

High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Board of Trustees

Barbara Earle Ballard
Chairman

Barbara is President of Odyssey Enterprises, Inc. a multi-media company. Prior to moving to Connecticut, she worked in production at NBS, CBS and Mainstreet, Inc. in Washington, D.C., the Garth Group in NYC, and finally as Director of Development and Special Projects for the National Geographic Society. Barbara has been an active volunteer at High Hopes for the past 15 years. She served on the board of trustees from 1997-2007 as Vice President, and has participated on the Fund Development Task Force, HRAC and Strategic Planning Committees. She was selected by the board and staff of High Hopes to receive the Sally H. Aubrey award in 2014 because she exemplifies the true spirit of High Hopes through her commitment, dedication and compassion. She is an active volunteer with the Lyme Trail Association and the Connecticut Valley Pony Club. Barbara earned a BA from Pitzer College, Sorbonne. She lives in Lyme with her husband, Bob and two children, Benjamin and Emily Rose.

Address - – 86 Elys Ferry Road, Lyme, CT

Affiliation - Odyssey Enterprises, Inc.

Jane Bolles
Vice Chairman

Jane and her husband, Keith, own and operate the Saybrook Country Barn where Jane works full time. A former board member of High Hopes, Jane co-chaired Symphony in the Meadows twice, and was a member of the program committee and the Human Resources Advisory committee. She also coordinated a variety of programs for the families and riders. Twenty-two years ago, Jane learned of High Hopes (then LCVERA) while looking for a place for her then six-year-old daughter who is hearing impaired and intellectually challenged, to learn how to ride and be around horses. Now at 28, Lindsay is still a participant in the program. Jane is a resident of Essex.

Address – 8 Squire Road, Essex, CT

Affiliation – Saybrook Country Barn

Jeffrey Ridgway
Vice Chairman
Development

Jeff is an owner of Caulfield and Ridgway, Inc. and has previously served on the High Hopes Board of Trustees with two years as President. His many leadership roles at High Hopes include serving as Co-Chair of the Building project, Co-Chair of the High Hopes Hoedown for two years, Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee and active involvement with many events such as Concert in the Barn and Symphony in the Meadows. He was the recipient of the NARHA Region I Volunteer of the Year Award in 2009. Born in Africa, Jeff was educated in the UK. He and his wife, Holly, reside in Chester.

Address – 96 Winthrop Road, Chester, CT

Affiliation – Caulfield & Ridgway

Margaret Mummert
Secretary

Mac and her husband, Earl, are veterinarians and own four small animal practices. Her special interests include internal medicine and oncology. She has served in many area civic organizations including the Lyme Garden Club, Child and Family Agency and is a Past President of the SE Connecticut Professional Women's Network. She has served on the vestry of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, is the DC of the Connecticut Valley Pony Club and volunteers at High Hopes. Mac has two children, Brian and Anya. Anya has been a participant at High Hopes since she was five and, although she has her own horse, she still rides here weekly. Mac earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1977 from Auburn University and resides in Old Lyme.

Address – 5 Matson Ridge, Old Lyme, CT

Affiliation – VCA Companion Animal Hospitals

Deborah Welles
Treasurer

Debbie is a practicing CPA with her own business located in Old Lyme. Debbie was very involved with Pony Club at Regional and Local level for many years, and earned a BS in Education from Northeastern University with specialty in Therapeutic Recreation; Certified Public Accountant. Her hobbies include reading, kayaking, walking for exercise, caring for her aged backyard horse, volunteering at High Hopes, gardening, camping and visiting her children. Married for 32 years to John, a lifelong resident of Old Lyme, they have three grown children, Justin, Lindsay and Emily.

Address – 146-3 Boston Post Road, Old Lyme, CT

Affiliation – Deborah Welles, CPA, LLC

Sarah Hill Canning

Sarah was an administrator at Williams/Mystic, the Maritime Studies Program of Williams College and Mystic Seaport. She served as President of the Board of Trustees at the Mystic & Noank Library. Sarah has been a volunteer at High Hopes for many years and is currently an active program volunteer and team captain. She also serves on the Volunteer Auxiliary committee. Sarah is a graduate of Boston University. She and her husband Peter reside in Stonington.

Address – 60 Kidds Way, Stonington, CT

John Catlett

John spent more than 26 years with the consulting firm Accenture before retiring as a senior partner. He holds degrees from Drew University and Lehigh University. John lives in Lyme with his wife, Athana, and three daughters, Sarah, Sabrina and Anna.

Address – 473 Joshuatown Road, Hadlyme, CT

James M. Childs

Jamie is a Residential Real Estate Agent with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, with prior professional experience as Director of Advertising Sales at Golf Boston Media. He is a graduate of Hobart and William Smith Colleges. In addition to his volunteer service for High Hopes on the Annual Appeal, Corporate Sponsorship and Development Committees, he is the Chair of the Development Committee. Jamie and his wife, Hannah, reside in Old Lyme with their three children.

Address – 2 Sill Lane, Old Lyme, CT

Affiliation- William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

James Scott Douglas

Scott is Chairman of the Board of Dancker Sellew & Douglas, an interior solutions firm. He brings extensive volunteer experience to the Board, in particular with organizations supporting children's issues. In addition to a BA degree in Botany from the University of Vermont, he has completed graduate coursework in accounting and finance. Currently he is Scott and his wife Wendy reside in Old Lyme and Florida, and have four children and five grandchildren.

Address – 129 Town Woods Road, Old Lyme, CT

Affiliation: Dancker Sellew & Douglas

Jeb N. Embree

Jeb is a retired Financial Advisor with Essex Financial Services. Prior to coming to Lyme full time in 2001, Jeb was with major firms in NYC, specializing in fixed income securities. He serves on the Board of Musical Masterwork. He earned a BA from Hobart College in Geneva, NY. Jeb grew up in Sherman and Madison, CT. He and his wife, Dianne have lived in Lyme since 1981. He has two daughters, Jennifer and Leslie, and two granddaughters, Hope and Lucy.

Address – 77 Joshuatown Road, Lyme, CT

John C. Evans

John is a principal with Xplore Productions/Essex Television Group. He has had extensive experience in design, project management and event production in both the U.S. and internationally for such companies as Walt Disney Imagineering, the Olympics and Mystic Aquarium. He earned a BA in Architecture from Connecticut College. John is an active volunteer in a number of local nonprofit organizations in the area including serving as an engineer in the local fire department. He and his wife Dana reside with their two children in Old Lyme.

Address – 135 Town Woods Road, Old Lyme, CT

Affiliation – Xplore Productions/Essex Television Group

Laura Giordano

Laura is a seasoned professional in the field of Human Resources with over 20 years of experience in the Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Industries. An independent consultant she has been with Pfizer and with Aetna Life and Casualty. She has an MBA from the University of New Haven and is certified in Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment. Laura has been a member of the Human Resources Advisory Committee at High Hopes for several years. A lifelong horsewoman, she has five horses at her home and is familiar with the special needs of the ageing horse as several of hers are in their 20's. Laura is a resident of Groton.

Address – 570 Gales Ferry Road, Groton, CT

Affiliation - Independent Human Resources Consultant

Cheryl Kelly Heffernan

Cheryl owns Trails End Barn in Lyme where she enjoys riding with other avid equestrians, and is President of the Board of the Lyme Trail Association. She has been an active volunteer at High Hopes for the past 19 years, working with riders in the ring and participating at Board level in Development and Strategic Planning, and three years as Board Chair. Cheryl is a Past NARHA Region I Volunteer of the Year and was awarded the High Hopes' Sally Aubrey Award in 2007. Prior to moving to Lyme with her husband and two sons in 1995, Cheryl worked in Financial Services beginning at GE Capital Corporation in Stamford, CT, then at Dean Witter Corporation in New York City. She then moved to the Philadelphia area where she worked in the direct response insurance industry and founded a successful privately held mortgage company with her husband. She is a resident of Lyme.

Address – 95 Cove Road, Lyme, CT

Affiliation – Trails End Barn

Jacqueline Kangley

Jacqueline oversees product development and online marketing and sales for Amelie Michel French Table Linens and is the owner/designer of Jacqueline Kangley Handbags. Jacqueline was introduced to therapeutic riding by her Essex Elementary School classmates' rides at LCVERA. Her first volunteer experiences were with Hawaii's Haku Baldwin Center, and upon returning to Connecticut 15 years ago, she began volunteering with High Hopes. She currently volunteers in the therapeutic riding program and serves on the Fund Development Committee. She has co-chaired the Concert in the Barn and various auction, decor, and marketing benefit committees. Jacqueline is an alumna of The Hotchkiss School and Dartmouth College. She and her husband Stephen Dedman live in Hadlyme.

Address: P.O. Box 444, Hadlyme, CT

Affiliation: Amelie Michel French Table Linens/Jacqueline Kangley Handbags

Andrew L. Russell

Andy has had an extensive career in broadcasting since earning a degree in Communications Management from Ithaca College. He is VP and General Manager, Hall Communications, where he oversees day-to-day operations for six stations. Andy is active in a number of local organizations including serving as treasurer of the Connecticut Broadcasters Association, secretary and board member of the RCDC (Renaissance City Development Association) in New London, and chairman of the Old Lyme Board of Finance. Andy resides in Old Lyme with his wife Pamela and their three children.

Address – 8 Swanswood Road, Old Lyme, CT

Affiliation – Hall Communications

Seymour Smith

Seymour served as Flight Officer and Lieutenant in the US Navy. Currently retired, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of Connecticut Bank and Trust Company; Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Signal Capital Corporation; Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of New England Savings Bank and was a private consultant for various healthcare organizations. Seymour has served on the Boards of Connecticut State University, Hartford Stage Company and Planned Parenthood of Connecticut. Seymour attended Hamilton College and received his MBA from Columbia University. His wife, Tia, has previously served on the High Hopes Board of Trustees. Seymour is currently on the Finance Committee. Seymour and Tia reside in Essex.

Address – 7 Hudson Lane, Essex, CT

Barbara Willkens

Barbara has worked at Millstone Power Station since 1990, beginning as an Engineering Manager. She held other management positions and is Manager – Special Projects within the Nuclear Business Unit. She earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from University of Tennessee. Barbara volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and was a “big” for 10 years. She is still in close contact with her “little” who is now in college. Additionally, Barbara served on the Board of Directors for Big Brothers/Big Sisters for 3 years and previously volunteered at the Florence Griswold Museum as part of their Garden Gang. Barbara has been a resident of Old Lyme for nearly 20 years.

Address – 121 Tinker Lane, Lyme, CT

Affiliation - Dominion