

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

Two Unlikely Friends An Interspecies Connection

By Jonathan Lukens

Recent research in horse behavior and cognition has revealed that horses are more intelligent and capable of learning than previously thought. It has been demonstrated that they have highly developed memories (second only to elephants) and can match abstract symbols during learning tests.

Science has proven what many horse owners already know. They have complex emotions not dissimilar to humans and have uncanny intuition when it comes to reading our own emotions.

Wild horses live in highly complex herds, which are essentially small societies where each member participates in ever changing roles in responses to the demands of both the environment and the social demands of the group. No wonder evolution has gifted them with an innate ability to read the intentions of others, including our own.

Research has recently shown that horses are also capable of reading human body language exceptionally well and can interpret our emotions through our facial expressions very accurately. My own horse Cinematic (pronounced Sinny for short) is no exception.

Cine's life didn't start out easy. He was run on the race circuit for eight years and at times beaten and abused. Rather than acquiesce to harsh treatment, he developed a reputation as an unpredictable horse, at least according to the jockeys and trainers who knew him back then. We even had farriers and vets refuse to work with him because of his less than stellar reputation. When CLC'er Emily P. asked me "Why doesn't Sinny live at Winslow?" I explained that unlike Winslow's horses, which are therapy horses, my horse Cinematic is a horse *IN* therapy.



Krissy with her newfound friend, Cinematic.

However, through the consistent use of positive reinforcement via clicker training, Cine has been able to shed sufficient emotional baggage over time to where my wife Linda

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Next issue: November 2019

SAVE THE DATE!
SAVE THE DATE!
SAVE THE DATE!



CLC GALA
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2019



THE GREENTREE
COUNTRY CLUB
NEW ROCHELLE, NY

Portrait of an Artist

On a late spring afternoon, Brandon C. welcomes me into his condo, a neat and spacious end unit in Peekskill. After brief introductions, we settle in the comfortable living room for an afternoon chat.

A CLC'er for five years, Brandon is full of energy, ready to tackle his life goals. He tells me he has a keen interest in cars and is considering training to be an auto mechanic. "I really like the Subaru WRX Sport in midnight blue," he says. "The Lamborghini Huracan in silver or black is awesome, and so is the Ford Mustang GT in bright red, of course."

Although automotive studies top his list, he's also interested in becoming an EMS professional or training as a chef. Brandon's cooking skills include savory chicken and rice, zesty beans and corn, and his favorite oxtail, which his roommates Jonathan and Sam also enjoy. He favors Spanish and Jamaican cuisine, and this influences his robust use of spices and curry when cooking goat and oxtail.



Brandon enjoys all genres of music, but listens to "60s, 70s, and 80s most often. "I'm a DJ once a month in Pelham at *Infusion Restaurant* for special events," he reports. Free time is spent watching movies and playing basketball, sometimes with his brother Theo. An avid college basketball fan, Brandon lists the teams he follows: Alabama's Crimson Tide, Duke's Blue Devils and Louisville's Cardinals.

We continue to chat, and just as I am ready to wrap things up, Brandon mentions his artwork. I ask to see it. "I'll be right back," he says, and bounds out of the room. Returning quickly, he shows me a few recent pieces. I'm stunned by the striking images.

"I do these freehand," he says, "and then I add the colors on the computer." The pictures are truly impressive and quite detailed.

Originally from Tarrytown, Brandon is very proud of his heritage, which includes German, Irish, Jamaican, Spanish, and Cherokee Indian. "The Cherokee is from my Mom, Sharlene's, side. "I would like to travel to the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, or Puerto Rico to see the sights and eat and eat!"

"I would like to start a t-shirt business and put my art on them," he says. Just one more option for this talented young man. With a good work ethic and a bit of luck, a small business may not be too far into Brandon's future. ■

D. Descloux



Brandon creates his artwork freehand. He then enhances and adds color with a computer program.



Message from the Executive Director

Birthdays and summertime always seem to come a bit faster than we expected. This year is no different.

It seems to have surprised us again, even though it will be more than half done by the time this is delivered to your house. We know that time waits for no one and the fact that it's been so busy here has made it seem faster than ever.

This year's *Hidden Treasures* performance was just amazing. Yes, I know that I say that every year, but you know what? It's true! The level and quality of performance and the technical skills shown just keeps getting better and better.

The studio arts program displayed its finest as well. I was delighted to see people lined up to purchase individual pieces.

The greatest affirmation an artist can experience is a standing ovation or the sale of their work. Our artists

received both at this 22nd Annual Show,* prompting smiles and hugs all around.

If you have not signed up yet for the first *Healing with Horses Golf Tournament*, it's time to do so now. July 29th is right around the corner. This is going to be a great day.

Special thanks go out to Angelo Angerame, President and CEO of Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, for his sponsorship and support of this event. Tickets information is on-line or you can contact Sue Ferro via www.winslow.org.

It is probably not too early to save the date for our CLC Gala. It will be held on November 3rd at the Greentree Country Club. Stay tuned as the events are confirmed.

We are saddened to report that CLC lost one of its long-time employees this month. Gerry Stone served for more than twenty years here in the position of Fleet Manager.

His job required him to maintain and care for more than 40 vehicles. He tracked the mileage, arranged for maintenance, supervised repairs, made sure the fleet was insured and inspected. Gerry handled all the details when a vehicle was in an accident and followed up closely when there had been a report of bad driving.

In doing all this, Gerry had occasion to interact with nearly every other staff person. I do not recall even one event of confrontation.

Maybe that is because he was the go-to guy to have your new stickers put on with his special long handle scraper. Or maybe it was to change a tire for you, open your locked car or jump a weak battery.

Gerry was simply liked by everybody. He was one of those rare people who others just gravitate to. In the days following his passing I overheard everyone say the same thing, "he was just the nicest man I ever met". I couldn't agree more.

Our condolences go out to his friends and family and especially to his wife, Celeste.

John Porcella

* Did you know? The first CLC musical event began with an all staff "talent show. The staff from each house or apartment performed for their colleagues in what was then a small restaurant. It was actually more of comedy routine, heavy on laughs and well, a bit light on skills.)

WANTED!

Full & Part-Time Staff



CLC has full & part-time job openings including for direct care personnel. A positive attitude, compassion and prior experience are preferred.

Required: High School Diploma/GED, valid driver's license for past three years, own transportation, background check, drug testing.

Fax resumes to: (914) 241-0578 or email HR at: resumes@communitylivingcorp.org.

Incentives are available for employee referrals. Please contact HR for details.

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Almost Famous!

Do you have a photo, story idea or CLC news?
Email us at either address above!

Special Thanks & Photo Credit:

Irene Quill, Lawrence Cherry,
Kaitlyn Blanchard, Jack Mungovan, Jonathan Lukens,
Denyele Urciuoli & Sharon Sinnott

New Law Improves Disaster Planning For People With Disabilities

The federal government will be required to do more to consider the needs of people with disabilities when hurricanes, fires and other disasters strike under a new law signed by President Donald Trump. The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act calls for the creation of a national advisory committee specifically focused on disaster planning for those with disabilities.

Comprised of government officials, health care professionals and people with disabilities, the committee is reviewing federal policies and making recommendations to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are properly factored in disaster planning.

"No American should ever feel like they might be left behind or forgotten when disaster strikes," said U.S. Rep. Jim Langevin, D-R.I., who proposed the advisory panel and who has a disability himself. "By including people with disabilities as advisors during disaster planning and policy development, this bill ensures that the unique needs of this vulnerable community will be included."

The establishment of the so-called National Advisory Committee on Individuals with Disabilities and Disasters is part of a larger law enhancing the government's ability to respond to natural disasters and public health emergencies.

Earlier this month, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office issued a report finding that people with disabilities and individuals over age 65 "faced particular challenges evacuating to safe shelter, accessing medicine and obtaining recovery assistance" during the 2017 hurricane season.

Separately, a report out last month from the National Council on Disability found that people with disabilities are often unnecessarily institutionalized during and after disasters because of conflicting federal guidance and inadequate access to services, among other issues.

Source: *The Disability Scoop*

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Two Unlikely Friends An Interspecies Connection

By Jonathan Lukens

(a professional animal trainer) and I are comfortable enough for him to interact regularly with our CLC residents.

He seems to particularly enjoy the company of children and disabled individuals. Like an ambassador of good will, he greets our CLC guys with "happy knickers" and almost Zen-like calm. Hardly a week goes by where I don't get at least one request from a CLC resident to go see Cine.

Many of our individuals are compelled by his story and challenges. We suppose that his story mirrors their own struggles, and he seems to accept them unconditionally. That is with the exception of one individual, Krissy K.

Krissy has also lived a life of challenges, although one wouldn't necessarily guess it to meet her today. Her jovial, outgoing personality and "elfin cuteness" charm everyone.

Like an ambassador of good will, he greets our CLC guys with "happy knickers" and almost Zen-like calm.

When Cine and Krissy first met, things didn't go entirely as planned. The other Todd Road residents were greeted by Cine with the usual cheerfulness he reserves for our folks. When Krissy went over to see him, however, Cine turned his head and walked away.

Next, Cine entertained the other Todd Road residents with some simple tricks we taught him. We then encouraged them to carefully deliver Cine a horse treat. When it came time for Krissy to deliver the treat, Cine refused to take it and walked away. This occurred several times. Krissy was naturally frustrated and unhappy.

So, it came as a surprise last fall when Krissy told me she wanted to earn the opportunity see Cine again, as part of her program.



It took a few more trips to see Cine before he slowly began to come around. First, I rewarded Cine to merely stand next to Krissy while I rewarded him. Next, Krissy was able give treats to Cine, but he would still not allow her to touch him. This took a succession of several visits.

Finally, the momentous day arrived. Krissy and I arrived at Cine's paddock only to find him running around in excitement. Suddenly, he stopped at the gate and began to "knicker" loudly, in apparent joy.

After that it was like old home week. He came out of the paddock and stood right beside Krissy. I asked Krissy to give him a treat. Success! The three of us spent about an hour together on a beautiful spring evening. I allowed Krissy to take his lead rope while Cine moved from spot to spot grazing on choice grass.

When it was time to return Cine home, he stuck his head up over the fence and pressed his face softly against Krissy for several moments. She gently placed her arm around him and gave him a big hug. The embrace was repeated several times until it was time to say good bye.

Krissy told me on the way home. "If you ever have trouble with Cine and he won't listen, I'll talk to him. We're good friends." ■

CLC Friends: *Spotlight on Angelo Angerame*

The CLC organization has many friends. This feature highlights those who go the extra mile to support our family of agencies and our community.

Although Angelo Angerame's relationship with CLC began a year ago, his history of helping agencies serving people with development disabilities began long before that.

Mr. Angerame is CEO of Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, located in Middletown, NY. The company provides medical prescriptions to all individuals served by CLC. "Each prescription is delivered directly to an individual's house or apartment, ensuring personalized and timely service," says Mr. Angerame or Angelo, as he prefers to be called.

"Our company was started in 2010 by a group of not for profit organizations specifically to provide prescription services for people with disabilities," he says. "And although we also serve a couple of rehabilitation agencies and adult care residences, our primary audience and focus has remained the same."

The connection between the two organizations was made by chance a few years ago at a golf outing, where both Angelo and CLC Board chair Roger Cooper were playing. The two soon realized they had more in common than putting and chipping.

Angelo notes, "I attend golf outings primarily to provide comic relief. Apparently, I do a very good job,

especially after my fellow players see me in the bunkers on the back nine."

Mr. Angerame has another chance to make 'em laugh on the links this summer. Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy is the primary sponsor of the *Healing with Horses Golf Outing* hosted by Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center, an agency of CLC Foundation. "I'll have the opportunity to try out some new jokes and do some good for the community," he says. "It's a win-win."

Besides comedy on the course, Angelo's hobbies include roasting coffee beans to "get that perfect cup," and brewing beer at home. "I give away much of what I make, and my friends are especially appreciative when they receive bottles of my home brew, *AngesAle*. I'm not opening up a commercial brewery just yet," says Angelo, "but it's a pretty good beer."

Angelo volunteers his time as a Board member at Greytone Programs, Inc., which supports families, adults and children living with autism and other developmental disabilities. He is past president and current

The mission of Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy is to improve the quality of life of individuals living with developmental, physical or psychiatric disabilities, and economically disadvantaged individuals by providing pharmaceutical stewardship with caring, compassion and commitment.



Angelo Angerame
Chief Executive Officer
Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy

board member of The Brittany Miller Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to Hudson Valley families of children battling cancer.

When not working or volunteering, he enjoys relaxing on Cape Cod and especially fishing on the beach. He and his wife have two sons, who are college students at St. Rose and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

CLC thanks Angelo Angerame for his good work in our community. ■

D. Descloux



New Arrivals

Springtime on the farm at Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center brings plenty of new arrivals — flowers, vegetables and baby goats and chickens. Lawrence Cherry, a Day Hab staffer, sent in these photos taken at Winslow, where CLC individuals go to work and learn. Spring also brings plenty of chores, weeding and watering the plants, collecting eggs, caring for and feeding the small animals and tending to and riding the horses that our group knows and loves so well.



Hidden Treasures Annual Show

Another great night! Another great show! On June 21 at Fox Lane High School, the cast and crew of *Hidden Treasures* once again wowed the audience. The evening began with an art show highlighting the beautiful and inspiring work of *Hidden Treasures*' artists. Dancers and singers alike took to the stage with their themed performance, ***The Book of Life According to Hidden***

Treasures. Guests were wowed by popular numbers such as *Magic in the Air*, *Drive*, *We Built this City*, and *All that Jazz*. Kudos to all for their great work. Special thanks to the teachers, assistants and volunteers who make this program such a success year after year!



The 22nd Annual Show is sponsored by CLC Foundation

HT Students

Louise Baller
Adam Bernstein
David Bigelow
Michael Blesofsky
Abigail Brockman
Janet Calciano
Ron Carter
Anna Charitou
Margaret Comouche
Sam Conte
Kevin Davenport
Rebecca DeBello
John DeCola
Nicole Detillio

Roberta Dutt
Roberto Escalante
Cynthia Evans
Susan Felicione
Donna Fiorillo
Donna Frawley
Kevin Fredeman
Sandra Gillotti
Barbara Girigliano
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Jonathan Haberman
Danny Hackett
Caroline Harper
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Anthony Johnston

Julie Joseph
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Frank Mondello
Patricia Morabito
Eileen Morra
James Morra
Jenny Moskowitz
Allan North
James O'Connor
Bridget Oshea
Joshua Patterson
Christine Persanis
Emily Pinsker
Edward Preiss
Sharmils Rambissoul
Damian Ramos

Cruz Rodriguez
Diane Rosen
Petra Sallis
Leslie Sandler
Ernst Schuttrumpf
Harvey Simons
Jay Simons
Megan Sinnott
Nastassija Tirado
Patricia Trahey
Edward Uysal
Timothy Walker
Diane Warnke
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pictures and videos,*

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A CREATIVE ESCAPE TO SANDHURST, VA & THE OUTER BANKS, NC.

Phoebe, Carrie, Adam, Howard, Bill, Yvette, Andrew, Gerard, Robin and Stephen plus staff made up the most recent Creative Escapes travelers group. Their destinations: Sandhurst, Virginia and the Outer Banks, North Carolina.

Perfect weather the week of May 19 gave vacationers the opportunity to enjoy everything this coastal paradise has to offer. Home was a stunningly beautiful beach house complete with swimming pool and breathtaking views. Mornings began with breakfast on our deck, watching dolphins frolic in the crystal water and dive for their breakfast.

We had daily barbecues and celebrated Billy H's birthday with a decadent cake! We swam in the pool, the ocean, and ended our days with bonfires on the beach, roasting marshmallows after sunset.

When we ventured out from our perfect hideaway, the Outer Banks was our playground. We watched the famous wild horses gallop across the sands in Corolla. An outdoor restaurant on a pier in Nags Head was identified and once there, we feasted on fresh seafood and swayed to the live music.

One day, the Virginia Beach Boardwalk beckoned, and we practiced our very favorite pastime—souvenir shopping! We poured over bejeweled starfish and mermaid bobble heads, miniature ships in bottles and straw sunhats of all kinds. We left no seashell unturned!

If this sounds like the perfect vacation - relaxing, satisfying, invigorating, a bit of heaven earth - then you are correct. It was absolutely perfect.

Jack Mungovan



← *Wild ponies still run wild along the coast of North Carolina and The Outer Banks. These are the descendants of Spanish Mustangs, which survived early shipwrecks. Historical research records the horses here as early as 1523. Today, with the increasing development, they are under the pressure of encroachment of their range – particularly from vehicle traffic.*



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**GETTING
REEL WITH
STEPHEN**



**MOVIE AND
PLAY REVIEWS
FROM CLC'S
IN-HOUSE
EXPERT.**

Movie: *Pokemon Detective Pikachu* ☆☆☆☆
Action/Adventure PG

The plot is about an ace detective, Harry Goodman, who mysteriously goes missing. Ryan Reynolds is terrific as Detective Pikachu and I think he was very funny. His son, Tim, seeks out answers from his Pokemon's former partner, Pikachu, and he helps Tim try to find his dad. They travel all over in search of him.

Movie: *Avengers: Endgame* ☆☆☆☆
Action/Adventure/Sci-Fi PG-13

Action packed! This is similar to the *Captain America* movie. My favorite character is the Incredible Hulk played by Mark Ruffalo. Thanos, played by Josh Brolin, has wiped out half of the universe. The Avengers come together to stop Thanos and to restore the universe. Exciting!

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