

# The B.O.K. Briefing

Winter 2001

## Board of Directors

Beverly Aiello  
*President*

Sue Steelman Bragato  
*Secretary*

Allison Aiello  
*Treasurer*

Ann Kulchin  
*Executive Director*

Carol Studer  
*Riding Instructor*

Larry Bragato

Betsy Dejarnette

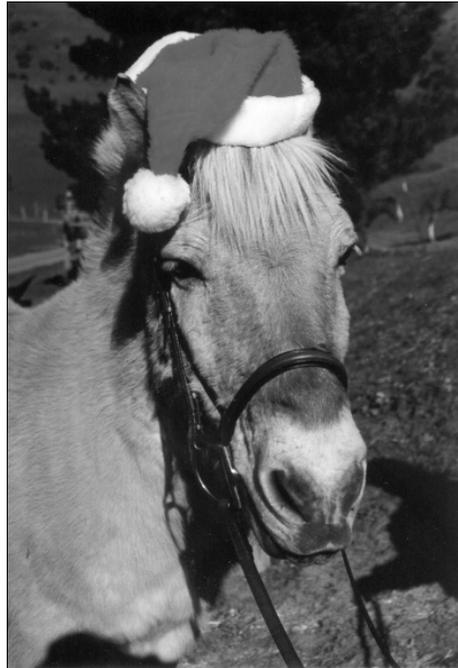
Richard Gardella

Larry Kulchin

DeDe Sanfilippo

Leslie Schoon

Michael Sterns



**Happy Holidays!**

***From:***

**P.J. (pictured), Zeke,  
Shale, and Sugar**

## **Introducing Amy Jenks, Assistant Instructor**

*Interviewed by Carol Studer on 10/28/01*

I would like to introduce everyone to Amy Jenks, our new Assistant Instructor. This session she has been teaching Wednesday's, so if you have yet to meet Amy, hopefully this short interview will help you get to know her better.

**Amy, whether it has been volunteering, or just lending a helping hand, you have been here a long time. When did you start volunteering with us?**

I started volunteering when I was 15 or 16, so that would be around 1994. For the next several years I put in a lot of time as a volunteer, but, after leaving the area for college, I was only able to help out when I was home to visit.

**I know that you used to ride in Pony Club as well as show your horses, tell us more about the experiences you have had working with horses.**

Like you said, I was very involved in Pony Club starting from the time I was about 9 years old. It is hard to explain Pony Club to those who are unfamiliar with it, but what I usually tell people is that it is similar to a British Girl Scout troop on horses. It's a pretty silly image but it usually gets the idea across. Being a Pony Clubber throughout my childhood has greatly influenced who I am today. During my childhood I was also a serious competitor in the show ring. Just about every weekend during the season my pony and I would travel with our "barn" to different shows around California. My dad also discovered horses when I was a child so I also had the opportunity to help him breed horses.

*- Continued on Page 2 -*

## Table of Contents

**Page 1:** Introducing Amy Jenks

**Page 2:** Student Spotlight: Danelle Goldman  
Donation Thank-Yous  
Calendar

**Page 3:** Meet: Diane Pfaendler  
End of the Year Party Recap  
Photos

**Page 4:** Want to Help?

- Continued from Page 1 -

**What is your education?**

After high school I went to a small liberal arts school in Washington State called Whitman College. I then took a year off of college and during that time I lived and volunteered in Mexico. I then transferred to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. I graduated in May of 2000 with a degree in Psychology. I hope to continue my education by pursuing a PhD in Psychology within the next several years.

**What is your position at B.O.K. now?**

I am working as an Assistant Instructor. So far I have been doing a lot of one on one work during warm ups and while riding. I've started teaching some of my own classes so hopefully that will continue and I will be able to teach more on my own.

**Amy, thanks for talking with me today. Is there anything else that you would like to share with our students and their families?**

Thanks Carol and thanks to all of the families whose children I have already worked with. Thank you for enabling your child to experience the freedom that horses can lend to most everyone. ✨

**Calendar**

**December and January**

Horses out to pasture at Williams Ranch

**Mid February (date pending)**

Horses return to Hidden Villa

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Volunteer training at Hidden Villa 9am-12pm

**March 5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**

Two-week groundwork program.

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

First 6 week spring session starts.

**June 9<sup>th</sup>**

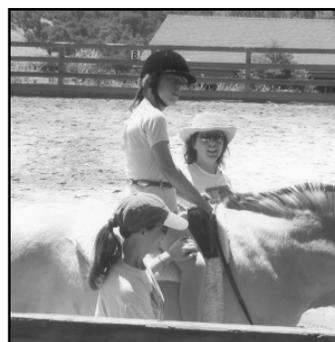
Western Day!

**Danelle Goldman – The Equestrian**

*By Beverly Goldman*

Danelle Goldman is a very happy, energetic 13 year old. She has been riding horses for almost 12 years. Her ability to say the words “hi” and “horse” are the two most distinguishable words she is able to speak. Primarily, Danelle is non-verbal. She is able to communicate her desires through gestures and some sign language.

Her joy of horseback Riding becomes quite obvious when she arrives at B.O.K. ranch. The squeals of joy and excitement are apparent to all in the area. She has had the pleasure to ride Zeke, PJ, Shale and Sugar, and she loves each of them. Dani participated in the Midpeninsula Special Riders Show at Westwind Barn this year, as she has participated in the past three years. Dani won First Place in her event and this made her 6-year-old brother Spencer very proud! He told everyone about his big sister’s medal and accomplishment. ✨



*Dani showing at the Westwind Horseshow this spring.*



*Dani wins her class!*

**The BOK Ranch Wishes to Thank:**

Jane Mangini ✨ Carol Supan ✨ Barbara Gingher ✨ Gormley Andalusians ✨ Donald Curia, DDS  
Madeleine Morse ✨ Lin-Yun Cheng ✨ Jessica Disney ✨ Betty Waldron ✨ Loretta Wood  
Redwood City Women’s Club ✨ Becky Legette

**With Special Thanks To:**

Steve Kulchin ✨ Syd Kulchin ✨ Redwood City Firefighter’s Association ✨ Morgan Family Fund

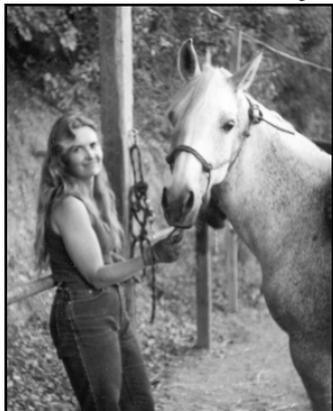
Donations in Loving Memory of Alfreda Cordes ~ Grandmother of Student Mark Wittman

### Meet Diane Pfaendler, BOK Ranch Instructor

After volunteering at BOK with Carol for a few years and experiencing the relationship that develops between the horses and the children, Diane decided to pursue her next career.

She is currently working towards NARHA certification, just completed Centered Riding Instructor Level I, and has been teaching horseback riding to kids both privately using her own horses in San Jose and in group lessons at BOK this year.

With a 15-year history teaching Special Education, a prior nursing background, a love for the outdoors and a surging passion for these awesome animals, the BOK program provides an avenue for Diane to connect special kids with God's special creatures. The smile on a student's face as his horse goes into a guided trot; or responds to the child as he uses verbal or physical prompts to cue the horse; or the sigh expressed by a horse as if to say 'another job well done' as the lesson comes to the end are just a few of the simple rewards felt each day at BOK. The volunteers are awesome, the donors committed, the parents grateful, and the students enamored as a result of their experiences. ❄



Diane with "Magnificent Dream"

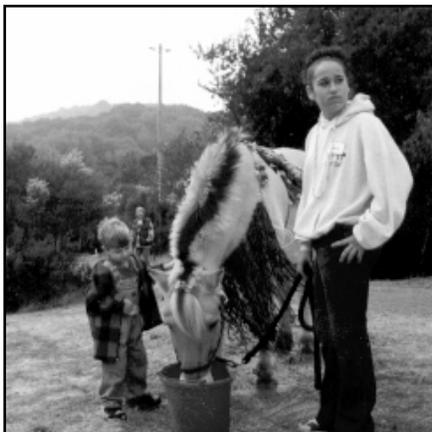
### B.O.K. Celebrates the End of the Year

By Carol Studer

On November 10, Instructors, Volunteers, Horses, Students and Family members gathered for the annual "End of the Year" party. Under cloudy skies, participants used imagination to transform Hidden Villa into a tropical paradise. With a Hawaiian theme volunteers dressed up (and painted) the horses for a costume parade. Then students and volunteers went island hopping leading the horses from one Island to the next for different games; Coconut Bowling in Oahu, Sand bag toss in Kauai, Pineapple Toss in Maui, and a Volcano walk on the Big Island. Participants received a lei at each island. The horses then played the bobbing for apples game to receive their award. Shale received special recognition and a big bunch of carrots as we retired her from her full time duties at B.O.K. Ranch. Volunteer Jennifer Knaple made a beautiful program that included Shale's biography, which was read out loud.

The volunteer of the year award went to Margo Keeley, a 5 year volunteer who is dedicated to the program. She not only gives her time, but also her thoughtfulness and understanding in working with the students and horses. I feel very lucky to have worked with Margo. She has great input and ideas. Being an experienced volunteer she has also helped to encourage and train new volunteers. Thank-you Margo!!!! Special thank-yous are in order for Dagmar Duskova and all the volunteers who came from the Foothill College Circle K club, B.O.K. volunteers who helped the students and decorated the horses, everyone who brought food, and the parents and students who attended and showed their support. Thanks for coming, Alex W., Ezra J., Cassie A., Lauren M., Dianne S., Max B., Krysten B., and Patty T.

Thank-you to instructor Diane Pfaendler and assistant instructor Amy Jenks for the teamwork throughout the 7 week fall session and in making the party possible. ❄



*Pictures from the End of the Year Party*

**Yes! I am interested in the B.O.K. Ranch!**

**Please contact me regarding:**

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Program Participation
- Contributions



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to B.O.K. Ranch, Inc.)  
Contributions are tax deductible for federal tax purposes.

B.O.K. Ranch is a Non-Profit Corporation EIN# 94-2947980



B.O.K. Ranch (650) 366-2265  
1815 Cordilleras Road  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
[www.bokranch.com](http://www.bokranch.com)

**Address Correction Requested**