



## Merlin's Muse

By Mary Hadsall  
Executive Director

Drum roll please! I'm about to answer the most popular question at Camelot: "Are you going to have lessons this year?"

The answer, my friend, is YES! Our 37th season is about to begin.

Classes will start in September as usual, and we are ready! And not just in our hearts, we're ready to meet the challenges of social distancing with our small classes and covered breezeway that provides ample space to spread out. We'll also be following all CDC safety guidelines by wearing protective masks, requiring frequent hand washing, and disinfecting equipment in between riders to ensure safety for everyone on site.

Equine assisted activities and therapies has long been touted for the physical benefits horseback riding provides such as improved core strength, balance, motor planning, fine motor skill development, and increased flexibility. However, we have not given the emotional and psychological benefits students receive equal spot light. It is a known fact that emotionally our community is really struggling right now. Socialization and emotional needs are met here at Camelot as our riders spend time grooming and tacking their horses and working alongside volunteers and instructors.

Today more than ever, Camelot needs your support because our students need Camelot. I have always believed that the simple nature of our lessons provides the best platform for safely learn horsemanship and gain independence. The importance of these lessons reaches far beyond the saddle. Each week they learn "hows and whys" of horsemanship through repetition and participation. This mastery of these skills organically transfers to their daily home life, and when that happens, their quality of life improves.

We are ready to rock and roll my friends! Our students need us more than ever and we will be here for them. We have the perfect environment that allows safe spacing for ground lessons and mounted activities. Camelot is ready to meet the changing needs of our community, but we need your support behind us to make it happen! ∞



*Rebecca standing at the gate to the covered arena.*

By Hannah Brisso  
Volunteer Coordinator &  
Principal Riding Instructor

Camelot is delighted to welcome Rebecca Thompson in the role of Barn Manager/Riding Instructor. She's a familiar face around the barn, she's been a volunteer since 2017. Rebecca is an Arizona native who earned a bachelor's degree in Animal Science from the University of Arizona. She's also a certified riding and carriage driving instructor through Certified Horsemanship Association, and, recently added PATH Intl. certified riding instructor to her list of credentials. While Rebecca loves all horse breeds, she has a special affinity for the Arabian horse, which she has been riding and showing since she was a child. Outside of horses, Rebecca also enjoys knitting, spending time with her dog, cat, and husband. ∞

By Jessica Fidler  
Camelot Parent

## I will be the BEST I can be!

As parents, we want to provide our kiddos with different experiences through sports, arts, and other activities that allow them to grow, succeed, learn to play as a team, and build self-confidence. Like most parents, I enrolled Eliron in soccer, karate, hockey and baseball—the classics. However, I quickly realized that either the other kids quickly surpassed him, or his medical needs held him back. He loved them so we still pursued the activities. He still tried. He still was excited to go to the activities. Despite my best efforts, questions slowly came up like why was he still a blue belt while his friends were green belts, or why was he still taking “Learn to Skate” classes when his friends were already on hockey teams even though he started before them.

I wanted to find an activity that could be Eliron’s. An activity that would allow him to flourish at his pace and still allow him to feel accomplished. While trying to encourage him to keep going, I was introduced to Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship. The first thing that came to mind was “another plan to help him, and another disappointment.” But boy was I wrong! We met with Mary and instantly fell in love. From the moment we left Camelot that first day until the moment he was accepted, Eliron asked daily about riding. But when that day came, he jumped up and down and said, “I will be the BEST I can be!”

Since starting at Camelot, Eliron has grown. He has gained confidence in himself. He has something that belongs to HIM. He has something that he can go home and tell his friends about and not hear “Oh, I’ve done that.” Camelot has provided him with a place to be, a place to grow, a place to succeed, and a place to be accepted. Thank you for the amazing opportunity! ∞



*Eliron pictured riding Junior in the covered arena. Left to right: Kristina instructing, Hannah leading, Rebecca and Mary Wales-Long side walking.*



*Laura pictured on the gator finishing ranch chores.*



## A Heroes' Hero ~ Laura Holub

By Hannah Brisso  
Volunteer Coordinator &  
Principal Riding Instructor

Laura Holub has spent her entire life with horses, and loves to trail ride. She’s an outdoor enthusiast, active jogger, and a neighbor! Laura found herself jogging by Camelot on a regular basis which led to an inquiry into the program. Once she came through the front gate, Laura was hooked! She’s been assisting with Friday evening feeding, cleaning, and turning out horses since April of 2019. Thank you, Laura, for spending part of your weekends with us! ∞

*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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**Editor:** Michelle Guererro



**Cayanna RHM**

**2/16/98 - 12/27/19**

Oh beautiful one, fly free, fly fast. You have earned your golden wings. The time has come for you to join your friends that have gone before you. May you race across deep green pastures, enjoy a bounty of carrots, apples, sugar cubes, and long sweet naps in soft the breeze.

It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of Cayanna's passing. She will be fondly remembered as the little mare with the most incredible mane! Her golden thick tresses touched the ground when released from their braids. She was kind—hearted and gallant in her life of service on this ranch. I can honestly say that everyone loved her, and she will be sorely missed.

Cayanna, my love, til we meet again... ∞

**Melissa LoCascio Weimer**

December 11, 1971 ~ November 29, 2019

Melissa, "Missy", daughter of Lynne and Sal LoCascio, loved life, animals, and her family. She was dedicated to her children and devoted her life to improving the health and well being of countless animals. She gave back to her community, and she gave from her heart to Camelot. Her beautiful spirit lives on in her boys. You will never be forgotten Missy.



*Missy embracing Barbara while seated in the breezeway.*



**Nifty Bits**  
**News from the Ranch**



Where would we be without our community standing behind our hard work as we serve our mission. It is my pleasure to acknowledge our major donors, with deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks:

- Albertsons Companies Foundation**
- Ames Construction**
- Anonymous Donor**
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- Thunderbirds Charities**
- Bonnie & John Trowbridge**
- Sally Vail**
- Vanguard Charitable Fund**
- Verdoorn Foundation**
- Mary Beth Walker**

Heartfelt thanks to **Ray K.** for his continued work to keep Camelot looking her best. We are excited to provide lessons in our round pen under our beautiful new shade structure so generously funded by **The Grainger Foundation!**

Camelot welcomes a new Dragon Slayer to our rider schedule, **Margaret B.**

Three cheers to our new volunteers, welcome aboard!  
**Mary G., Sue M., Teresa S., and Katie S.**

Deepest appreciation to **Ginger Barry** for your service as a Camelot Board of Director.



*Kristina harvesting carrots from the raised bed garden.*

At Camelot we never like to say good-bye, we prefer "see you later"!

We extend our best wishes to **Kristina Vahe** as she continues her work as an equine specialist with Ann Wilson and Equine Ignite. For more information on counseling and equine psychotherapy visit [EquineIgnite.com](http://EquineIgnite.com)



"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit"

~  
anonymous Greek proverb

## *In Memory Of*

Coughdrop  
Cioci Gene  
Genevieve Szychowski  
Rooney  
Viagra Robison  
Drayton  
Esther Ventre  
Josef Rivers  
Cayanna RHM  
Jim Schulte  
Mario N. Boggiano  
Hannah (the horse)  
Zak Khazanovich  
Josef Rivers  
Kay Braswell  
Leo & Genevieve Rooney  
Connie & Bob Abbot  
Gidget  
Jim Draper  
Missy  
Karen Dawson  
Our Beautiful Oz  
Edna Pindler  
Hooch & Sophie  
Peggy Welsh  
Ted & Loretta Szychowski  
Zen

Camelot's Equine Guardian  
Angels  
Paladin  
Marge Milliman  
Molly, Russel, Raphe' n Buck  
Col. Buck Francisco  
All the beloved animals of the  
Green & Brisso Families  
Faye & David (Dink) Hornsby  
Lucy, Desi and Abbey  
Peggy Karla  
Bob Lindsey  
Stormy  
Rosemary Goldner  
Cy  
Jake  
Buddy

## *In Honor Of*

Andrew Erlich's 70th birthday  
Richard Straffer  
Sally McWhirter  
Butch Ames  
Sharon & Lou Goldman  
Chuck Johnson  
Mary Beth Walker  
Sydney Morrison  
Patrick Bonner  
Shirley A. Lowman

Ed & Joyce Goljan  
In honor of Ted and Loretta  
Szychowski  
Kim James's birthday  
Joey Joseph  
Roselyn Tayne  
Eileen Szychowski  
Bailey  
Chuck Johnson  
Roslyn Tayne  
Eileen Szychowski  
Mocha, Batman, Robin &  
Smokey  
Bella, Soren, Rhysie &  
Jackson  
The Camelot Students  
Vera's husband, mom, brothers  
& sisters, and their families  
Lucy  
Belinda Ricco  
Momma Kitty  
Arizona Oncology  
Amanda Fehlberg and Frisco  
Jill Seymour  
Liz Covert  
Annette  
Eileen Szychowski  
Jason Lowman  
Nicole  
K2

Jordan  
Lynne LoCascio  
Jan Miller  
Everyone effected by Covid 19  
All the Care Givers & Doctors  
All the Camelot horses  
The Green & Brisso Families  
All the beloved animals of the  
Green & Brisso Families  
The Camelot Dream Team—  
Robin, Shirley, Ann, Hannah,  
Leslie, Mary and Ray  
All the Volunteers  
My wonderful Camelot  
friends!  
Dianne Peek  
Babs Akin  
Kelly Richardson  
Peg Mulloy  
Patrick Bonner  
The Staff & Horses of  
Camelot  
Athena  
Genevieve Lemanske  
Uncle Mort Abrams  
Mary Hadsall  
Hannah Brisso  
Kristina Vahe

*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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