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**HORSE PROTECTION**  
*Turning Tragedy into Triumph!*

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Winter 2021 Newsletter

501(c)3 Charitable Organization

## Some of the Best Teachers Have Whiskers, Whinny & Walk on Four Legs

**W**ould you like to improve your leadership skills? Would you like to learn how to better communicate with all different personality types? Would you welcome the opportunity to learn these important lessons from a horse?

If so, you are in good company! Horse Protection proudly offered its first **Lead From Within Workshop**, an equine facilitated learning workshop focusing on leadership. Horse Protection had the opportunity to present the workshop to the Gainesville Police Academy this month and it was a resounding success! In fact, the Gainesville Police Department was so impressed with the learning experience that they have scheduled two more **Lead From Within Workshops** with Horse Protection for their officers. The attendees were taught by some of the best teachers they have ever experienced, the HORSES!

The workshop is a three-hour long exploration of personality types and the correlation between people's personality types and horse's horsenality types. The attendees learn to better understand themselves, better understand others, and better understand what others need for more effective communication. During the workshop attendees have the opportunity to tour the facility and meet the courageous horses who have gone from tragedy to triumph.



We welcome small businesses, corporations, educators and the general public to schedule your own **Lead From Within Workshop**. **RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!** It will be one of the most memorable learning experiences you have ever had! (To reserve your **Lead From Within Workshop** simply gather 7-10 individuals and contact Executive Director, Christine Massinger at [christine@hpaf.org](mailto:christine@hpaf.org))



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## A Special Thank You to those who made outstanding contributions since the last newsletter.

**Richard Schechter, Kauffman Family Charitable Foundation,  
William Albert Fabry & Dorthey Eleanor Fabry,  
Shoo-Fly Managing, Inc., Morgan Silver,  
Lo Doughty, Cynthia Marchese,  
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Leslie King, Dolores Ouimet, Julie Byers,  
Margaret Bushell, Frank Hennessey, Linda Byrd**

Founder Morgan Silver began The Horse Protection Association of Florida when she became aware of horse abuse in Miami Dade County in 1987. Not one to stand on the sidelines, Morgan reported starving horses to the “proper” authorities. At the time police departments and animal agencies replied that the horses “were fine” and there “was no problem”. As a horse professional, Morgan knew differently. She knew that these horses were indeed in serious condition.



Morgan Silver with Shikari

Morgan felt strongly that a proactive horse welfare agency was needed in Florida. In April of 1990 Horse Protection Association of Florida was incorporated. Thirty-one years later, hundreds of horses have been saved from neglect and abuse thanks to Morgan Silver’s tireless efforts.

Our community and most especially our horses are appreciative of the many years of Morgan’s sacrifice and service. We invite our community to join the Officers and Director of Horse Protection Association in wishing Morgan well. May the next chapter in your life, Morgan, offer you much happiness and peace.

To honor Morgan’s 31 years of service we have set up a **Morgan Silver Legacy Fund**. Honor the legacy of this special human being who has saved so many lives. Your contributions will continue Morgan’s legacy and help care for the horses she so loves.

## ***We Need a Gift of Land! Please Spread the Word!***

This is not intended to be a pretty picture. This photo reflects the reality of how badly Horse Protection needs a gift of land! Each year for six months from April to October, we struggle with providing the horses with a safe area to graze where their hooves are not affected by the wet weather. The land we are on has a certain soil called gumbo soil which does not allow the rain to drain.

The consequence is that many of our horses are in pain from abscesses on their feet. The abscesses occur because the horses are standing on wet ground. This year alone, eleven of our beloved horses suffered from abscesses. Brando, one of our horses, had abscesses in three of his feet! This is a serious situation as horses are meant to bear weight evenly on all four feet. Otherwise, they can founder by putting too much weight

on the other leg(s). Founder can be deadly for a horse.

Our Farm Manager, Lisa Mandley, who cares for the horses reflects, “Because of the wet soil, during the day the horses were forced to spend their time on a small dirt area, one of the only few dry spots on the entire acreage. The horses were unable to graze and move freely around.”

Horse Protection is looking for 100 or more acres in Marion County near the Ocala area. The 100 or more acres would need to have facilities (barns, etc.) for the horses. Please consider us for this donation and spread the word! The horses thank you!

To discuss a charitable donation of land please contact Executive Director, Christine Massinger at [christine@hpaf.org](mailto:christine@hpaf.org) or (352) 207-3079.



## *Christine Sereni-Massinger, Executive Director*



Christine Sereni-Massinger has been a university professor in higher education for over 25 years. Prior to her teaching career, Christine was a state prosecutor. She was elected Pennsylvania's youngest female judge at the age of 27 and served in that capacity for ten years. It was during her time on the bench that she presided over hundreds of misdemeanor and felony cases including cases involving animal cruelty and neglect. Christine is a published author of numerous peer-reviewed scholarly articles. She has presented at both the national and

international level on topics such as: learning styles, critical thinking, and effective development of educational curriculum. She has won numerous awards for her teaching including the Distinguished Faculty Award and the Outstanding Faculty Award.

Christine and her husband, Doug, live on their horse farm in Ocala Florida. They are the proud "parents" of sixteen animals including nine horses, 3 dogs and 4 cats. Christine has been a licensed Parelli Professional for over ten years and is considered an expert in equine safety practices.

## *Captain Robert Fanelli*

Captain Robert Fanelli will be Chairing our **Lead From Within Workshop**, a program dedicated to offering equine assisted learning focused on teaching and developing leadership skills. Captain Fanelli will be instrumental in offering this program to law enforcement officers in our community. **THE HORSES WILL BE THE TEACHERS IN THIS PROGRAM!!** Follow us on our Facebook page to learn more about this exciting program and how it can benefit you, your corporations and your agencies.

Captain Fanelli is currently an operations commander at the Gainesville Police Department. Prior to his promotion to Captain he was the Criminal Investigations Division Commander. He has 18 years of law enforcement experience with a diverse career. He has experience in policy writing and compliance, investigations, street crime units, and administration. His goal is to improve the profession of Law Enforcement by challenging thoughts and

misconceptions, sharing ideas, encouraging communication across agencies and disciplines, and passing knowledge on to a new generation of law enforcement officers.

Captain Fanelli has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Florida in Criminology. He went on to receive a Master's in Business Administration from Saint Leo University and completed his dissertation on Effective Police Organizational Structure: Managerial Economics of a Police Department. As a result of his participation in several IACP projects on enhancing response to gender-based violence he now provides technical assistance and is a consultant for the IACP. He is currently enrolled as a fellow in the Bloomberg School of Public at Johns Hopkins pursuing a Master's In Public Health with a focus on violence in communities.



## *Dr. Henri Benlolo*



Dr. Henri Benlolo ( shown here with his Horse Protection friends Peggy and Frankie). Dr. Benlolo will be instrumental in offering to the community our exciting new, **Lead From Within Program**, an equine facilitated learning program focused on building self awareness and leadership skills. **THE HORSES WILL BE THE TEACHERS** in this program! Message us to learn more about how this program can assist you, your businesses and your agencies and to reserve your spot for this exciting educational retreat experience!

Dr. Benlolo is currently the Dean of

Student Services at the College of Central Florida. His responsibilities include administrative oversight of testing and assessment as well as counseling services. A trained psychologist, Dr. Benlolo teaches graduate courses both in business and psychology and holds a PhD in industrial and organizational psychology.

He is the recipient of many awards including the prestigious Presidential Award in recognition of his outstanding program contribution to the private sector. He is a member of the National Board of Clinical Therapists.

## Dr. Marilyn Sokolof, PhD

Dr. Marilyn Sokolof, PhD is a Licensed Psychologist and Certified Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. Dr. Sokolof will be instrumental in developing the curriculum for our new **Lead From Within Workshop**, an equine facilitated learning program focused on leadership skills where the HORSES WILL BE THE TEACHERS! This program will be offered to law enforcement agencies, private employers, corporations and educators in our community. Message us to schedule your leadership seminar today!

Dr. Sokolof is Clinical Director of HorseMPower, Inc., an Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) program and

Director of Unbridled Therapy, an educational venue for those interested in learning about the field. Dr. Sokolof developed and ran the EFP program at Mending Fences in Ocala, Florida, a residential treatment center. She is past president of the Equine Facilitated Mental Health Association, a PATH int'l section and has been co-faculty for the PATH ESMHL workshop and certification. Currently she is a member of the Executive Committee of the global organization Horses in Education and Therapy and serves as Treasurer. She has authored articles and book chapters and presented at national and international professional psychology and equine conferences.



## Kat Chrysostom



Our newest Board Member and the horses in our care share something REMARKABLE in common! They each have shown tremendous courage by turning TRAGEDY into TRIUMPH! Please meet our newest Board Member, Kat Chrysostom (shown left with her horse Para and shown right with Horse Protection Association of Florida's horse Frankie who is enjoying wearing the therapeutic Benefab Rejuvenate Smart-scrim blanket).

In 2011, at age 19, Kat Chrysostom was riding her horse back to the barn when he suddenly stumbled and fell. After Kat regained consciousness, she discovered that her horse was dying, and she was paralyzed.

Having grown up on a farm, in a family full of medical professionals, Kat was always passionate about animal wellness. But she had no idea that it would take a tragic accident to turn her passion into a

successful business. @benefab

After a long and difficult struggle, Kat found a holistic therapy that helped her regain her mobility. Soon after recovery, Kat began exploring the possibilities of using the same life-changing therapy to reduce pain and suffering on the creatures she loved most. And so Benefab®, a company specializing in wearable therapeutic pet products, was born.

Since then, Benefab® has partnered with the ASPCA, a non-profit organization whose mission is to save the lives of animals, as well as other non-profits to give back.

In addition to running Benefab®, Kat loves to help people channel their passion into profit. Her new book, *Broken to Branded*, is full of true business stories and real-world strategies designed to help entrepreneurs build a successful business without losing sight of their purpose.

Thank you to the horses' guardian angel

**Don Manuchia**

for once again sponsoring the newsletter.

This beautiful newsletter is possible because of the generosity of Don.

We and the horses can never thank Don enough!

# Thank You

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Thank you to **Charlotte Braziel** who donates her services for Horse Protection's background checks so that all of us, including the horses and donkeys can be safe and secure on our premises. Charlotte is a retired FBI agent and friend to Horse Protection.

A huge thank you to **Dr. Garcia** who generously donates her time to help the horses. The horses love her and so do we! For more about Dr. Garcia and her healing services please visit [www.southernperformancevet.com](http://www.southernperformancevet.com)



Charlotte's beloved "girls"  
Mattie, Nicie, Jane



Volunteer Kylin with  
Sparky & Samson



Dr. Garcia

## Horses Love Their Sponsors

**Helen Wuest** sponsors *Lola*

**Michael Nuzzo** of Miami sponsors *Polo and Legacy*

**Rosemary Taylor** of Brandon sponsors *Monet & Tommy*

**Beverley West** of Miami sponsors *Hermoso*

**Elly Mims** of Miami sponsors *Fancy*

**Karen Fischer** of Arizona sponsors *Roxy*

**Pat Kilby** of Gainesville sponsors *Cupido*

**Carol Baileys** of The Villages sponsors *Rhett*

**Diane Haddick** of Chelerly, MD sponsors *Buttercup*

**Sophie Baines** of Micanopy sponsors *Buzzy*

**Jane Aldrich** of Gainesville sponsors *Music*

**Karen Pando** of Altoona sponsors *Madame*

**Cristina Serralta** of Miama sponsors **Peggy**

**Cristina Serralta** and her business, **Amazon Printers in Miami** have been supporters of Horse Protection Association of Florida for 31 years. For Horse Protection's first eleven years in Miami and into the early 2000's, Cristina and Amazon Printers donated countless printing services to the organization.

Peggy is a six-year-old Thoroughbred mare. Peggy was supposed to be a racehorse but after the trainer determined she wasn't going to have the right stuff to race, she was given away to a farm hand who abused her, breaking her hip. This owner planned to shoot Peggy, but a friend intervened and took Peggy to his property and called Marion County Animal Services because he could not afford to keep a horse. Animal services referred them to Horse Protection, Peggy came to the Horse Protection farm in April 2018.



Cristina Serralta Sponsors Peggy



Helen Wuest sponsors Lola



Pat Kilby Sponsors Cupido

## In Memory Of

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**Carol Harris** from Barb Feehmeyer, Dianne Taylor,  
Carla Denson, Marne Fauber, Erin Fauber,  
The Swinderman Family

**Nancy Sepe** from Gail Pridden

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Dianne Haddick

**Nancy Sepe** from Gail Pridden

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**Jessica N. Modder** from Jeane DeFelice

**John Cardinale** from Lynn Perry-Liguori

**Astaciana de Alrena** from Ms. Lindsay Campbell,  
Ms. Margaret C. Cornell

**Norma Chicklo** from Karla Georges

**Alyssa "LULU" Cantu** from Earl Armstrong

**Cheena** from Lou Meuche

**Hillcrests Tishamba** from Madge Gunia



Titan: In the Arms of the Angels

## In Honor Of

**Helene Summers** from Karen Hotaling

**Mary Ellen Ferryman** from Cecilia Friedle

**Robert Silver** from Dianne Haddick

**Morgan Silver** from Mary Ann Merriman

**Mia Byers** from Julie Byers

## Corporate Sponsors

We are so appreciative to **Chuck Hudson**, owner of **Shoo-fly Corporation**, for Shoo-fly's generous donation which will allow us to improve our barn facility! Mr. Hudson is shown here sharing a tender moment with his beloved horse, Melody. Shoo-fly Corporation's contribution will allow us to expand our current barn facility so that we can welcome more members of our community to our new Lead From Within Program, an equine facilitated learning program that will assist law enforcement agencies, educators, and other members of our community. Thank you Shoo-fly Corporation for helping our community and our horses! For more about Shoo-fly's great products please visit [www.shoo-fly.com](http://www.shoo-fly.com)



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## Richard Schechter



Horse Protection Association of Florida benefactor and Honorary Board member Richard Schechter is Chairman, CEO and Managing Principal of the Bainbridge Companies LLC, a major national multi-family housing developer, owner and manager.

Mr. Schechter developed his first mixed-use office and retail project in 1976 and his first mid-rise apartment project in 1978. He has been involved in the supervision, acquisition, development and management of approximately \$4.0 billion in multi-family rental housing, including over 25,000 multifamily units. Prior to forming Bainbridge Companies, he formerly served as Chief Operating Officer of R.M.S Partners, a developer, owner and manager of office and retail buildings and apart-

ment rental communities in Florida and Washington D.C., and as President of Bainbridge Financial Corporation, an investment, asset and property management advisory group based in Washington D.C.

Mr. Schechter has been an active supporter of a number of charity and community organizations. He has been active since childhood in the support of animal welfare organizations and causes. He also has actively supported medical and veterinary colleges and research. Mr. Schechter is an avid equestrian. The Bainbridge Companies is the Wellington Winter Equestrian Festival's longest continuous sponsor, supporting the horse show as it has grown and progressed. In addition to supporting the Winter Equestrian Festival and many other equestrian venues, he has a very active Bainbridge Farms show program which includes hunters and jumpers. Mr. Schechter also owns reiners and cutters as well. He is a member of the New York State Bar, DC Bar and Florida Bar and holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Clarkson University and a Juris Doctorate from the Syracuse University College of Law.

Our deepest appreciation to Mr. Schechter for his outstanding support for the rescued horses over the past 24 years.

## Help Us Go GREEN! Save on Printing Costs & Trees

Send your email address to [hpafassistant@hpaf.org](mailto:hpafassistant@hpaf.org)

Horse Protection has never, and will never share or sell your personal information.

Your privacy is very important to us.

## Wish List: WE NEED

**4-passenger UTV. To take the attendees of our workshops to meet the horses during our tours.**

**Heavy Duty Pickup Truck 2500 horsepower or more. We need to pull gooseneck trailer to pick up abused and neglected horses.**





***Your love and compassion for all God's creatures and most especially the beautiful horses and donkeys at Horse Protection makes you the caring and special person that you are! Thank you for being a part of our Mission to help rescue, rehabilitate, rehome, and rejuvenate these beautiful horses. Help us continue to turn tragedy into triumph!  
Join the compassionate people who have included Horse Protection in their estate planning through our Legacy Society.  
By doing so, you will make countless miracles happen for years to come!***

***We remember these friends and feel the love they shared with the horses.***

**Carol Kiefer, Mary McDonald,  
Nancy Holmes, Ora Evola,  
Samual Furshpan, Patricia Smith,  
Edgar Johnson, Sarah Luddle,  
Majorie Brickell, Ann Keyser,  
Juan Rodriguez, Izola Kruger,  
Lucille Wilkinson, Theresa Rozano,  
June Nielson, Marilyn Hart  
William Albert Fabry & Dorthey Eleanor Fabry**

***Thank you to Legacy Society members who have remembered Horse Protection and the horses in their estate planning.***

**Barbara Henderson  
Elizabeth Mittauer  
Lou R Meuche  
Maggie Kotuk  
Jan Barbour  
Sharon Champion  
Doris and Bill Smith  
Elly Mims  
Marty Price**

## New Arrivals

An elderly lady called and could no longer care for them. Neither of them had ever been haltered or handled at all in their lives: never even had their feet trimmed.

Ladybug is an 11 year old Tennessee Walker. It took five hours to load her into the trailer. She didn't understand what was being asked of her. She had to learn how to be contained in a pen, very scary for her. Then Lady Bug had her first halter placed on her. She learned to give to the pressure she felt on her head even though her instincts were telling her to run. Finally after five exhausting hours in the heat, Ladybug stepped into the trailer.

Wiley was easy, he jumped right in. He is an intact male and will be castrated. He is harder than Ladybug and is less bothered by new things.

Ladybug is a lively girl. She runs every which way to keep track of her new friends Abbey and Fancy. She is learning to follow people into a stall to get her meals. Ladybug will be a long-term project to train. Horses who were not handled or trained as youngsters never learned how to learn. It is more difficult for them to develop an attention span, but through time and patience they can.

This is similar to the way that a person who did not have any schooling and grew up never having to do anything but eat and sleep and hang out may find it more challenging to go back to school. At age 33 (horses years correlate to approximately 3 years in a person), the person is then moved into a new place with lots of activity; vehicles, noises, and is asked to do things they have never done before. Go into small spaces, be contained in a small area, have a needle stuck in their arm! You can imagine how scary that must be for Ladybug. Stay tuned for updates on Ladybug and Wiley.

The experience of these two beautiful souls is a reminder to all of us to spend time with our beloved equines, care for them, train them so that we can give them the best opportunity at life possible.





Horse Protection's Cracker was adopted this month at Pal O Mine!



Cracker is proof that all Horse Protection Horses are SUPER!



Abbey



Amigo



Bonnie



Zania



Hermoso



Ruby



Velvet



Tommy



Sunshine

## Hi. My name is Vogue



I am six years old. I am looking for a caring person to sponsor me. My sponsor would help pay for my grain and hay. I love them both! They are yummy! My sponsor would help me get my feet done so that I can be healthy and sound. My sponsor could even help me go to school one day so that I can be trained on the ground and maybe even trained under saddle! I would look very pretty in a saddle! I really want to be adopted one day by a loving human! Will YOU please be my sponsor?  
*Love, Vogue*

(If you are interested in sponsoring Vogue, please contact Christine Massinger at [christine@hpaf.org](mailto:christine@hpaf.org). Annual sponsorships are \$250 a month to help pay for the hay, feed, and care of each horse. All of us and most especially Vogue thank you so much for caring!)

## Hi. My name is Sunday

I am six years old. I am a very good girl, and I am smart. I have a lot of friends here at Horse Protection, but I wondered if you would be my special friend? I am looking for a special friend to sponsor me. I really, really, really, like eating my grain and I love eating my horse cookies. Hay is delicious too. I wondered if you would be my sponsor friend to help pay for my feed and hoof care? This way I could get my feet done and even go to school to be trained one day. Will YOU please be my sponsor friend?

*Love, Sunday*

(If you are interested in sponsoring Sunday, please contact Christine Massinger at [christine@hpaf.org](mailto:christine@hpaf.org). Annual sponsorships are \$250 a month to help pay for the hay, feed, and care of each horse. All of us and most especially Sunday thank you so much for caring!)



**Sponsoring a horse at Horse Protection Association of Florida is a worthwhile and rewarding experience. Sponsorship is available for you to be able to provide for a specific horse of your choice. As a sponsor, your financial support ensures the necessary care is given to these horses.**

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## Horse Protection Association of Florida Membership Form

- \$40 Annual Membership
- \$65 Family Annual Membership
- \$100
- \$350
- \$500
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form and mail it in with your tax-deductible donation. Or go to [HPAF.ORG](http://HPAF.ORG)  
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**Credit Card donations please go to [hpaf.org](http://hpaf.org) and click on [Blue Donate Now Button](#) on Top Right Corner**

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