



NOVEMBER

EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 10TH—
FALL DANCE 6PM-
10:30PM
NOVEMBER 17TH—
VOLUNTEER MEETING
7PM-8PM
NOVEMBER 19TH—
LADIES DAY 11:30AM
NOVEMBER 20TH—
JUST CREATIONS
FUNDRAISER— 6PM-
8PM
NOVEMBER 21ST—
PAT DAY GLASS SIGN-
ING AT CHURCHILL
DOWNS GIFT SHOP
11:30AM-2PM
NOVEMBER 24TH—
END OF YEAR RECOG-
NITION PARTY 5PM-
7PM
NOVEMBER 28TH—
FALL RACE MEET
ENDS

UPCOMING

EVENTS:

DECEMBER 4TH—
OUTRIDER'S SOCIETY
AND LEARNING CEN-
TER HOLIDAY PARTY
10AM-12PM
DECEMBER 7TH—
MELISSA'S LAST DAY

NOVEMBER CENTER HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY
CHURCHILL
11:30AM-8PM
SUNDAY
BOWLING AT TEN PIN
LANES
6PM-8:30PM

Backside News

NOVEMBER 2009

Chasing Churchill: Adapting to the Horse Industry

Written by: Helen Jubran

The horse industry is undoubtedly a dynamic one. Because the Learning Center exists to serve the needs of its students, it gladly adapts to the ebb and the flow of the industry's yearly racing schedule. As students, staff, and volunteers know, the Learning Center is open at Churchill Downs from mid-March to the end of the November. It conforms to the schedule of Churchill Downs, which operates from late April to early July, with another racing period scheduled in November. Many workers stay at Churchill between July and November because trainers keep horses in the barns. Students continue to visit and attend classes at the Center during those months. From early December to mid-March, the Learning Center moves to Trackside Louisville, a year-round training facility, where horsemen can continue to attend classes and seek community.

The Learning Center also adapts to the track's schedule by way of its hours. During warmer seasons, training hours are from 6:00 am to 10:00 am. To make it easier for backside workers to participate in classes and other activities, the Center opens its doors at 11:30 am and remains open until 8:00 pm. In the ice and cold of the winter months, the horsemen work later hours and

the Center shifts its schedule to accommodate later evening hours.

The Learning Center experiences seasonal changes and a new post-Derby season



Kevin Oberhausen, Assistant Director of the Learning Center, putting up flyers about programs and events

offers its advantages. "Students begin the year eagerly and with enthusiasm," says Director of the Learning Center, Jennifer Hoert. However, the summer brings racing at different tracks. Trainers ship horses out, workers have to leave, and the months of August and September at the Learning Center see fewer students. In September and October, attendance rises again in anticipation of the fall meet. The Center encounters other challenges posed by the track's schedule throughout the year. Night racing, hosted in the heat of July 2009, can seriously drain students' energy levels. Having the energy to come to the Center and participate in classes can be difficult after a late night and hard day's work.

However, the Learning Center speaks the language of

flexibility fluently. The Center does its best to adjust to the track's seasons. Some workers come to the backside without any knowledge of the Learning Center. Jennifer describes the need to continually spread the word as "a constant advertising campaign." Although it can be difficult to make new horsemen aware of the Learning Center's offerings, the Center has been blessed this year with additional people who are up for the challenge of disseminating information and recruiting students.

New years bring new needs and the team members at the Learning Center are always willing to conform. This year, the Center changed the structure of its Groom Elite classes. Groom Elite 101, a 30-hour vocational class for horsemen, is typically offered each spring due to the longer meet. Groom Elite 201, a 15-hour course, normally finds itself in the fall, which hosts a shorter meet. However, due to a smaller audience this year, the Learning Center refrained from offering Groom Elite 201, with plans to reinstitute the class next fall. Though certain years can bring new and unexpected challenges, one thing is for sure: there is constancy in the irregularity. With experience and a clear mission to serve its students, the Learning Center adapts with agility.

Student & Volunteer Recognition



Volunteer of the Month

Alayne Wright is a longtime Learning Center volunteer whose commitment to our mission of “building community on the backside” has been widely felt. With each volunteer hour she logs her connection and impact she has with our students continues to grow. Alayne helps with many services at the Learning Center, but earned Volunteer of the Month for her specific contributions in Bi-Lingual Hour, Soccer Sunday, tutoring and recycling. Alayne is also a student in our Wednesday Spanish Class, so... ¡Muchas gracias Alayne!

Golden Pencil Awards

These are given to students to recognize remarkable dedication or contribution to their classes or to the Learning Center community. Students are nominated for a Golden Pencil by their teachers, tutors, volunteers, or a team member.

Henry Perez- for persistence and attendance

Florencio Lopez- attendance

Eladio Gonzalez- participation and asking good questions

Student of the Month

Special thanks to the Outrider's Society (the Kentucky Derby Museum's volunteer organization) for donating gift cards to give to each Student of the Month this year.



English Student of the Month

Exadibal Orantes-Marroquín is our September Student of the Month for English. Exadibal's attendance in September for morning English Practice was outstanding, not to mention his participation in Movie Night, Soccer Sunday, evening ESL, and Bilingual Game Hour. He also recently began one-on-one tutoring with Learning Center volunteer Jeni Rogers, so he can continue to sharpen his conversational skills in English.

Participation Student of the Month

Through his involvement in multiple Learning Center services, Estuardo Morales-Santizo earned our September Participation Student of the Month. Estuardo is a loyal student in English Practice, participating in both the intermediate and advanced class sessions. He also regularly attends Movie Night, evening ESL, and Soccer Sunday.



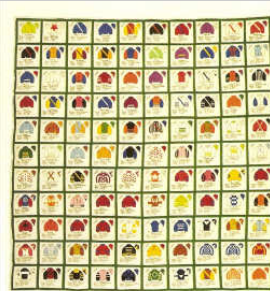
Team Notes

Written by: Jennifer Hoert

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

We have several fundraising opportunities around the corner. I hope that you can find one that excites and inspires you to support our programming. If you are simply excited about our program, please show your support and make a donation today. We value your time, interest, and support in our unique educational program for horsemen, and wish you all the best this holiday season!

Calling all Ladies: Our 3rd Annual Ladies Day at the Races will be held on Thursday, November 19 from 11:30am until the last race in the Oaks Room at Churchill Downs, \$20 suggested donation per person payable in advance or at the door. There will be lunch, a silent auction, a handicapping game, and, of course, races! Please contact Melissa to let us know if you will be attending. Space is limited.



Derby Winners
1875-1984

Just in time for the holiday season – a perfect gift for horse lovers, quilt lovers, and all other racing enthusiasts or collectors. A fabulous lithograph that features a one of a kind quilt that incorporates all of the **Derby winners silks** from 1875-1984. The quilt took over seven years to complete and was once displayed at the Kentucky Derby Museum. Limited number edition of 350 is signed by Hall of Fame jockeys Pat Day and Jerry Bailey. 100% of the proceeds benefit the Learning Center. The signed lithograph was originally priced at \$175, but you can get yours for only \$122.50, or there are unsigned posters on sale for \$24.50. Please contact

Emily to show your support by purchasing a signed lithograph or a poster.

If you are looking for a unique gift, come out to **Just Creations**, 2722 Frankfort Avenue, on Friday, November 20 between 6-8pm. A percentage of the sales from that night will be donated to The Backside Learning Center. You can find some great gifts and support the Learning Center!

What do the '94 Belmont, '94 Preakness, '95 Preakness and '96 Preakness all have in common? Pat Day was the winning jockey in each of these races! Thanks to a generous, anonymous donation we have glasses from each of these races and Pat Day will be signing them **in person** on Saturday, November 21st from 11:30–2pm at the Churchill Downs Gift Shop to benefit The Backside Learning Center and Christ Chapel. Each glass will be sold for a *minimum* contribution of \$20. Supplies are limited, so come early.

Class in the Spotlight



FEATURED WISH LIST:

- Bilingual books
- Any book for adults written in Spanish
- 10 new headphone sets with long cords
- Paper Cutter
- Candy

Written by: Ron Orwick

My name is Ron Orwick, and I have been volunteering at The Backside Learning Center for five years. I have taught a variety of subjects, including English, Mathematics, and Guitar. My main area of instruction is English. I have taught at every level, from beginning to advanced.

I have never had a bad day at The Backside Learning Center. The students and staff, I count among the cream of the crop of people with whom I have been associated in my life. I am a retired high school teacher, and can truly say that the students at The Backside Learning Center work as hard as any of the students that I have ever taught. They are not only my students, they are my teachers, because I

have learned a lot of Spanish from them, and, also, they are my friends. The most difficult



Ron teaching Advanced ESL Practice in Fall 2009

part of my job is saying goodbye to those of my students who decide it is time to return to the country where they were born.

At The Backside Learning Center, I have taught young men and young ladies as young as sixteen, and, also, older people, and, after every class or other

activity that we share, I am a man with a contented heart. I know that the following is not an original statement, but I receive so much more than I give. I will not mention the name of any specific person as being more special than any other, because all of the human beings who have crossed my path at The Backside Learning Center have been equally important to me. Let me take this opportunity to thank them for all of hard work that they have put in over the years. Also, I want to thank them for the fun times. Let me end with this personal message to each of mis amigos, past, present, and to come, at The Backside Learning Center: Me caen bien; me gustan mucho; los amo totalmente.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Contact Emily Dingman at the Learning Center if you are interested in volunteering.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER:

If you would like to write an article for the newsletter about a class or student you teach/volunteer with, please contact the Learning Center. We would love to have your contributions!

BILINGUAL ESL TUTOR: Provide personalized instruction, encouragement, and support to an adult English language learner. Plan lessons and work one-on-one with your student. Time commitment: Two hours a week, Mondays at 1pm.

CONVERSATION LEADER FOR BILINGUAL CONERSATION TABLES: Plan bilingual conversation prompts for multiple levels of language

ability. Assist in matching conversation partners and adult ESL students. Act as a conversation partner when needed. Time commitment: one to two hours a week, Thursdays from 6-7pm.

BOWLING DRIVERS: Sign up to drive students to bowling on Sundays. This is a very flexible volunteer opportunity. Talk to Jack Cox or Emily Dingman for more information.

LADIES TO DANCE AT THE FALL DANCE: Attention, Ladies! The Fall Dance is coming up in November and we need ladies to come and dance with the fellows. There will be a ten-to-one ratio, so you can't lose!

DATA ENTRY: Volunteer needed once per month to update student and volunteer hours for soccer, movie night, guitar and other programs in Microsoft

For more information, visit the Volunteer Corner on our website!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND TIME!

Access. Experience with Microsoft Access preferable but we can train.

END OF YEAR RECOGNITION PARTY:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH
5PM-7PM

(It's a potluck so bring a dish!)

VOLUNTEER MEETING:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH
7PM-8PM

THE OUTRIDER'S SOCIETY

The Outriders Society is the volunteer organization of the Kentucky Derby Museum. Since we are a Derby Museum program, all Learning Center volunteers are eligible to join, and your volunteer hours count towards Outriders benefits. For more information, contact Julie Henry at 637-1111, x336 or online at: <http://www.derbymuseum.org/>