



Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship & Horsemanship for Physically Challenged Children and Adults



Merlin's Muse

By Mary Hadsall
Executive Director

My favorite time of day is early morning. The light is soft, the temperatures mild and the day is full of fresh beginnings. The horses greet me with soft whinnies and playful tossing of their heads, anxious for their breakfast feed. Each one prefers me to stay focused on the important business at hand, but I still manage to savor this special time of day. As I whisper to each, "good morning beautiful", I am rewarded with the rhythmic sound of lips and muzzles in feed tubs as grain is being chewed. Such a lovely sound indeed.

My route during my morning routine takes me from the feed and hay room located across from our Chicken Hilton to our beautiful pastures. The purr of the John Deere gator's engine giving all a heads up that breakfast is on its way. First to Ashley, then on to Junior, Cayanna, Barbara, Cliffy, Frisco, Rusty and Jim. The order is important because, well, it keeps order and horses thrive upon order. All this contributes to my Zen.

After all are fed, fly masks adjusted, and a look over has been made to be certain no one has managed to injure themselves during the night, I point my trusty wheels towards the barn. I am driving into the morning sun and on the lucky days the morning rays have pushed their way through the clouds; it appears as if a large beautiful crown sits atop the Camelot crown jewel, our barn.

Over the last four months we have been painstakingly renovating the barn, a project that has been in the works for well over a year has finally come to fruition. The extraordinary new structure before me always takes my breath away - she is beautiful, she is strong, and most importantly, she is completely accessible and ADA compliant. Innovative design features enable students to independently feed each horse and gain access to each and every stall. Made of welded steel "mesh", our new barn features full ventilation, window wheelchair accessibility for feeding grain and hay, sliding gates and automatic waterers designed to



Front view of the newly renovated eight stall Camelot barn.

keep water cool in the summer and prevent freezing of pipes during our brief winter cold spells. As with every aspect of this ranch, our students' independent use was at the forefront of our design and construction plan and the results are incredible.

It gives me indescribable pleasure to present to you, our dedicated Camelot family, our therapy horses' new home. This has all been made possible through our generous benefactors: the Molly Blank Fund, matching gifts during our 2017 Starry Knights fundraiser, and The Verdoorn Foundation. I would like to humbly thank Ray Klein, first for his artistic eye which resulted in the unique design and accessible features of our beautiful new barn, and secondly for the hundreds of hours he has personally been involved in every aspect of this new construction from the drawing board, to the construction, and to the ribbon cutting ceremony to be held on September 21st from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

I have found myself reflecting, recently, on the exceptional volunteers, students, employees and horses who have found their way through the Camelot gates since the program began, more than 35 years ago. Each has contributed in their own way to make Camelot the magical place it is today. With the completion of our new barn, I now find myself looking forward, imagining the laughter, love, independence and strength that will be generated among its beautiful, sturdy stalls for years and years to come, and I rest easy knowing that the future generations who find their way through the Camelot gates will continue to find a warm, welcoming, magical place where they can build their dreams. ∞

A Heroes' Hero ~ Jim Schulte

In Memory of a Hero

By Hannah Bracco
Volunteer Coordinator, Principal
Riding Instructor, and Barn Manager

Working with a ranch full of animals, we are accustomed to the circle of life, and are no strangers to loss. The recent transition of our friend Jim Schulte, however, has touched us all.

For almost seven years, Jim was a dependable and familiar presence at the ranch—working diligently three mornings a week, keeping the pastures and barn clean & safe for the Camelot horses and students. He was a good friend and mentor to many of Camelot's volunteers, training them on morning barn duty, and they fondly remember his dedication, wry wit and the sparkle in his eye.

We will be forever grateful for all of Jim's contributions to Camelot and for his quiet, generous spirit. While usually a man of few words, he had plenty to say about his favorite pastime; hockey. He played professionally for the California Golden Seals and went on to coach, referee and play recreationally. And as a, Coyotes season ticket holder, Jim was the ultimate hockey fan.

While Jim connected with all of the horses, Paladin, our senior Percheron cross, was his favorite, and the two of them could often be seen together, sharing a quiet moment and a scratch prior to Paladin's passing in 2015. When we purchased a young Percheron to grow into the large shoes Paladin left behind, Jim wasn't so sure we had made the right decision with such a playful lug who was always stealing his hat. Fast forward a few months, and the two of them could be seen working together, even, on one occasion, carrying a manure bucket across the round-pen together.

While that young Percheron never stopped stealing Jim's hat, the two became close friends. In honor of our friend Jim, a true hero to us all, we dubbed our Percheron "Jim.". Now upon his broad shoulders he carries the memories of both a horse named Paladin, and a very special man named Jim, both of whom left their mark on our hearts, and the Camelot ranch, forever. ∞



Jim standing beside his beloved Paladin.



Saturday, October 13, 2018

6 -10 pm

Camelback Vista at
Scottsdale Plaza Resort
7200 N Scottsdale Road

Please join us in celebration of
our 35th lesson season!

This evening filled with
stories of courage and
inspiration will include drinks,
dinner, a silent auction, and a
special presentation featuring
two Camelot Stars,
Alicia and Kiah.

The celebration will conclude
with dessert and dancing
under the stars!

To purchase tickets, please
visit www.CamelotAZ.org

\$150 Individual

\$275 Couple

\$1000 Table of 8

\$1250 Table of 10



The Whole Story of the Hoof
By Lou-ellen Finter, Camelot alumna



My grandfather told me, the story of the horse's hoof. In the center of the hoof by the sole, there lived a frog. One day he jumped over the joint (commissures) to reach his favorite bar. At the bar, he had too many colas and the policeman asked him to walk the white line around the sole. The frog felt full, but knew he could do it. Around he went to the toe and up around to the cleft, of the horse's hoof. The blood was flowing from the coronary band, and it gave him extra energy to make the trip! The frog, upon reaching the cleft, took a deep breath and jumped over it. He was now at the heel and decided to go home and take a nap.



Shoelace pictured at the entrance of Camelot.

“Shoelace” (due to the laciness of the horseshoes), our impressive jumping horse sculpture by former farrier, Jay Russell was constructed in Idaho and transported to Scottsdale where she resided at a private residence for many years before making the move to Camelot. Today she is the keeper of our gate and the guardian of our therapy horses! Heartfelt thanks to donors Lyle and Bonnie Breiner for this beautiful gift to Camelot!

Shoelace's stats:

Created: March, 2000

Height: 8 feet 4 inches

Length: 12 feet

Width: 26 inches

Weight: 900 lbs

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 it. If you would like an acknowledgment card sent, please include the recipient's address.

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Camelot Chronicles

Who is your shining star?

Make a donation to Camelot, and we will honor the person or cherished pet of your choice with a shining star at the Camelot ranch. Stars will be on display in the educational center through the end of the year.

(Circle one) In Honor of



In Memory of



Honoree _____

Honoree email (for notification) _____

With love from _____

Message _____

Please charge my card (Circle one) Visa MasterCard Am Express

\$ Amount _____

Credit Card Number _____

Exp Date _____ 3 digit security code _____

Billing Zipcode _____ Signature _____



Nifty Bits News from the Ranch



Camelot welcomes the following Dragon Slayers to our rider schedule:
Dusty H., Veronica L., & Sarah P.

Three cheers to our new volunteers that survived our summer heat. **Matt C. & Nicole P.**, welcome aboard!

Camelot is excited to introduce Jax our therapy bunny who is the newest, and cutest addition to the ranch!



Jax greeting incoming rider Veronica L.

In Memory Of

Mary Lou Hadsall
 Peggy Welsh
 Buddy
 Whitey, Blackey, Horace, Whirl, Danny & Angel
 Little Mickey
 Wes Rucker
 Gerado Marin
 Gucci & Willow
 Jan Lubbin
 All the great horses I have loved in my lifetime
 Ed Simon's mother, father & sister
 Ted and Loretta Szychowski
 Karen Dawson
 Oscar, Maggie, Cocoa, Spyspee a.k.a. Bellbell
 Aeron Lee
 Guenivere, Vivo, Fast Lane & Jake
 Spartacus
 Colonel Dick Francisco
 Jordan Van Rosendaal
 Lea Kuhn
 Gussie Barn
 Lil Joe
 Jim Schulte
 Kane & Dingo
 Rosemary Goldner
 Bob Tibbets
 Sweet Little Taylor
 Bravo

Merlin & Murphy Malloy
 Tony & Anne
 Mookie
 Vali
 Juni Zeman

In Honor Of

Camelot
 The Volunteers
 Mitchell Chang ~ Pei-Heng
 Edna Pindler's 95th birthday
 Rico Francisco
 Praisz
 Rico Francisco
 Mocha, Batman & Robin
 Eileen Szychowski
 Jeanne Alspaugh
 Hannah Brisko
 Ray Klein
 Ann Ezzell
 Patricia Plotner
 Chuck Johnson
 Debbie Griffith
 Jim Hadsall
 Sydney Morrison
 Ron and Linda Believeau
 The staff & horses of Camelot
 Bob Karla's 80th birthday
 Oscar, Maggie, Cocoa, Spyspee aka Bellbell
 Taz
 Beth McConn

Otis
 Jill Seymour
 Liz Covert
 Annette Duran
 Jason Lowman
 Nicole Armstrong-Best
 Curt & Gerry Pindler
 Edna Pindler
 Robin Erlich
 Ben & Danielle Erlich
 The El Paso Erlich's
 Devin Shanahan
 Margie
 Lou & Sharon Goldman
 Lynne LoCascio
 The cowboys of Baca land & Cattle Co.
 N.M.
 Julieanne Malley
 Amanda
 Kelly Knodel
 Kristina Vahe
 Mary Hadsall & Ray Klein
 Ava
 Hannah Brisko
 Kylie & Kiara Grindrod

"No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle"
 "Because when I ride all I feel free"
 "The horse is a mirror to your soul"
 Kiah Zeman
 Carrie Curran

Camelot wishes to acknowledge all of the special people and cherished animals who were honored with hearts before and during the spring fundraising campaign. Best efforts were made to acknowledge everyone, sincere apologies if your loved one is not mentioned.

Raise your sword against the most formidable enemy of all... the voice within that says "I can't" ~ Eileen Szychowski, Camelot Founder

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 23623 N. Scottsdale Road, Ste. D3 PMB 259
 Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc.
 Scottsdale, Arizona 85255
 480-515-1542 ~ CamelotAZ.org
 23623 N. Scottsdale Road, Ste. D3 PMB 259
 Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc.
 Scottsdale, Arizona 85255