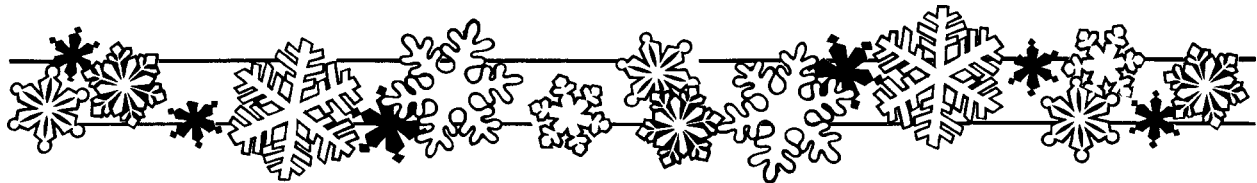
From I-84: take exit 26. At end of ramp, go right, towards Cheshire, on Routes 68/70. Follow 70 (68 goes to the right), then make a right onto Mountain Road, right after a gas station. Go straight on Mountain Road; stop sign; go straight for 6/10's of a mile more. White ranch; circular drive; 890 Mountain Road, 203-272-0711.

From New Haven: take 91 North to exit 10. Follow the "connector", route 40, to the end. Make a right onto Route 10, go about 8 minutes. Make a left onto Higgins Road, go to the very end, stop sign. Make a left onto Mountain Road, go 6/10's of a mile. White ranch; circular drive; 890 Mountain Road, 203-272-0711.

“I started riding dressage when I was 27-28 years old. I have been fortunate to have some wonderful ‘teachers’ throughout my dressage training. ‘Gamine’, an Arabian mare who first gave me the dressage bug, taught me how to put a horse together. ‘Toes’ who let me experience a warmblood’s movement and natural gift for dressage. ‘Max’, who glided across the arena in a powerful extended trot when I asked for a simple lengthening? ‘Inky’ taught me all the talent in the world cannot make them like their work as easy as you might make it. ‘DD’ who showed me if I improve as a rider the horse will improve in their dressage. ‘Smooch’, who showed me how to be flexible and giving in my riding to allow him to move freely through the movements. ‘Donny’ who allowed me to experience the difference between the medium walk, collected walk and extended walk. And now ‘Zen’ who has given me the confidence and drive to do anything and everything in dressage.” Donna’s future riding goals with Zen are to reach 4th level and beyond.

Donna recalls, “This year our focus was developing confidence in the show ring and controlling my show nerves. Zen was a natural and turned on the charm each time we entered the ring. We attended several CDA schooling shows, which were great training events with low stress atmospheres. The judges were always encouraging when providing their feedback. The CDA Spring Show was our first recognized show. Although the weather did not cooperate, it was great being able to take Zen to an overnight event. He was extremely well behaved and enjoyed working in the large polo fields.”

Active, enthusiastic and dedicated are some of the adjectives that describe CDA member Donna Leonessa. The membership of CDA is the benefactor of her organizational skills and commitment to adult amateur education. Donna’s fond recollections of her “school masters along the way” in her dressage training show that she has learned from their teachings and is now applying what she has learned with Zen.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By now each of you should have received your 2004 renewal membership application. Please return the membership application before 12/31/03 in order to continue your membership without interruption. Members who do not renew their membership by 1/31/03 will be marked inactive. Remember, your CDA membership entitles you to some great benefits including:

1. The Centerline Newsletter
2. 2004 CDA Omnibus
3. USDF Group Member status
4. Access to schooling shows throughout the State of Connecticut
5. Year End Awards for schooling and recognized show scores
6. Access to both riding and non riding educational events
7. A Recognized show and more

The CDA Board and supporting committees are making every effort to meet the member’s needs. We have added several new schooling shows throughout the state and are providing more educational events. If you have an idea for an event, please contact me as I can you help you organize the event or carry on your idea.

See you all at the Annual Party,
Donna Leonessa
CDA Membership Secretary and Adult Education Coordinator

CLOVERLEA DRESSAGE

As most of our horses move to Florida for the winter....

Stalls are available for:

- Basic training (1 lesson/week) in Columbia with Beth Baumert
- Full training at White Fences near West Palm Beach, FL with Jennifer Baumert.

Call Jennifer at 860-228-1393 or Beth at 860-228-9142

Gray 1989 Valley Two Horse Trainer For Sale

Good condition, new floor boards. Working electric, full length interior divider, rubber mats and reinforced walls, full padded chest bars, safety latch butt bars, good tires, brake away safe brake, interior light, full sized spare tire, stabilizer bars, anti-sway bar and hitch included. Asking \$2,500.

Call (860) 868-7402

All articles are to be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be mailed to me at:

John Gordon
Attn. CENTERLINE
24 Darren Court
Waterbury, CT 06708-3903

or
They can be Emailed to me at
Centerline@ctdressageassoc.org

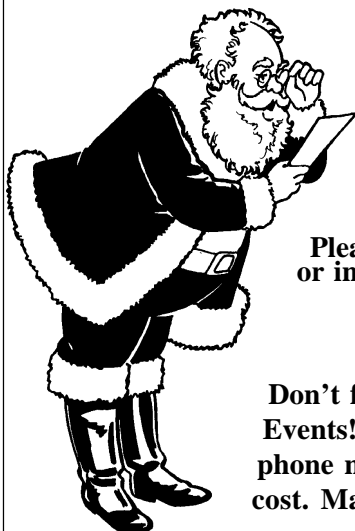
In the Subject line: Centerline

Please send them as an Attachment in either Word for Windows, WordPerfect, RTF or in a plain text file Format if possible.

Attention Show and Clinic Organizers, Trainers, Stables and Organizations:

Don't forget to send us information about your activities for the 2003 CDA Calendar of Events!!! Send a one-line description, dates, locations, and contact person's name and phone number. We'll be delighted to include it in Centerline's regular calendar at no cost. Make Checks payable to CDA.

Thanks,
John



Thanks for helping!

Please call Marcie Gordon before January 15th if you have an item to donate or if you have any questions at 203-573-0919 or email marcietyg@sbcglobal.net

The "Silent Auction" table for our Annual Party could use a few additional items. Horse items, non-horse items and "services" (i.e. a riding lesson) are some ideas consider. Please take a moment and look around your home....hopefully you'll find something you might wish to donate! Remember all proceeds from the Silent Auction will help reduce member costs for future CDA clinics in 2004. You will also be sent a letter acknowledging your donation for tax purposes.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Centerline

Send Address changes to:

Donna Leonessa

3080 South Street

Coventry, CT. 06238

860-742-8110

e-mail: Membership@ctdressageassoc.org

CDA Newsletter for DECEMBER, 2003