

Time to Fly

By Lou-ellen Finter
Camelot Student

Editor's note: Students are often given a homework assignment to write about their trotting experience after trotting for the first time. This is what one Camelot student had to say about her memorable ride.

“Come; we can fly together,” said the red tailed hawk. He knew a way that went out into the desert. “We can fly to the mountaintop; just follow me.” So without trepidation and with trust in my heart, Cayanna and I followed the hawk. He led us into the desert with the sun on our faces and the wind blowing gently. It was absolutely amazing that Cayanna could walk or trot in order to keep pace with the hawk that would make lazy circles in the sky as it caught a thermal. The desert opened up before me, and I felt the freedom of the wilderness. There was just the three of us in that moment of time. There was no pain, no one else, we were alone doing what I loved, and we had the company of a magnificent



companion, who led the way. The morning turned into early afternoon, and the sun had reached its zenith; time to stop for lunch as well as to enjoy the views and odors of the desert. Peace was in my spirit when we continued after lunch, and Cayanna was anxious to move along after our rest.

The red tailed hawk led the way again, over unknown territory, and we gently climbed the slope of the mountain, small though it was. A mountain I would have not been able to navigate without my two friends.

The sun now past its zenith, and it was time to head home before darkness enveloped the desert. We needed to leave it to the night shift critters and the glow of the full moon.

Therefore, we turned in a slow arc to descend and travel home. It was a lovely day - a day filled with joy and adventure. A day that will be emblazoned on my mind for many years to come - maybe for all the years to come. We reached the stable, and the red tailed hawk flapped its wings and flew off into the sunset. I sat there not wanting to leave Cayanna, not wanting to lose the moment that had become a sweet memory. A memory that I could match with past experiences with joy and peace.

So if a red tailed hawk asks you to fly with him, remember to follow your spirit and trust the hawk.∞

Merlin's Muse

By Mary
Hadsall,
Executive
Director



There is a saying “change brings opportunity;” change is not only necessary,

it is responsible for growth - growth in personal lives and in business.

Camelot is very pleased to announce the arrival of Emilio Bartlett, born November 21, 2013. His arrival has brought not only changes and growth to the Guerrero household, but changes to the ranch as well. Michelle is following her dream of being a full time mother to her children. Camelot is grateful beyond words for the years of service and dedication she has given to the program, our volunteers, the students and their families.

Camelot alumna Denise Bruce introduced Michelle to the ranch back in 1999. Ms. Bruce spoke of an ethereal kingdom where beautiful horses lived and people earned the right to be knights, while fighting for just causes like independence, freedom and the right to risk. These words were enticing to the young Michelle, and they lit a spark in her to learn more about this magical kingdom. This spark was fueled by Michelle's love of horses and a passion for teaching. She soon found herself in a kingdom that not only encourages students to slay their dragons of doubt and fear, but one that holds that same ideal to all that

have the courage to pick up their sword.

During Michelle's tenure at Camelot, she was barn manager, riding instructor, volunteer coordinator, event planner and director of community relations - a position she was able to mold and shape, where she was not only able to spread her creative wings, but where she was encouraged to pursue her own passion for riding and writing.

After fourteen years of being inspired by Camelot students, individuals from all walks of life, Michelle has learned many valuable life lessons. And now her family will reap the rewards of her Camelot stewardship. I am also confident that we have not seen the last of Michelle. Her passing the reins to focus full time on family does not mean she won't be soon picking up another set of reins and becoming a volunteer!

As Eileen Szychowski, Camelot's founder, so eloquently said when addressing guests during her retirement ceremony back in October, 2004, “I may be the one who started Camelot here in Arizona, but I did not do it alone.” The same holds true today. I am not alone. I am happy and proud to announce the appointment of Ms. Tracy Fink as riding instructor and Ms. Hannah Brisso as barn manager and volunteer coordinator. Both ladies bring talent and expertise to the barn for which each and every student will reap the rewards. To learn more about Hannah and Tracy, visit our website at CamelotAZ.org and read their full biographies in “About Us - People.” ∞

In Honor Of

Sharon & Lou Goldman

Jack Strickstein

Melanie Myers

Lynn Wright

Cathy Peterson

Pam Nelson

In Memory Of

Audrey Jane Collier

Patti Hodson

April Reiner

Memorial gifts in any amount are a beautiful way to honor a beloved friend or family member, be they human or otherwise. We also welcome gifts in honor of birthdays or other special occasions. All such donations are acknowledged with a special card or email and a mention in our newsletter.

When sending in your gift, please include a brief note designating whom it is memorializing, and in which category you are submitting them. If you would like an acknowledgment card sent, please include their address.

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Publisher: Mary Hadsall

Editor: Shirley A. Lowman



Artwork by Craig Zamboni

Coughdrop's Chatterbox

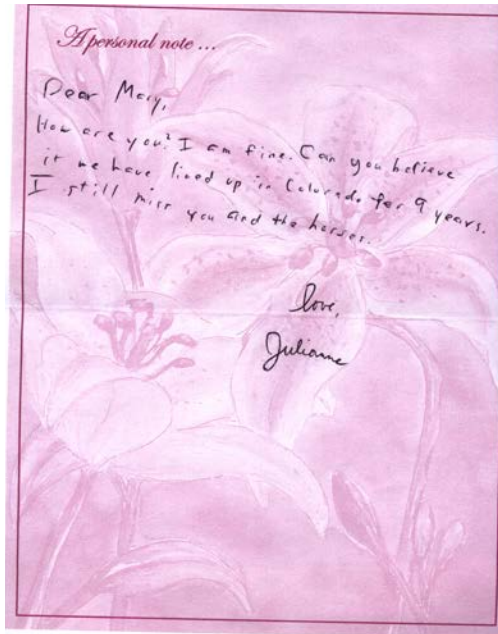
A Letter from the Editor's
Assistant

As you may or may not know, I have a new best friend named Ashley. She is a Welsh pony mare, and she is gor-ge-ous!! Yes, she lives in the stall next to me, so you could say that I have fallen in love with the girl next door. Not only are we neighbors, but we even go out in the pasture together and take long walks around the property trail side by side. So you can imagine how much I miss her when she goes out on a trail ride or is teaching one of the students in afternoon classes!

This got me to thinking about how many people - students, volunteers and sponsors - think about and miss all of us horses when they leave the ranch. We get the BEST love notes from people whose lives we have touched and changed even years after they have been here!

Students who come back to visit are always talking about how much riding at Camelot has been beneficial to their lives, even the parts that don't involve horses! The sponsors and volunteers say they feel like they get back more than they give. Amazing!

So while I may miss Ashley each time she goes out to work, I know that she is making a lasting impact on everyone involved in Camelot's program. I'll still whinny for her; I may even toss my head. But, I know she's out there making memories, one stride at a time! ∞



Julianne Malley was a student from October 2002 through May 2004. She is currently living in Colorado with her family where she is working in the field of education.



HERE YE, HEAR YE
Camelot's 13th Annual
Hooves & Heroes
"Derby Day"
Fundraising Event
May 3, 2014
11 am - 4:30 pm

There is no time like the present to mark your calendar because you will not want to miss this fantastic, family focused and fun event!

Please join us for the following:

- Music
- Raffle
- Silent Auction
- Delicious Food
- Activities for Kids
- Student Riding Performances



Nifty Bits
News From the Ranch

Welcome **new student**: Lou-ellen P.,
Welcome **new volunteers**: Rico F.,
Jenny K., and Caroline L.
Camelot is grateful for the support from the following: Harold's Cave Creek Coral, Pinnacle Peak RMS Group, Cave Creek Rodeo, the Davignon Charitable Fund, K2 Adventures Foundation, Ames Construction, the Verdoorn Foundation, American Quarter Horse Foundation, the Starry Knights Event Committee, Vicki Baumler DVM, and Jamie Foley DVM

Camelot views every human being as a masterpiece
and rests on the belief that love and courage can slay the mightiest of dragons!

A Heroes' Hero ~ Nathan Holmes ~ North Scottsdale Boy Scouts Troop 131

*The Scout Law
A Scout is*

*Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly
Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful
Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent*

There are no better words to describe the young and industrious Mr. Holmes. Last fall, Nathan contacted Camelot with interest in doing his Eagle Scout project here at the ranch. What can I say; not one project was completed but two (and then some)!

Camelot is grateful for his organizational and people management skills. We are all enjoying the beautiful fire pit and rocker benches down by the labyrinth, the new screens surrounding the air-conditioner units are beautiful and the property perimeter trails never looked better! Students and volunteers are able to comfortably and safely navigate



Nathan (seated) with some of his fellow scouts.

our riding trails! Nathan worked and supervised his troops like a seasoned pro! Way to go Nathan, and THANK YOU! ∞