

IN LOVING MEMORY

Sigi Siller



NOVEMBER 12, 1950 – MAY 10 2016

BEAUTIFULLY EXEMPLIFYING A LIFE WELL LIVED:

November 12, 1950 – Siegrid Siller Born in Baden-Baden, Germany
1969 – Graduates High School

~ CHAPTER 1 ~

1969 – Father, Franz Siller, buys the first Om El Arab mare in Marbach
1970 – Meets future husband, Heinz-Ruediger Merz in Marbach
1970 – Sigi and Heinz travel to Spain, Egypt and Poland; purchases Estopa and Shaker El Masri and name their program “Om El Arab”
1971 – Sigi buys the family laundry and dry cleaning business called Waescherei Liane, from her parents.
1973 – Sigi’s mother, Liane Siller passes. Sigi was just 23.

~ CHAPTER 2 ~

1973 – Sigi moves Om El Arab to the farm in the Black Forest
1974 – Doug Dahmen and Sigi meet; form a life-long friendship.
1975 – El Shaklan is born; Janina is born.
1977 – Ibn Estopa is born; Benni is born.
1978 – Sigi sells the laundry and dry cleaning business to focus on breeding Arabian horses
1970’s & 80’s – Om El Arab horses are named World Champions 15 times!
1983 – El Shaklan and 12 other horses come to the U.S. in Santa Ynez, California to test the waters.
1983 – Sigi and first husband buy the California farm
August 25, 1984 – Sigi moves to Santa Ynez from Germany with husband and children
1985 – Sigi and Heinz separate; Sigi loses the German breeding program.
1986 – El Shaklan gets sold to Brazil against her wishes

~ CHAPTER 3 ~

1986 – Sigi starts Om El Arab *International* with just *Estopa, *Bint Estopa, *Bint Shaker, *Bint Jacio and ¼ of *Sanadik El Shaklan
1987 – Sigi buys the California farm for 2nd time; marries 2nd husband.
1998 – Janina joins Sigi at Om El Arab International professionally
2000 – Diane Brown and Sigi meet; form a life-long friendship.
2004 – Om El Arab Named AHA Breeder of the Year
2004 – Darryl Larson, Scott Benjamin and Sigi meet; form life-long friendship.
2005 – Planted organic Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Vineyard at Om El Arab
2006 – First diagnosed with breast cancer

2007 – Cancer goes into remission!

February 6, 2007 – Sophia Merz, Sigi's first grandbaby is born to Benni & Kim Merz

2007 – Om El Arab International Named World Cup Breeder of the Year

~ CHAPTER 4 ~

2008 – Second husband departs; Om El Arab International becomes Om El Arab once again, and is run exclusively by Sigi & daughter Janina.

2010 – Om El Arab Named World Cup Breeder of the Year

2012 – Sigi buys the California farm for the 3rd time

2012 – Om El Arab World Cup Breeder of the Year

February 2014 – Breast cancer returns

March 18, 2014 – Alexander Luca Merz-Bass, Sigi's second grandbaby, is born to Janina Merz & Bryon Bass

May 2015 – Travels to see John of God in Brazil by herself. Leaves on oxygen in a wheel chair; returns without oxygen and can walk!

September 2015 – Travels & shows at Central Park Show in New York

November 12, 2015 – Turns 65; celebrates the "BIG 105" by combining her age with Janina's. She always wanted to live to be 100.

November 2015 – Travels to see John of God in Brazil for a 2nd time.

November 2015 – Travels to the World Championship in Paris to watch Om El Aisha Aljassimya win Bronze World Champion Jr. Mare.

April 9, 2016 – Travels to Switzerland for treatments at the Paracelsus Klinik with Benni

April 15, 2016 – Emergency intestine surgery in St. Gallen Switzerland

May 4, 2016 – Travels back to Santa Barbara, California with her family

May 9, 2016 – Says her goodbyes to her family

May 10, 2016 – Transitions surrounded by family

During her life, Sigi visited and made friends in the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Egypt, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States.

Sigi touched people's hearts, and in doing so made them better versions of themselves. Her horses are on every continent and in every country that Arabian horses are bred. Through her hard work, passion and dedication, she left an incredible legacy for Janina, Benni, their families, and the Arabian community.

Special Thanks

This Celebration would not be what it is today without the help and hard work of the Celebration Committee: Benni and Kim Merz, Janina Merz and Bryon Bass, Diane Brown, Tara and Dan Howard, Evie and Bob Sweeney, and Darryl Larson. Sophia, Luca and Henry added entertainment as well!

Special Facts About the Day

. The Matriarch wine was grown here on the farm by Benni, and planted by the whole family including Sigi, in 2005.

. The food is provided by Cal Tacos, whose taco truck is co-owned by Benni.

. The hay bales you are seated on were grown right here on the farm by Benni.

. The blankets and hay bale design are on loan to us by Aljassimya Farm, who has been an enormous supporter of Om El Arab.

. The gorgeous flower arrangements were grown and assembled by Diane Brown. She also provided the salmon from her company, Santa Barbara Smokehouse.

. The delicious cupcakes were donated by Psynergy Equine. Mike, Jean and Arturo.

. The band "Coastal Commission" is comprised of boys that Sigi essentially raised, along with lead singer Tom Bryant.

. The vintage t-shirt Sigi is wearing on the Matriarch wine label (and that can be purchased for charity) is the same Om El Arab shirt she wore in the 70's and 80's.

. The "Rocks for Sigi" memorial idea came from Carole Colone, who shared many special spiritual moments with Sigi.

. Tara Howard, childhood friend of Janina's, also grew up with Sigi's loving care. She and her husband, Dan, donated much of the printing you see here today. They also donated a beautiful bench in Sigi's memory.

. Thank you Darryl Larson Productions for the moving slideshow of Sigi's life.

. Thank you to Evie, of EvieInc., for the countless hours organizing the minutia, and for portraying Sigi's event on social media with style.