

Old Friends

Thoroughbred Retirement in Georgetown, Kentucky

Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)



Winter 2018

A Message from Michael Blowen

As is usual for this time of year, there have been a lot of complaints about the weather. I would have been one of the complainers if Diane and I were still obligated to knock the ice out of each of 16 waterers like we did in the old days. Fortunately, because of a much younger, vibrant team, we've been relieved of that particular duty. So I don't have anything to complain about and, while I prefer the spring and fall to winter, the leafless trees of January allow us to peer deeply into the rich Kentucky frozen landscape. It creates a clear view of the widening expanse that has become Old Friends in 2018. The horses munching their feed and hay from field to field and paddock to paddock give us a cineramic image of how much we've grown and how much further we have to go.

The additional space and fencing has allowed us to help the deserving award-winning Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare organization and take horses such as Winning Dubai from the hurricane aftermath in Puerto Rico. We've also just received a post-operative Green Mask from trainer Brad Cox and our friends at Dell Ridge Farm. And, come May, we'll be able to point to a couple of new projects that are as important to us as the Kentucky Derby is to Churchill Downs.

Thanks to everyone for all your donations, from money to blankets to hay to feed. Your outpouring of generosity is the fuel that keeps everything going. And, for that, we could never thank you enough.

We are excited to introduce *The Art of Old Friends*, a remarkable coffee table book showcasing our great athletes through the amazing vision of Old Friends artist-in-residence, Dagmar Galleithner-Steiner. Look inside this newsletter for book details and special pre-publication offers.

This year, more than any other, I'm looking forward to several fun-filled events that, I hope, will fit into your schedules. Our 14th Annual Homecoming on the first Sunday in May provides an opportunity to see all of our old and new retirees in the space provided by our recent land purchase. Several Hall of Fame jockeys will attend to tell stories of their relationships with our horses, and, if last year was any indication, we might even draw the connections of this year's Derby winner. The items up for auction are already astounding and, as usual Steve Norman and his band and Tommy Walters and his Cajun food will add just the right touch of entertainment and nourishment.



Michael Blowen
President & Founder

For those headed to Saratoga this summer, there are two events. Old Friends at Cabin Creek offers one of the highlights of the social schedule on August 2 and includes the bestowing of their annual award to a deserving contributor to Thoroughbred aftercare. Previous winners include Jack Knowlton and Ramon Dominguez. Our cocktail reception at Anne's Washington Inn, the location where Old Friends was first conceived, is on August 8. Actually, with no admission charge, it's more party than fundraiser!

—continued on back page



Old Friends Marshall Rooster, Fabulous Strike, Sokitumi Samurai and Awesome Gem.
© Photo Laura Battles

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Hot Off The Press!

Celebrating Old Friends

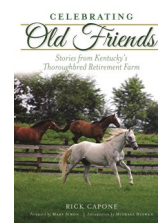
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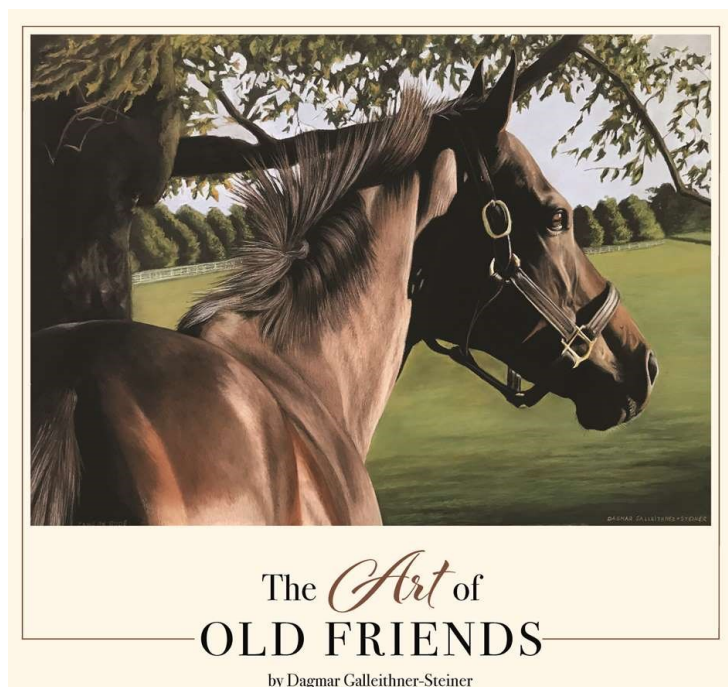
Daily Racing Form/Old Friends
2018 Magazine

Both Available Now—Call to Order!



Old Friends Proudly Introduces

Available for Pre-Publication Order Now



A Collection of Paintings by Old Friends Artist-in-Residence

Dagmar Galleithner-Steiner

Celebrating the retirees of Old Friends Farm

Introduction by Michael Blowen ♥ Foreword by Bob and Jill Baffert

Text by Jay Hovdey and Michael Blowen

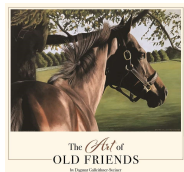
The Horses

*Afternoon Deelites
Amazombie
Appygolucky
Awad
Black Tie Affair
Bonnie's Poker
Bull Inthe Heather
Catlaunch
Charismatic
Clever Allemont
Commentator
Creator*

*Criminal Type
Danthebluegrassman
Delay of Game
Driven by Success
Estrapade
Flick
Fortunate Prospect
Fraise
Free Spirit's Joy
Game On Dude
Gulch
Hidden Lake*

*Kiri's Clown
Little Silver Charm
Marquetry
Midnight Secret
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Ogygian
Popcorn Deelites
Precisionist
Prized
Rail Trip
Rapid Redux
Ruhlmann*

*Sarava
Silver Charm
Special Ring
Sunshine Forever
Swan's Way
Taylor's Special
Thunder Rumble
Tinnners Way
Wallenda
Watchem Smokey
Williamstown*



The Book

This exceptional collection of paintings, drawings, and pencil sketches has been a long labor of love for Old Friends artist-in-residence Dagmar Galleithner-Steiner.

Crafted over more than seven years, *The Art of Old Friends* is an ode to the farm's famous and not-so-famous retired athletes. It features over 45 unique pastel paintings and pencil works of horses both past and present, including such champions as Kentucky Derby winners Silver Charm and Charismatic, three-time Santa Anita Handicap winner Game On Dude—who graces the cover—Horse of the Year Black Tie Affair and Eclipse winners Sunshine Forever and Hidden Lake. The in-progress sketches depict the farm, its people, the horses, and other pets-in-residence, like Buddy the cat.

The horses' careers—from racetrack to retirement—are recapped through brief reminiscences by journalist, screenwriter, and *Daily Racing Form* columnist Jay Hovdey and Old Friends founder Michael Blowen.



Images © Dagmar Galleithner-Steiner

Original portraits featured in *The Art of Old Friends* available for purchase. Contact Old Friends for information.

The book also features a Foreword by Bob and Jill Baffert. Bob is a four time Eclipse award winner and trainer of Silver Charm and Danthebluegrassman. Jill is a member of the Old Friends Board of Directors.

"I wanted to create something for people that have not been able to visit the farm," says Galleithner-Steiner. "I wanted them to feel like they have been here. And the honor of being allowed to immortalize these amazing athletes is one of the greatest feelings one could ever experience."

The completed work is a chronicle of the history of Old Friends that captures not only the souls of the horse but also the regal spirit of the Thoroughbred

This is volume one of what we hope will be a collectible series. Dagmar is generously donating 100 percent of the proceeds to the horses of Old Friends.

The Artist



Dagmar Galleithner-Steiner was raised in Bavaria, Germany and horses have been an essential part of her life since childhood. While in college, she worked at Daglfing, the harness racetrack in Munich, grooming, hot walking, and exercising horses as well as helping to retrain and rehome those done with racing careers. It was at the tracks, both harness and Thoroughbred, that Galleithner-Steiner earned her first commissions as a painter from various owners and trainers who wanted portraits of their horses.

After studying American cultural history, architecture, and art history in Germany, Galleithner-Steiner moved to the U.S. in 2013 to share her life with new husband Joe J. Steiner, who was then a jockey in the Southern California racing circuit. In 2015, the couple welcomed their first child, son Jonah.

Galleithner-Steiner's work can be seen in private collections around the world. She has also donated paintings and

prints to numerous equine Aftercare programs, including Southern California Thoroughbred Rescue, Save a Forgotten Equine (SAFE), CANTER, Thoroughbred Charities of America, and Old Friends.

"When I started working as a professional artist, I always had this strong devotion to donating as much of my work to aid in animal welfare as possible," says the artist. "In the beginning, I didn't make much money, so instead of donating dollars, I donated art. I think this may have paved the path towards this project long before I even knew it."

In recent years, Galleithner-Steiner has been commissioned by the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club to paint the official portrait of Pacific Classic winners Shared Belief, California Chrome, Beholder, and Collected.

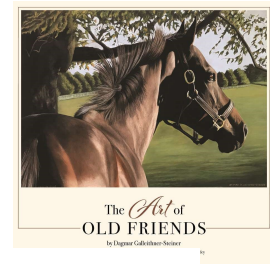
Presently, Dagmar and her family reside in Georgetown, Kentucky.

Turn the page for exciting *The Art of Old Friends* pre-Publication order opportunities ➡

The Art of Old Friends

Choose Your Pre-Publication Order Package Level

♥ Dagmar is donating 100% of proceeds to Old Friends ♥



Level One—The Book

Price: \$39.99 (plus \$10 shipping)

You'll receive *The Art of Old Friends* book by Dagmar

Galleithner-Steiner, signed by Dagmar

Access: Limited Edition of 2,500

Level Two—On Your Mark

Price: \$45.00 (plus \$10 shipping)

You'll receive *The Art of Old Friends* signed book

AND a set of five (5) bookmarks designed from the paintings in the book. Bookmark images are Dagmar's choice.

Access: Limited Quantities Available

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AND a Photo book, the Making of *The Art of Old Friends* with 24 images and concept drawings.

Access: Limited Quantities Available

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AND a Photo book, the Making of *The Art of Old Friends*

AND a 16" x 20" Fine Art Print of Silver Charm, from *The Art of Old Friends*, signed by Dagmar

Access: Limited Quantities Available

Level Seven—Your Book Has an Exclusive Drawing

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AND a 16" x 20" Fine Art Print of Silver Charm

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Have a Question?

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Hurricane Survivor Winning Dubai Finds His Home at Old Friends

By Rick Capone

Packing 150 mile winds, Hurricane Maria carved a path of destruction across the Caribbean sea before slamming into Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017. While the people of Puerto Rico continue to work hard to recover, there is another group of survivors also looking for relief: horses. At Hipodromo Camarero, a racetrack east of San Juan, about 800 equines made it through the storm, but short supplies of food, water, and medical care have since taken the lives of at least 100 horses.



Winning Dubai upon arrival at Old Friends on November 13, 2017 © Old Friends Photo

Winning Dubai, an 8-year-old gelding who had all of his 96 starts at Camarero, was one of the lucky ones.

Thanks to the efforts of the Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare,

Inc. (CTA) and other horse-welfare organizations, he landed on his feet at Old Friends in November 2017.

The CTA, which was founded in 2016 by Shelley Blodgett and Kelley Stobie, focuses on rehoming Thoroughbreds in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands following racing careers. After the storm, the CTA stepped up to “work with a variety of organizations to get relief to the Thoroughbreds and other horse breeds on the island,” said Blodgett.



A napping Winning Dubai & bud Yankee Fourtune

© Carole Oates Photo

While many Thoroughbreds were trapped at the track, others were fortunate enough to have been evacuated prior to the storm. Winning Dubai, was part of a small group that rode out the tempest at Hacienda Sies-ta Alegre in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, where CTA boards many off-the-track-Thoroughbreds (OTTBs) awaiting new homes.

“There was damage there, too, including loss of electricity, no running water, and damage to paddocks and barn roofs,” said Blodgett, “but thankfully, they have generators and were able to at least get water running.”

Winning Dubai was bred in Kentucky in 2009 and was one of those “workhorses” in the sport, earning \$104,984 the hard way—in over 96 starts, which made him a perfect resident for Old Friends. While the Georgetown farm is home to many big-name horses, the majority of the retirees are “work horses” like Dubai, who run their hearts out in every race and deserve a peaceful place to retire.

While Stobie knew he was going to a good home, seeing him leave was hard for her and her family, which included her 92-year old grandmother and 10-year old son. “He became part of my family,” said Stobie. “I cried when he left and still cry tears of joy every time I get an update on him. I am so thankful that Old Friends offered him a home.”



©Laura Battles Photo

To begin his journey, Dubai and a few other OTTBs were placed in USDA quarantine for the seven days before moving to in Miami, where his trip was then unexpectedly delayed.

“He developed a foot abscess,” said Blodgett. “So Karen and Randy Hickman of Stone Ridge Farm in Ocala, FL, brought him to their farm to heal. Once he was well enough to travel, Lorraine’s Horse Transport picked him up and he made the journey to Old Friends.”

Old Friends founder Michael Blowen believes Winning Dubai will fit right in and is sure to become a fan favorite as his story is unique and intriguing. “Winning Dubai makes a connection between those horses on the farm who are famous and the ones that are not as famous,” said Blowen. “While Winning Dubai is not a Kentucky Derby winner, he definitely earned his retirement. Plus, he’s a very sweet horse.”

This article originally appeared in the Winter 2018 issue of *Ranching USA*.

The World according to *Little Silver Charm*

Certain individuals who shall remain nameless have been floating rumors that I am jealous of a new member of the Old Friends menagerie, Gorgeous George, the miniature donkey. Nothing could be further from the truth.



Little Silver Charm
Photo © Rick Capone

I have no reason to envy all the attention that has come his way. Not the lavishly illustrated “Barn Buddies” story on *The Paulick Report* about G. G.’s close friendship with one of our famous stallions, Alphabet Soup. Not the exclamations about his “cuteness” accompanying the many, many, many photographs of him on Facebook. Not the in-depth television interviews. I don’t deny his cuteness but let’s face it, when it comes to being adorable I wrote the book. (In fact, I did write the book, “*A Charmed Life*,” a chronicle of my life so far, available in the Old Friends gift shop and on Amazon, \$15.95, a bargain.)

As you may know, one of my numerous jobs here at Old Friends involves working with new arrivals to prepare them for the demands of life on the farm. Not that there are many demands, unless you consider lounging around a paddock all day waiting to be admired and photographed by carrot-bearing visitors a taxing job.

I try to educate our arriving retirees about their new role. It’s important that they be friendly and welcoming to the thousands of visitors who come to Old Friends each year. They should think of themselves as ambassadors for the sport of Thoroughbred racing as well as for the concept of Thoroughbred retirement. Is that a lot to ask? Apparently it is, in certain cases. Which brings me back to Gorgeous George.

So far he has refused to accept my counsel. The first time we met he took one look at me and ran in the other direction, dragging his friend and benefactor, James Crump, behind him. Subsequent efforts to engage him have been fruitless. He behaves as if he thinks I am some sort of predator. Or maybe he’s simply dazzled by my celebrity and is afraid to get too close. Or maybe he just doesn’t like taking orders from a little horse.

I’m told that miniature donkeys are highly intelligent, so I hold out hope that eventually I will be able to work with him. It’s all in a day’s work for the hardest-working horse at Old Friends.



Gorgeous George
Photo © Laura Battles



February 7-14, 2018



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May 5, 2018



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May 6, 2018, 1-5 pm

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Old Friends Farm, Georgetown, KY
Book signing, live & silent auctions, catered BBQ, music, tours & more! Admission \$30; members \$15; kids 12 and under free. Call for reservations 502-863-1775.

May 28, 2018, 1 pm



Annual Memorial Day Remembrance

Old Friends Farm, Georgetown, KY
Join us for our memorial celebration.

August 5, 2018

Old Friends at Cabin Creek Annual Party

Saratoga National Golf Club
Food, music, silent auction & more!

August 8, 2018 5:30-8 pm



Old Friends Cocktail Party

Anne’s Washington Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY.
Mama Mia’s catering, open bar, great company, and it’s free!

October 29-November 1, 2018



2nd Annual Equestrian Convention, Louisville, KY

Old Friends proud to be taking part in the
Second Annual Equestrian Convention, fan
festival and trade show. Details coming!
More information at www.Equestrian.com

November 4, 2018 12 noon -3 pm

Breeders’ Cup Celebration at Old Friends

Old Friends Farm, Georgetown, KY
Celebrate the conclusion of Breeders’ Cup
with a party featuring live & silent auctions
of Breeders’ Cup memorabilia & more, catered
BBQ, tours & more! Admission is \$30; members
\$15; kids under 12 free. Offering a special \$10
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Old Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe harbor & dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing & breeding careers have come to an end.



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Daily at 11 am



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A limited number of private tours with Old Friends founder Michael Blowen are available. **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. The tour is approximately 90 minutes in length. \$50 per person; 2 person minimum/5 person maximum. Tour is subject to availability. Call us for information.

—continued from front page

Since the 2018 Breeders' Cup will be held down the road at Churchill Downs, we've added a Sunday, November 4 event at the farm. In addition, the second annual fan convention, Equestricon, will be held in Louisville during Breeders' Cup week. We'll be doing everything we can to assist Dan and his staff to help make Equestricon a huge success. Last summer, at Saratoga, marked the first Equestricon and I think everyone in attendance was struck at how much they learned, who they met and how much fun can be had when so many different representatives of our great sport get together.

And, while all of these activities are great, we never lose sight of the fact that the only purpose is to provide a dignified post racing and breeding life to these extraordinary athletes who are, truly, our old friends.

- - Michael