

MARGARETA WALLENIUS-KLEBERG
HARNESS RACING MUSEUM 2011 PINNACLE AWARD HONOREE

Margareta Wallenius-Kleberg, an honorary member of the Board of Directors of The Harness Racing Museum has been named its 2011 Pinnacle honoree for exemplary efforts put forth in the promotion of the sport and The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Kleberg, who has been an ardent supporter of the Museum for many years, races a stable of trotters in both Sweden and North America and maintains a major breeding farm with mares and foals in Kentucky and Ekero, Sweden. She is a director of The Hambletonian Society in the US and is the former chair of the European Breeders Union and the Stockholm Travsällskap (racetrack). She is also the owner of Wallenius Lines founded in 1934 by her father Olof Wallenius in Stockholm, Sweden. The company built the world's first automobile-carrying vessel. In the 1960s, it pioneered the RoRo (roll on-roll off) concept and became the first independent shipping line to work with Japan's automobile manufacturing industry.

In 2009, Mrs. Kleberg offered to approach Swedish harness racing officials with an invitation to host the Museum's nationally acclaimed traveling exhibit "The Story of Harness Racing by Currier & Ives." The presentation, which consists of approximately 33 original 19th century lithographs that explain how the sport began in America, has appeared in almost every state in the US as well as locations in Canada. Her promotion al efforts were successful and that year the exhibit was transported, via Wallenius Lines' M/V Tijuca, from Baltimore to Gothenburg, Sweden. Once there it traveled overland to the Nordiska TravMuseet (Sweden's national harness racing museum) in Arjang, Sweden. After a summer and fall sojourn in Arjang the exhibit was shipped to Stockholm's Travsällskap in Solvalla for several months. It was after the exhibit's transfer to Jagersro racetrack that Margareta Wallenius-Kleberg began to enter into negotiations to send "The Story" to France in time for the 2011 Prix d'Amerique, one of France's premier harness races. She was successful and since the beginning of the year the new Musée du Trot at Grosbois has hosted the prestigious American harness racing showcase. It is scheduled to return, under the Wallenius Lines' flag, to American shores in the near future.

In announcing the award, Museum president Elbridge T. Gerry, Jr., extended to Mrs. Kleberg his Board's unanimous congratulations and expression of pleasure for this well-earned recognition. The Pinnacle Award will be presented to Margareta Wallenius-Kleberg during Hall of Fame induction ceremonies on Sunday, July 3 at The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame in Goshen, NY.

For information on Hall of Fame Day events [click here](#).