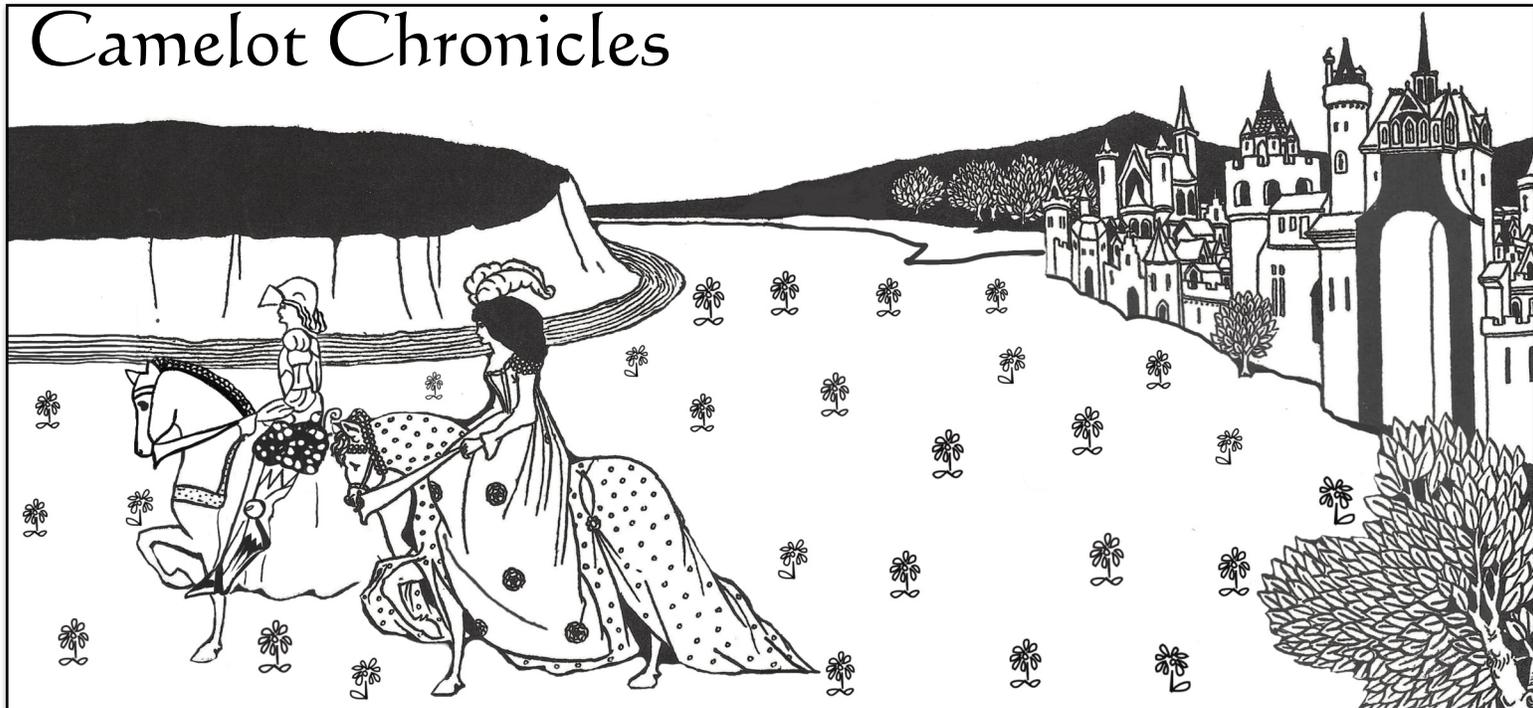


Camelot Chronicles



Celebrating 41 Years of Camelot...Where Heroes are Born



Merlin's Muse

By Mary Hadsall
Executive Director

Spring has certainly sprung at Camelot! We were graced with a lot of rainfall this winter and are now reaping the rewards. The desert is lush and green, setting the stage for St. Patrick's day. Bring on the four leaf clovers, leprechauns, pots of gold and green beer!

March is a time of renewal, abundance and birth. Around us there is nesting activity taking place and a chorus of birds singing in the barn. Such a joyful time on the ranch and the perfect opportunity for us to welcome Trixie to the Camelot herd. She is the newest shining star in our barn and quickly

becoming a student favorite. Trixie is an 18-year-old Belgian Draft /Haflinger cross, also known as a "Belinger". She is dynamite! Trixie is strong enough to easily carry our adult riders and has the sweetest, most mellow disposition which makes her a dream boat for our young riders. Everyone loves sitting astride her broad back. But carrying students is not all this charming lady can do. She also drives. This makes her a versatile and gorgeous package!

Trixie has the coloring and markings of her haflinger ancestry. Her coat is a beautiful, dappled chestnut color and she has a flaxen mane and tail. Feathers on her fetlocks come from the Belgian draft side of her breeding. The combination has created a lovely horse that truly excels in driving and under saddle.

We are excited to share her with everyone at our upcoming spring fundraiser on April 13th! Be sure to say hello. She loves attention and will be happy to see you!



Phil riding Trixie in the covered arena.



John seated next to Regan in the wheelchair accessible carriage.



Amanda riding Trixie with Casey as her horse leader.



Lilly seated holding a copy of The Rise of Camelot, standing behind (left to right) Rebecca, Leslie and Regan.

By Michelle Guerrero
Author of The Rise of Camelot

Books offer a sort of magic that can transport readers into someone else's shoes, to the bottom of the Grand Canyon or astride a beautiful horse. Bert was a gentleman in his 80s who experienced a bit of this magic while reading *The Rise of Camelot*. He was captivated and wanted to see firsthand the riding program that Eileen Szychowski built. Unfortunately, he couldn't make the pilgrimage, but his presence was felt at the barn, nonetheless.

One November afternoon as a riding lesson was wrapping up, a woman entered the breezeway. Mary greeted her and she said that she was looking for Eileen, Camelot's founder. The woman was delivering a donation from a dear friend of hers. Mary explained that Eileen retired twenty years ago but she could help. She offered her a seat. She handed Mary an envelope with her name, Barbara, scrolled across it and shared the most heartwarming story.

Barbara's friend Bert saw an article in the Independent Newspaper about *The Rise of Camelot's* book release. After reading the article, he went online and purchased a copy on Amazon. He read it and was so compelled that he wanted to come to Camelot and see the ranch in person. He asked Barbara to bring him. But soon after, he became ill and was hospitalized. Bert's wife, Sandie, called Barbara on a Sunday to tell her that his health was failing, and he wanted to see her. Barbara went to Bert's bedside at the hospital, and he gave her a gift for Camelot. It was a \$500 check, written in his hand.

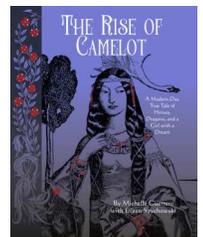
He passed away during the night.

Barbara had tears running down her face while she shared the story. She had his copy of the book with her but also went on to purchase one for herself. She hopes to bring Sandie to Hooves & Heroes so she too can experience Camelot.

Bert, if you're reading this article from above, know that you are written into Camelot's story and your kindness made a difference.

When Mary shared this with Eileen and I she said, "We don't know who will find your story. We don't know how many people will find your story. But those that do are being moved to act. What a beautiful gift. The gift that keeps on giving!"

Pick up a hardback copy at Camelot or order from your favorite online bookstore such as Amazon, Books-A-Million and Barnes & Noble. Also available on Kindle.



Nifty Bits News from the Ranch



Welcome, new volunteers **JJ & Theresa C., Daniel H., Robin K., Alex P., Emily S., Addison T. and Kelsey W.** and students **Tanner M., Cherie R., Lilly R. and Julie W.!** We are thrilled to have you join our community. Whether you're here to contribute your time and skills or embark on a journey of learning and growth, we are here to support you every step of the way.

As volunteers, you play a crucial role in helping us achieve our mission and make a positive impact in our community. Your dedication and passion will drive our programs forward and create meaningful change.

For students, this is an exciting opportunity to expand your knowledge, develop new skills, and connect with like-minded individuals. We are committed to providing you with the guidance you need to succeed.

Together, we can make a difference. Thank you for choosing to be part of our team. Let's work together to achieve great things!



Regan teaching in the covered arena.



Regan discussing a lesson plan with Julie.



Regan assisting Harper in the SureHands lift.

I'm Regan Mays and I'm thrilled to be one of the newest instructors to join the Camelot team! I've been working in this industry for a little more than a decade and have experienced many different equine assisted therapy programs over the years. I rarely came across people who were as geeky and invested in horses and therapeutic riding as I was, but when I met Mary, Rebecca, Beck and the volunteers, I discovered a barn full of kindred spirits. Our shared passion, dedication, yet diverse backgrounds create an invigorating team atmosphere. We're like a pit crew! Everyone supports each other and safety is top notch.

Since coming onboard, I learned a few new things such as therapeutic driving and how to use a SureHands lift. I hadn't even handled carts or carriages before coming to Camelot. Rebecca was a phenomenal instructor and helped me work through my personal challenges as I learned. Thanks to her

tutelage, I was able to achieve more than fifty hours of instruction and experience so that I can be an able-bodied whip during classes! And as for the SureHands lift, the independence it provides is priceless!

From the moment I walked onto the Camelot grounds, I knew I could get used to it here. A covered arena, labyrinth, and Chicken Hilton—yes please! And it feels great to be working alongside an awesome community of staff, volunteers, and students—plus the horses are the sweetest. I have gained so much knowledge and enjoyment from working with the Camelot riders. I always believed that horses and horseback riding are the most effective and fun therapies for humans. The variety of people we can safely serve at Camelot is my absolute favorite part about being a team-member. I am proud to be here, and I know that everyone who is also a part of our herd - student, volunteer, donor, etc. - feels proud too.

Heroes' Hero ~ Mary Long

Mary Wales heard about Camelot in 2008 from Michelle Guerrero while volunteering at Horses Help, another PATH Intl. Premier Accredited adaptive riding program in our area. She was excited to learn that our barn was only a mile away from her house and soon after added a second volunteer job to her schedule! Mary began by taking on the Sunday evening dinner chores for Camelot. Since then, her involvement has only grown. She continues to feed on Sunday evenings, assists with exercising our horses and helps with lessons. If extra hands are needed Mary is there! She always has a smile on her face and encourages students to learn and grow.

I recently asked Mary what she loved about Camelot. She said "I love Camelot for so many reasons. If I had to narrow it down to just a few I would say the exceptional care of the horses and all the animals at Camelot. Also, the attention to detail when it comes to the students and volunteers, thanks to Mary and Rebecca who are absolutely awesome! Camelot is

run with precision made up of love and compassion for what they do and the Camelot Mission.

Mary is fiercely devoted to her family, her horse Sophie, her dogs Rocky and Dixie, her community and Camelot. We are eternally grateful for the gifts she offers our program, and we are blessed to have her on board!



Mary and Katie leading Nutmeg down the barn aisle.

Memorial Gifts

In Honor Of

Roslyn Tayne
Jim Howard
Michelle Guerrero
Patty Wing
Liz Shubin
Sarah Wilson
Eileen Szychowski
Mary Hadsall
John Ames
Lynn Wright
The Camelot Horses
The Mandatory 8 Count
Cancer Foundation
Rebecca & Gabriel Thompson
Karen Bishop
Kelly Knodel
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Block's 50th
wedding anniversary
Camelot staff & volunteers
Terry Goacher
Gail Starr Learner
Camelot
Nancy & Christina
Julie Wechsler
Amy Van Denburgh

In Memory Of

Edward Conklin
Joanne
Mike Zeman
Maureen Harmon
Sheila Graham
Marge Milliman
Edna Pindler
Camelot's Angels, especially
Paladin & Bravo
Ronald Ricossa
Bob Flite
Scout
Rocket & Patches
Joan Hickey
lost family & friends
Josef Rivers
Sweet Rose
Joyce & Vie
Benny Ben
Rusty
Mika
Jim & Mary Lou Hadsall
Coqueta & Betty

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.

Camelot Chronicles is published semiannually by Camelot, a nonprofit adaptive riding, driving and outdoor education program run for people with disabilities. All materials herein are copyright 2024 Camelot. Material may be reproduced with permission and credit. For subscription and other information, visit our website at CamelotAZ.org; write to 23623 N. Scottsdale Rd., Suite D3 Box 259, Scottsdale, AZ 85255; or call 480-515-1542. **Publisher:** Mary Hadsall **Editor:** Michelle Guerrero



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

~

anonymous Greek proverb

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIX, AZ
PERMIT #1662

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