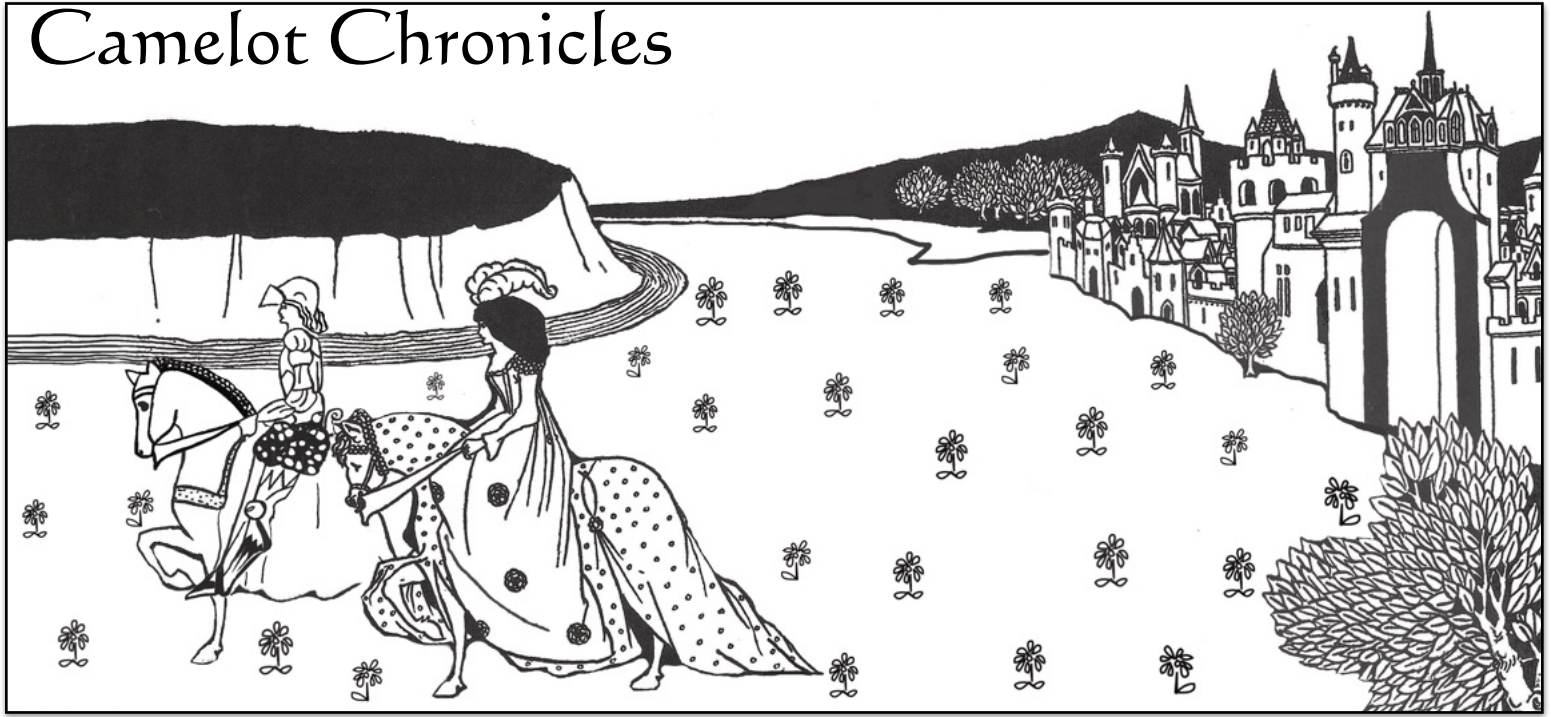


# Camelot Chronicles



Celebrating 43 Years of Camelot...Where Heroes are Born



## Merlin's Muse

By Mary Hadsall  
Executive Director



*Aiden pictured with Mary Hadsall, the Scottsdale PD Mounted Unit Officers and Wranglers.*



Camelot is proud to announce the newest member of our herd, **Sir Aiden Le Noire**.

At 18 hands high, this stunning 20-year-old gray Percheron-Thoroughbred cross brings both beauty and experience to our barn. Recently retired from the Scottsdale Police Department Mounted Unit, Aiden served the community with distinction for over 13 years.

Wrangler Marsha Sizemore and Officer Lottie Kimball shared this with followers on the Scottsdale Police Facebook page:

Over the years Aiden bravely patrolled the Old Town Scottsdale Entertainment District on weekend nights and visited with many community members across the city. He also served by patrolling various events and celebration services in Scottsdale and surrounding cities, including the WM Phoenix Open, police memorials,

Veterans Day ceremonies and New Year's Eve. He has participated in Mounted Unit education demonstrations, attended numerous schools and walked in several Parada del Sol parades. Aiden even courageously worked at multiple protests and provided officer support for civil unrest demonstrations across the valley. Officers who had the honor of partnering with Aiden were Debbie Shuhandler, Aaron Bolin and Keegan DeShotel.

Having truly "seen it all", Aiden now begins the next chapter of his service—this time as a therapy horse. With his calm demeanor, impressive training, and wealth of life experience, he is more than ready to partner with our two-legged instructors and support the riders of Camelot. He has already begun his duty as a Camelot ambassador, garnering much media attention due to his retirement from the force and his future in our program.

Please join us in welcoming Sir Aiden as he embarks on this meaningful new journey!

## A Hidden Gem I'm Grateful to Have Found

By Peggy Trachtenberg

For years, I drove past Camelot without truly understanding its significance. It wasn't until I retired and took the time to look it up that I realized it might be a good fit for volunteering. As it turns out, it has been a *perfect* fit — far exceeding my expectations in so many ways.

Whether or not you have experience with horses doesn't matter. If you think you might enjoy spending time outdoors — whether with horses, students, or the incredible staff — there is a place for you at Camelot.

From the moment you arrive, you can't help but feel uplifted. The 14¼-acre property is stunning, with well-cared-for horses, a beautiful covered riding arena, and a private network of trails. It's a peaceful and welcoming



*Left to right, volunteers Peggy T., Leslie Z. & Karen B., seated in wheelchair is instructor Regan M.*

environment that invites you to stay, learn, and grow.

Camelot is an extraordinary facility, led by highly skilled and compassionate staff. Adaptive equipment is available to support students with special needs, ensuring every rider has the opportunity to succeed.

Throughout the year, volunteers and students can take part in a variety of events. The chance to interact with such a vibrant and caring community is both

interesting and deeply rewarding.

Lifelong learning is part of the Camelot culture. The staff generously share their knowledge and expertise with anyone who is open to learning something new.

Camelot truly is a one-of-a-kind jewel in the heart of Scottsdale — and I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of it.



## Nifty Bits ~News from the Ranch

A hearty welcome to Camelot's new volunteers: **Cathy A., Allie G., Scarlett H., Judy L., Rachel L., Nicole M. and Leslie W.** Cheery welcome back to **Jeanne A., Sara E. and Valerie P.** It's fantastic when schedules change and volunteers are able to return to the barn!

A big shout out and thank you to **Heidi M.** for being a Camelot mentor. In keeping with our Round Table Philosophy of Life, Camelot students are expected to serve the community in some way in exchange for the services they receive. The increased confidence and self-esteem they have gained through their experiences at Camelot empowers students to share themselves with others. We believe that after you have slain your own personal dragons, you must then reach out to help someone slay theirs. It is the Law of Chivalry.

We want to wish the best to our departing volunteers: **Kerry F., Marsha L., Karen M. and Roz T.** It truly has been a fun run ladies! The ranch won't be the same without your weekly presence. Thank you for your years of hard work and dedicated service to the program. You will be missed. We also wish the fondest of farewells to riders that have moved on: **John B., Amanda F., Chelsea L. and Robin S.** Your smiling faces will be missed during lessons by everyone!

## Local Non-Profit Spotlight!

### The Hangry Donkey Ranch, Rescue and Sanctuary located in Rio Verde, Arizona

Meet Dutch, a 35-year-old Poitou cross living his best life at the Hangry Donkey Ranch. He is a long time resident at Rose Carroll's charming donkey sanctuary located in Rio Verde. I visited the ranch a few days ago and had the pleasure of meeting him and the others while being introduced to new newly adopted out donkeys, Esther and Rose. They will be going to their new home very soon.

The sanctuary's mission is to take in donkeys that need their help. Younger donkeys are vetted, trained and placed in loving homes, elderly donkeys spend the rest of their lives in the safety and well being at the ranch.

Volunteers are welcomed and adoptions are available for some of the ranch residents. If you would like more information email Rose: [TheHangryDonkeyRanch@gmail.com](mailto:TheHangryDonkeyRanch@gmail.com) or visit their website at [www.thehangrydonkey.com](http://www.thehangrydonkey.com)





# Heroes' Hero

Ava Eskin

By Mary Hadsall



*Ava pictured next to Janey S. riding Nutmeg with volunteers Robin K. and Mary L.*

Ava Eskin is small in stature and unassuming. She is quiet when she's in the

presence of our horses and good vibes just ooze from her hands. She slips in the paddocks and stalls where she can quietly provide her TTouch services to the Camelot horses. She asks nothing of them in return. It's quite the opposite, as she encourages them to receive. Ava is a Certified TTouch Practitioner and Certified HeartMath Facilitator and has been donating her time to the Camelot herd, students and volunteers since the spring of 2023.

TTouch is a gentle, trust-based method of interacting with animals (and humans) that aims to improve physical and emotional well-being. It involves specific, touch techniques called "TTouches" that are believed to promote relaxation, reduce stress and enhance body

awareness. HeartMath is a scientifically based technique that uses heart-brain coherence to manage stress and improve emotional well-being. Combined these gentle practices bring peace and harmony to our hard working horses. Thank you Ava for sharing your good work with Camelot!



*Ava providing TTouches to Barbara.*



## Starry Knights

Fall Fundraiser

Friday, October 24, 2025

6:00pm - 9:30pm

Tickets go on sale September 3rd

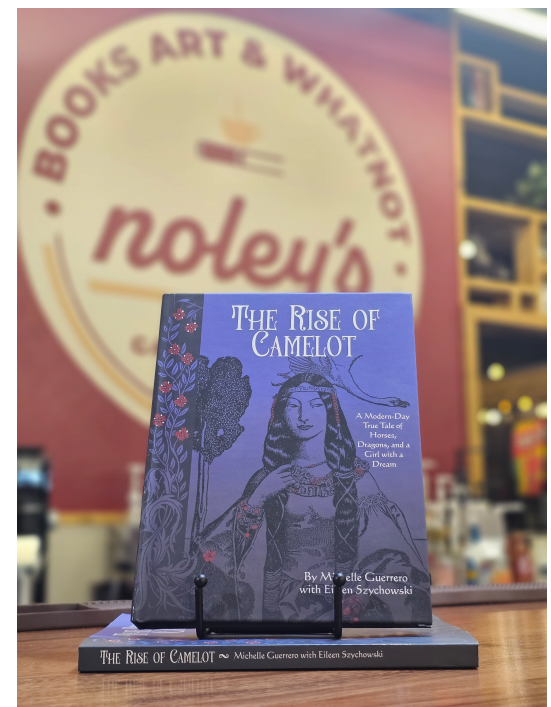
Watch our website for updates!

## The Rise of Camelot

A Modern-Day True Tale of  
Horses, Dragons, and a Girl with a Dream

By Michelle Guerrero  
with Eileen Szychowski

Pick up a hardcover copy at Camelot  
or order from your favorite online bookstore.  
Also available on Kindle.



*The Rise of Camelot featured at  
Noley's Books, Art & Whatnot in Payson.*

# Memorial Gifts

## In Honor Of

Jan Miller  
Roz Tayne  
Dunkin & Dodge  
Eileen Szychowski  
Camelot Staff &  
Volunteers  
Mary Hadsall  
Robin Erlich  
Amanda Fehlberg  
Camelot Volunteers  
Sasha Graham  
Beck Hinshaw  
Rooster  
LOVE  
Rex McGill  
Kelly Knodel  
Blue Knights AZ VI  
Grandma Vica  
Grandma Mellie  
Leslie Zelisko  
The Camelot Horses

## In Memory Of

Griffin  
Gucci & Willow  
Eileen Schlichting  
Uncle Dick  
Davy Passarelli  
Robert Wright  
Judy Trufant  
Missy  
Cliffy  
Robert Rapp  
Peggy Glenn  
Kelly Hurley  
Smartie (the cat)  
Jim (the horse)  
Bert Farmer  
Molly Blank  
Ron Ricossa  
Cliffy  
Bob Flite  
Trish Wright  
Phyllis Heppenstall  
RC Ciancola

Jim & Mary Lou  
Hadsall  
John Griffith  
Michelle  
Dick Foster  
Smokey  
Kazoo  
Rick Lowell  
Milt Schroeder



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

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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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  
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