

# Old Friends

Thoroughbred Retirement in Georgetown, Kentucky

Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)



Summer 2019

## A Message from Michael Blowen

As I'm sure you know, these are tough times for horses, in particular, and horse racing, in general. One positive thing to develop is the growth in aftercare awareness.

The valuable work being done by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) has been highlighted recently with revelations of horse neglect involving facilities not TAA accredited. The TAA's accreditation program and fundraising outreach to owners, breeders, buyers and consignors at sales, horsemen's groups, trainers, jockeys and more has brought aftercare to another level. When you donate to a TAA accredited facility like Old Friends, you know you can give with confidence.

We are working every day to expand the Old Friends program so we can accept more deserving athletes into our facilities.

And we have you to thank for our ability to accomplish that goal. Although our reputation is largely based on retiring famous stallions, such as Silver Charm and Alphabet Soup, we also take care of a majority of Thoroughbreds who plied their trade far from the shadow of Saratoga.

Through the terrific surgical and medical staff at Park Equine Hospital and the assistance of Dr. Brett Woodie at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital, we are able to report that our latest retiree, Einstein, had a dangerous tumor removed and is doing better than ever back at the farm. Thanks to Park Equine for their unbelievably generous discounts and Adena Springs and The Stronach Group for assuming all costs. That's the way it works when everyone works together to benefit these great Thoroughbreds.

Silver Charm had a wonderful 25th birthday party, with approximately 200 diehard fans braving the chilly winds to celebrate. Beginning with Silver Charm's mother, Bonnie's Poker, and ending with the recent arrival of his daughter, Classy Charm, we're proud to have been home to three generations of this amazing family.

We are so honored and grateful to again be a beneficiary of the Breeders's Cup and Maker's Mark Champions for Charity 2019 limited-edition, collectible bottle series, which this year honors leading Breeders' Cup jockey Mike Smith. Thank you all!



Michael Blowen  
President & Founder

Getting back to our current crisis in the sport, I remember, quite vividly, that our late friend, veterinarian Dr. Doug Byars, once summed it up perfectly. "Before performing any act on these horses—and this means owners, trainers, consigners, jockeys, farm managers, grooms and everyone else—make sure that whatever you do is in the best short and long-term interest of the horse. If it is, do it, if not, don't." Thanks to everyone at Old Friends who take these words to heart every day.

*Michael*



©Laura Battles Photo

*CAJUN BEAT 2003 Breeders' Cup Sprint Champ*

## Daily Racing Form/Old Friends 2019 Magazine Has Arrived!

- 25 Moments in the Life of Old Friends
- The Visual Genius of Barbara Livingston & Dagmar Galleithner-Steiner
- Escaping Puerto Rico: Winning Dubai
- Genuine Reward's Gentle Soul: A Remembrance by Laura Hillenbrand
- Intersecting Lives: Alphabet Soup, Gorgeous George & James Crump
- Little Silver Charm
- Barbara Livingston photos

\$10

To order

Call: 502-863-1775

Web: [oldfriendsequine.org](http://oldfriendsequine.org)



# Meet Our New Old Friends

Your generosity has enabled us to welcome **8(!)** deserving horses to Old Friends!

They come from many circumstances, with one thing in common— your commitment has helped make the dignified retirement they deserve a reality.

We are excited to introduce you to:



© Frank Medico Photo

**Joking (10)** retired March 2019, facilitated by owner Charlton Baker & Old Friends' Lorita Lindemann. He won the Grade 1 Vosburgh & earned \$800,000.



© Laura Battles Photo

**Einstein (17)**, a winner of \$2.9 million, is a Grade 1 winner on both dirt and turf. Einstein arrived in March from our friends at Adena Springs in Paris, KY.



© Laura Battles Photo

**Saudi Poetry (22)**, a graded SW & \$2.2 million broodmare, arrived at Old Friends in May thanks to trainer Jeff Morris & author Laura Hillenbrand.



© Old Friends Farm Photo

**So Elite (12)** is a late March arrival. He raced in Canada, California & Oregon, earned \$326,000 & won 5 consecutive races at age 9.



© Old Friends Farm Photo

**Dixie Doree (10)** was retired in May courtesy of her owner. Dixie won 5 races and \$166,000 racing in New York.



© Old Friends Farm Photo

**Livin for Love (7)** retired to Old Friends in April through the auspices of our wonderful veterinarian Dr. Bryan Waldrige.



© Laura Battles Photo

**Ostrolenka (7)**, who arrived in January, won two listed stakes races and over \$600,000 racing on the New York circuit.

*Sadly we bid farewell to these Old Friends this year. We were honored to serve them.*



*Bint Marscay  
Danthebluegrassman  
Gerí  
Makors Mark  
Ready's Rocket  
Santona  
Silver Ray  
Yankee Fourtune*



© Laura Battles Photo

**Classy Charm (17)** is the third generation of her family to reside at Old Friends, following her sire Silver Charm & his dam Bonnie's Poker.



# Poetry In Motion

by Cynthia Grisolia

For most, Old Friends is known as the home of great stallions. But every now and then, a great mare comes into our fold. That's certainly the case for Saudi Poetry, a 22-year-old daughter of the royal Storm Cat.

Saudi's intriguing story and journey to Old Friends is as rich as her pedigree. A \$1.7 million yearling at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Yearling Sale in 1998, she was bought by Prince Ahmed bin Salman's Thoroughbred Corp. for trainer Bob Baffert—the same connections as Old Friends retiree War Emblem. Her royal breeding was apparent from the beginning. She broke her maiden first time out at Santa Anita. A few months later the striking chestnut mare earned her first stakes win in the Torrey Pines Stakes at Del Mar.

As a 3-year-old, Saudi Poetry earned her first graded stakes in the Grade 2 Louisville Breeders' Cup Handicap at Churchill Downs. The following month she captured the Grade 3 Fleur de Lis over the same oval.

Hillenbrand (*Seabiscuit*), became aware of the mare, and decided to step in. As Morris noted in an article he penned for the *Daily Racing Form*:

*"Running her through the auction ring yet again posed two great risks. First that she'd be susceptible to purchase by still another breeder determined to breed her once more in the faint hope of finally producing a foal of value. To breed a mare of her age would be tantamount to a woman becoming pregnant approaching the age of 60.... The second potential risk of her presence in the auction was that she'd fail to bring any bid at all, leaving her possibly exasperated owner susceptible to passing her along to a "killer" buyer."*

As good fortune would have it, Morris and Hillenbrand were able to bid and get the mare for a mere \$1,500. "Light years from what she once commanded," Morris noted. She was promptly retired to Morris's Apex, N.C. farm, where she was treated like,



*Saudi Poetry with Old Friends' Michael Blowen . . .*

*Old Friends Farm Photos*



*. . .and author Laura Hillenbrand*

Saudi Poetry ended her racing career with five wins out of her 15 starts and earnings of \$596,972. As a broodmare, she continued to attract regal attention. In 2003, in foal to Silver Deputy, Saudi Poetry was a \$2.2 million broodmare acquisition. Two years later, in foal to Unbridled's Song, the mare again sold, this time for \$2 million.

But, as is often the case with great race mares, her offspring declined to live up to her own achievements. After changing hands several more times, in 2017, at the age of 20, Saudi Poetry went on the block at the Ocala Breeder's Stock Winter Mixed Sale.

It was then that a former trainer named Jeff Morris and his good friend, acclaimed author Laura

well, the royalty she is.

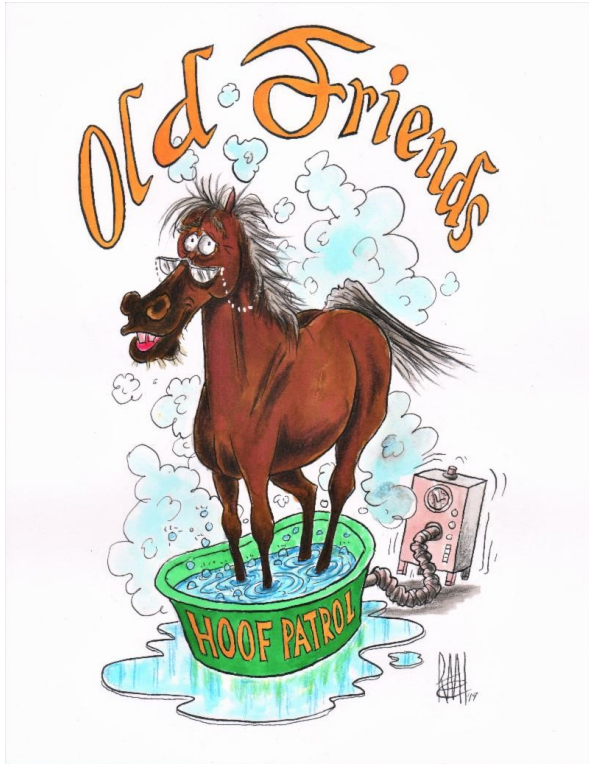
But in 2019, when Morris began "subdividing our property," he realized he would have to find Saudi a new home, and began looking for a safe landing. Hillenbrand, who has been a supporter of Old Friends and helped pension the stallion Genuine Reward in 2015, suggested Old Friends. And we were thrilled to say yes.

"We're deeply grateful to Old Friends for welcoming her," said Morris. "I know of no better place on Earth for horses. She's a special horse, and has touched our lives. We love her and want only for her safety and happiness, and now we know she will have those things forever."

# Introducing The Hoof Patrol

*Here's the newest way you can support our retirees!*

There is an old saying among horsemen, "No foot, no horse." Despite their size and strength, horses are pretty fragile animals. Think about it: Four slim legs and four undersized hooves—smaller, in most cases, than your morning bowl of Cheerios—holding up a horse's full weight, which, for most Thoroughbreds, is in the ballpark of 1,200 pounds! You can see, without healthy hooves, a horse is, well, not exactly walkin' on sunshine.



*Thank you Remi Bellocq for our fabulous Hoof Patrol logo!*

You can support the 800+ hooves belonging to the residents of Old Friends. Our retirees have both short and long-term hoof issues. Your support provides a funding stream for hoof and podiatry-related medical care.

Choose from among three levels of support and receive a program gift and regular updates on Old Friends Hoof Patrol horses. All Hoof Patrol donors receive an official Hoof Patrol keychain, a full year of email Hoof Patrol updates and information, a spotlight horse case-study, videos & photos, Talk to the Hoof Q & A, contest eligibility for giveaways of shoes worn by our Hoof Patrol Old Friends and photo opportunities with an Old Friends Hoof Patrol horse when you visit the farm.

*Take it from our spokeshorse, Hobble*

*"Let me tell you, there's nothing worse than throbbing tootsies. Every step you take, every move you make...agony. I can barely hoof it to my feed bucket. I couldn't shuffle off to the barn, let alone to Buffalo. But more importantly, I can't petulantly stomp my hoof when no one is giving me carrots."*



## Hoof Patrol Support Levels

### Bronze Shoe Member (\$50)

Your annual donation provides supplies directly for the Hoof Patrol Hoof care Tool Box. Supplies for care of hoof ailments include: Keratex hoof hardener, Animalintex hoof poultice, Betadine®, cast padding, Elastikon® (4"), 3M Vetwrap, heavy duty duct tape, Farriers Formula® double strength, EasyBoot Rx therapy hoof boot, Soft-Ride hoof boots, and custom fit glue-on shoes.

### Silver Shoe Member (\$125)

Your annual donation provides support for horses experiencing short-term hoof issues such as abscesses, bruises, cracks and general soreness.

### Gold Shoe Member (\$250)

Your annual donation provides support for horses experiencing long-term hoof-care issues, such as chronic soreness, arthritis, laminitis, brittle hooves, quarter cracks, issues associated with Cushing's Disease and other geriatric issues.

*Join the Hoof Patrol today (see Page 7)*





# Old Friends Bulletin Board

## Old Friends Tour Menu

(Please note our new tour pricing effective July 1)



### GENERAL TOUR

A 90-minute guided walking tour  
Through November 7, 2019  
10 am—1 pm—3 pm daily  
&

### SUMMER TWILIGHT TOURS

Wednesdays & Fridays June –August  
6:00 pm

### Reservations Required

Adults \$15; Children 4-12 \$10  
Children 3 & under free

Book your tour online at  
oldfriendsequine.org or call 502-863-1775

### Old Friends Private Tour

A 90-minute customizable guided tour  
Minimum 2 people • Maximum 5 people  
1 week advance notice required  
Not available during weeks of Kentucky Derby,  
BreyerFest & Breeders' Cup (when in KY)  
Adults: \$35; Children 4-12 \$15; 3 & under free

### Old Friends Founders Tour with Michael Blown

A 90-minute customizable guided tour  
Minimum 2 people • Maximum 5 people  
Limited availability; 1 week advance notice required  
Not available during weeks of Kentucky Derby,  
BreyerFest & Breeders' Cup (when in KY)  
Adults: \$75; Children 4-12 \$25; 3 & under free

### Spotlight Photo Tour with Laura Battles

Tour Old Friends with photographer Laura Battles.  
Enjoy your 90-minute tour and receive digital photos  
commemorating your visit.



Limited availability; reservation required,  
Not available during weeks of Kentucky  
Derby, BreyerFest & Breeders' Cup (when in KY)  
Minimum 2 • Maximum 5 people • Call for pricing

### Group Tours

Old Friends can accommodate your group  
with a custom tour.  
Call us for additional information and pricing

Book your tour by calling or online at our website:  
502-863-1775 • [www.oldfriendsequine.org](http://www.oldfriendsequine.org)

## HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO

We are excited to announce that our very own hero,  
**Dr. Bryan Waldrige**, has been nominat-  
ed for the annual American Humane  
Hero Veterinarian and Hero Veterinary  
Nurse Awards™, sponsored by Zoetis  
Petcare. This award honors the heroes  
who dedicate their lives to making a  
difference in animals' lives through deliv-  
ery of outstanding veterinary care. Voting continues  
through August 8 at 12:00 pm. Show your support for  
Old Friends by voting often for Dr. Bryan!



[www.herovetawards.org](http://www.herovetawards.org)



**SAVE THE DATE**

June—September, 2019

Summer Guest Series sponsored by **Red State BBQ**

Join us for dinner, guest speaker and farm tour with  
Michael. Guests and dates to be announced.



July 10-14, 2019

Twilight Tours During BreyerFest

Old Friends Farm, Georgetown, KY

6 pm daily. Reservations required

August 4, 2019



After the Race 10th Anniversary Party

Old Friends at Cabin Creek, Greenfield Center, NY  
6:30 pm

Saratoga National Golf Club, Saratoga Springs, NY



August 7, 2019

Old Friends Party on the Porch

Anne's Washington Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY  
5:30-9:00 pm

Mama Mia's catering, open bar, and it's free!



September 5, 2019

\$250,000 Old Friends Stakes

Kentucky Downs, Franklin, KY



September 14-15 and 21-22, 2019

Old Friends Presents **Dr. Seuss's Horse Museum**

Old Friends Farm, Georgetown, KY

A special children's event featuring Dr. Seuss!  
More details to come.



October 4, 2019

Seed to Feed Dinner

Old Friends Farm, Georgetow

Tickets available at [localfeedky.com](http://localfeedky.com)



October 10, 2019

An Evening at The Kentucky Castle

The Kentucky Castle, Versailles, KY

Details to come!



# Old Friends Life



*Marshall Rooster*



*You and I*



*Winter Dining*



*Rufus*



*Memorial Day 2019*



*Silver Charm's 25th Birthday Cake*



*The tail of Alphabet Soup*



*Our resident lonely Blue Heron*

*Photos © Laura Battles*



## The World according to *Little Silver Charm*

Lately there's been a lot of talk about appointing a national commissioner of Thoroughbred horse racing, a Czar, if you will.

I think that I am perfectly positioned to do the job. After all, I have four legs, not two, which gives me two legs up on most of the other potential candidates. Also, I am adorable, which I'm pretty sure none of them can claim to be.

It may surprise you to know that I am familiar with all the problems currently facing racing. How is that possible? Well I am more than just a pretty face, although I am certainly that.

One of my many jobs here at Old Friends is to help our retired athletes adjust to life away from the track. I listen while they talk about their experiences, their problems, their opinions. You might say that I am a kind of horse therapist, unlicensed, but with years of experience.

Our champions have experienced racing at the top rungs, whereas some of our other retired athletes have ground out their careers in less rari-fied circumstances. However the champions and the claimers agree one thing: the horse should come first. What's good for the horse is good for the sport.

As one who has always put my own interests first, I naturally agree.



*Little Silver Charm, Michael & Basketball Diplomacy*

## 5 Ways to Help Old Friends



### Clubhouse Annual Membership

Event discounts with your membership



### Friends for All Seasons

Partner with Old Friends via monthly giving



### Shares for Life

Donate for a share in your favorite Old Friend



### *Old girlFriends Society*

Show your love for the mares of Old Friends



### The Hoof Patrol

Help Hobble care for the 800+ hooves of our retirees

## Your Donations ♥ Benefit Our Retirees

One bale of bedding straw ♥ \$5

One bale of hay ♥ \$6

Hoof supplement ♥ \$10

One bag of senior feed ♥ \$16

Three bales of hay ♥ \$18

Hay for a day for the entire paddock ♥ \$25

Fifty pound bag of carrots ♥ \$30

Equine dentist visit ♥ \$40

Three bags of senior feed ♥ \$48

Round bale of hay ♥ \$53

Heated water bucket ♥ \$65

16 foot section of fence ♥ \$150

Durable horse blanket ♥ \$200

Farrier visit for the herd ♥ \$250

Paddock waterer ♥ \$1,000

Sponsor a Stall ♥ \$2,000

Single horse run-in shed for shelter ♥ \$2,000

## Thank You for Supporting Our Horses!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Clubhouse Annual Membership (\$150.00)

☐ The Hoof Patrol \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Gold (\$250) Silver (\$125) Bronze (\$50)

☐ Shares for Life (\$100.00) Horse: \_\_\_\_\_  
Little Silver Charm & Gorgeous George (\$25.00 each)

☐ Old girlFriends Society (\$100.00)

☐ Friend for All Seasons Monthly Donor (credit card)  
Indicate amount to be charged monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check enclosed, payable to Old Friends

☐ Bill my credit card

\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_ AmEx \_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_ Discover

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.  
Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

1841 Paynes Depot Road, Georgetown, KY 40324  
(502) 863-1775 • oldfriendsequine.org

## Old Friends

1841 Paynes Depot Rd.  
Georgetown, KY 40324  
(502) 863-1775

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.



### Old Friends Board of Directors

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Old Friends Thoroughbred Retirement  
(502) 863-1775