

# THE READER

*The official newsletter of CenterLine Dressage*



CenterLine Dressage

## IN THIS ISSUE

**ICEBREAKER LIVES UP  
TO ITS NAME**

**SHOWING AGAIN,  
AFTER 30 YEARS**

**CLD GROOMING AND  
BRAIDING CLINIC ON  
MARCH 25 AT  
STARWEST**

**A SAD NOTE**

**CALENDAR**

## President's Letter

*by Judy Nordstrom*

Dear CLD Members and friends,

The 2023 show season has begun! CLD held Icebreaker, our first schooling show of the season, on April 22nd at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in conjunction with ARAB, Inc.'s Arabian Value Show. We had a great show with 63 dressage rides and 17 western dressage rides. A good time was had by all in spite of cold and windy elements!

Our next show will be our rated Classic shows held on June 24-25. We have lots of volunteer opportunities available! Please contact us on our CenterLine Dressage Facebook page or email me at [judith\\_n\\_62707@yahoo.com](mailto:judith_n_62707@yahoo.com). Our next schooling show, Firecracker, will be held on July 1 at Tower Hill Equestrian Center. Prize list is available at [centerlinedressage.com](http://centerlinedressage.com)!

Our board is working very hard to offer some exciting new educational opportunities and fun events to our members! We want to hear from you with what kind of things you are interested to learn more about and what kind of events you would like to see! Our ears are open! Stay tuned for some information coming soon!

Meanwhile, get out there and enjoy your horses! After all, horses make life better!

Your president,

Judy Nordstrom

# Icebreaker Lives Up To Its Name

Report by Linda Fraembs

Despite the less than pleasant weather (it snowed!), our 2023 Icebreaker schooling show on April 22 was a resounding success. The show was run in conjunction with the Arabian Horse Value Show sponsored by ARAB, Inc. The total number of entries required the addition of a second ring, and tests were ridden in both the Coliseum and the covered arena at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Full results can be found online at [https://arabinc.files.wordpress.com/2023/04/23springfield\\_results.pdf](https://arabinc.files.wordpress.com/2023/04/23springfield_results.pdf).

Shows can't succeed without the efforts of many people. Special thanks to judges Fatima Kranz and Susan Posner, show manager and safety coordinator John Simpson, and show secretary Chelsea Wesson.



Volunteers from CLD and ARAB, Inc. included:

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Judy Nordstrom | Brenda Roth      |
| Wendy Tucker   | Pinky Noll       |
| Barb Geissler  | Helena Rosse     |
| Theresa Smith  | Sue Shultz       |
| Paige Burdette | Anna Pershing    |
| Mary Feagans   | Wendy Tucker     |
| Judy Ethell    | Kayla Reimer     |
| Ella Steskal   | Susie Wesson     |
| Lorelei Black  | Laurie Kern      |
| Hannah Jones   | Paige Schlicksup |
| Kim Schwanke   | Teresa Smith     |

# Showing Again, After 30 Years

by Linda Fraembs

My horse and I enter the Illinois State Fairgrounds Coliseum at a walk, picking up trot as we pass the judge's podium. "Good boy," I whisper as we round the first corner. It is the CLD IceBreaker Schooling Show held in conjunction with ARAB, Inc.'s Arabian Value Show, 2023. My horse is on his toes but flicks an ear back to listen. I hear the whistle and head toward A. Entering the arena, my mind goes completely blank for a moment.

Do I really know my test? And how did I get here, anyway?

The answer to the second question is this: It was a long path that took me 30 years to travel.

I first started taking dressage lessons from Alice Martin in 1986. As a horse-crazy kid I read everything I could get my hands on about horses and equine sports, so I had a vague understanding of what dressage was. But it was my lessons at StarWest that made me fall in love with the discipline. I purchased my first horse, Star Rabelais, from Alice and we began taking part in local shows.

As my life got more complicated with the demands of career and family, I fell away from horses. It was a break that ended up lasting 15 years. I resumed riding at StarWest in the early 2000s, and I jumped into horse ownership again in 2016. In 2020 I was offered the opportunity to help start a beginner program at StarWest. I decided it was time to leave the office life behind. Since then I've been giving lessons to children just starting to learn about horses and adult "re-riders" rekindling their passion.

Showing was never the reason I embraced dressage. My interest was, and has always been, the establishment of a meaningful relationship with a particular horse, and developing that horse into the best athlete he can be. I love the physical aspect of dressage – the beauty and grace of it – but getting inside the mind of these spectacular creatures is what really fascinates me. I've never felt the intense drive to win ribbons that seems to animate so many riders.

So why come back to showing? Particularly when the rules require me to show in open classes, even though I'm only teaching beginners?

Because competition is about more than winning ribbons. It helps us focus. It gives us an opinion about our riding from fresh eyes. And when the experience is good, it gives us confidence in our horses and ourselves.

As I head down centerline for my final halt and salute, for just a moment I let myself relax and smile. I'm still on top of my horse. I remembered my test. We made it through. We leave the arena on a long rein as I pat my horse. "Good boy," I whisper once more.

I've learned that it's never too late. Even after a decades-long break, I can still find the celebration in riding a test, the joy that comes from feeling a special bond with a horse.

And I can't wait to do it again.

# CLD Grooming and Braiding Clinic on March 25 at StarWest

Reported by Nancy Simpson

The presenter, Chantae (“Tae”) Erickson, is the dressage trainer at M & M Farm, Sullivan Illinois. She also serves as Awards Program Chair on the CLD Board of Directors. Tae earned her USDF Gold Medal in 2021.

The first session was on grooming techniques. The two demo horses were Moon (a lesson horse used in the StarWest Academy program), and Westerstorm (“Wes”), owned by Deb Klamen. Tae shared tips she had learned when she worked for a trainer who showed frequently. One tip was to always start by picking out the feet: if you find a problem there, such as a loose or missing shoe, it’s best to know that before you have spent a long time grooming the horse’s body! She discussed the various types of brushes, (natural or synthetic fibers), curry combs for loose hair and mud; she likes a product called StripHair Groomer. (If interested in this product, see a video at [striphair.com](http://striphair.com)).

Tae passed along another tip. She likes to keep a bucket of warm water handy, so that she can dampen a rub rag, wipe it along the brush bristles, and then continue brushing. This technique picks up more dust and dander.

Attendees were all given opportunities to use all of the grooming tools on the demo horses, who both seemed to enjoy the attention!

The Braiding session continued after a donut break and a switch to two different demo horses, Judy Nordstrom’s Esteban (“Steve”) and Linda Fraembs’ Bolthart (“Bo”). Tae mentioned that some days at shows she braids as many as 15 horses!

Her first demo was braiding a forelock. She suggested always keeping a spray bottle of water handy because keeping the hair very moist helps incorporate all the various lengths of hair and results in a neater braid. Always use two rubber bands as you finish; if one breaks while you are showing the braid will not fall out in the middle of your class! Tae then began on the mane, addressing questions about how to deal with a very thick mane. Attendees then tried their hands at braiding both horses forelocks and manes....the consensus was that it is much harder than it appears.

A potluck lunch followed... always an enjoyable way to end a meeting.



From left to right, the legs belong to Chynna Gilman. Instructor Chantae Erickson is working on Moon. Westerstorm is waiting in the next tie stall. Then Hannah & Kristi Jones, Ella Steskal, Kim Hughs Schwanke, Nancy Rosse, Theresa Smith, Carli McKelvey and Malcolm Kuhn.



Clinic attendees enjoyed a potluck, the first event in the newly remodeled StarWest lounge after a disastrous burst pipe on Christmas night ruined all cabinets and appliances in the kitchen.



# World Cup – 2023

## Omaha

*Reported by Judy Ethell*

I attended my first World Cup Equestrian competition in 2005 at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. The stadium was full (the previous US WC was in 1994- LA) and the top three were Anky Van Grunsven on Salerno, Edward Gal on Lingham and Debbie McDonald on Brentina. I promised myself that I would never miss one in the US!!



*Judy Ethell on Richthofen 7, her FEI horse*

The 2023 World Cup did not disappoint. After two cancellations (Vegas 2020-Covid and Gothenburg 21-EHV) the horses were back in the US.

We missed the warmup on Tuesday but did arrive at the CHI Health Center in time for the Wednesday Grand Prix de Dressage which included performances by fifteen horse and rider combinations. It seemed there may have been more nervous energy than some of the riders expected possibly due to the qualification process which limits the number of riders from the Western European League, resulting in a less experienced group.



Even winner Jessica von Bredow-Werndl, on 2022 World Cup champion TSF Dalera BB, said “she gave her best but she was too excited today, that’s why the mistakes happened and they cost a lot of points and it’s a shame. I was surprised by how tense she was!” Isabell Werth on DSP Quantaz and Nanna Skodborg Merrald on Blue Hors Zepter followed Jessica with second and third, respectively. The lone US rider to place in the top 50% was Steffen Peters on Suppenkasper.

*FEI Grand Prix Freestyle, first place from Germany,  
Jessica von Bredow-Werndl and TSF Valera BB with a  
score of 90.482%!*

# World Cup – 2023 Omaha (continued)

To the disappointment of the many, missing from the World Cup this year was world champion, and #1 in FEI standings, Glamourdale ridden by Britain's Charlotte "Lottie" Fry. Glamourdale's owner explained that "We can't miss him that long from breeding duty. As a matter of fact, Omaha was never our focal point."

Thursday was a day off for dressage. Some of the group took the opportunity to volunteer, watch the vaulting warmup and peruse the numerous vendors for that perfect show shirt. Words used to describe the vaulting included amazing and crazy! Personally, I cannot image intentionally doing a back flip off the back of a moving horse.

On Friday, several events were held before the Grand Prix Freestyle finale started.

The Omaha Mounted Police Patrol Unit demonstrated how their horses are used in varying situations such as crowd control and one on one confrontation. Each horse goes through special training to prepare for their time on the local "beat". The mounted patrol has been so popular in Omaha that a charity was established specifically to grow the number of officers and horses in this group. With the additional resources, the officers are now able to patrol much more of the growing downtown and river area of the city.



Temple Grandin was a special guest speaker and signed copies of her new book *Visual Thinking*. Known as an academic and animal behaviorist, as well as a proponent for the humane treatment of livestock for slaughter, she shared many experiences working with horses and people from a behavioral perspective. The crowd responded to her with an unlimited number of questions about horse behavior.

Second place from Denmark, Nanna Skodborg Merrald on Blu Hors Zepter, 87.146%

# World Cup – 2023 Omaha (continued)



*Third place from Germany, Isabell Werth and DSP Quantaz at 85.761%*

In addition, riders were available for photos including Isabell Werth and Anna Buffini (an up-and-coming US rider). We were then off to an early dinner finished by a walk through the downtown river area back to CHI.

For the Grand Prix Freestyle, the field was reduced to thirteen starters since Marieke van der Putten's Torveslettens Titanium RS2 and Ingrid Klimke's Franziskus FRH, a group favorite,

were withdrawn and would not compete in the freestyle. The seven judges are seated, with Janet Foy of the US at C. The first freestyle rider, Caroline Chew on Tribiana, riding for Singapore, entered the ring. It was clear the tension of Wednesday had transformed into precise and electric performances with music matched to the equine dancers.

As the scores were posted, certain riders were obviously improving on their Wednesday performances. The fifth to go rider was Alice Tarjan (US) on Serenade MF who moved up six places from Wednesday. Anna Buffini, on FRH Davinia la Douce, was the next US rider and she moved her placing up three from Wednesday, ultimately finishing at #6.

As the four final riders started (the top 4 from Wednesday), the excitement of the crowd grew. Suppenkasper, ridden by Steffen, had so much sitting in the pirouettes that his tail touched the ground. Nanna on Zepher moved easily across the arena (on the horse I wanted to take home). Isabell on Quantaz showed a high degree of difficulty with the flawless execution of a piaffe/canter pirouette/piaffe movement—this being her 23rd FEI World Cup. Jessica on Dalera, proving that she was again the champion in 2023, finished with a final score of 90.482!

Jessica described the change in Dalera for the Friday freestyle: "It was really hot in there and she again was a little bit scared but she trusted me 100%, that was the difference tonight. I was



# World Cup – 2023 Omaha (continued)

confident and we were mirroring each other, she was confident and I got confident. She was excited but she trusted me from the very first step”.

One spectator mused “Watching Isabell ride through a test was like watching a master sculptor chiseling marble away to create a masterpiece. Watching Werndl ride was like watching the final polishing of the finished sculpture. All was inspiring. I gave a standing ovation to Isabell alone. I should’ve given one to Werndl too.”

Once the scores were finalized, the top three were invited to the podium to take their place. Jessica – champion; Nanna – reserve; Isabell – third. Champagne bottle tops were popped and the trademark champagne spraying, always started by Isabell, began . . . ending the 2023 World Cup.

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Looking forward . . . Fort Worth, Dickies Arena, is the location in 2026 – I have my cowboy boots and hat packed!

For more on the FEI 2023 World Cup, including complete results, visit the website at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage/main-events/world-cup-dressage/final>  
[https://www.longinestiming.com/equestrian/2023/fei-world-cup-finals-omaha-omaha-ne/resultlist\\_201.html](https://www.longinestiming.com/equestrian/2023/fei-world-cup-finals-omaha-omaha-ne/resultlist_201.html)



Many CLD members had dinner together just before watching the Grand Prix Freestyles at 2023 World Cup. Starting with CLD President Judy Nordstrom on the left proceeding down that row are Chynna Gillman, Casey Eiten, your reporter Judy Ethell, and Deb Klamen. Across from Deb, Martin Kuhn and proceeding up that row are Kate Fleming-Kuhn, Jordan Wilton, Amy Blum (non-member attending with her daughter Casey), and Kelly Griffith. Some thoughts from the group: It was great to spend time with horse friends without our horses. Loved watching the warm ups and seeing the riders transform their horses' way to going. The riders were welcoming and fun to talk with during photo and signing sessions. There is much to practice!



## A Sad Note

Long time members will remember great gyros and baklava from The Holy Land Diner at StarWest and Tower Hill shows over the years.

Afaf Jamal Rashmawy, 74, passed away Saturday, April 29, 2023, at Springfield Memorial Hospital. She was born December 5, 1948, to Yousef and Rahma (Qumsieh) Musa. She married Jamal J. Rashmawy on May 29, 1983, in Beit Sahour, West Bank.

Preceded in death by her parents and sister, Elaine, Afaf was the owner and operator of Holy Land Diner from 1995 – 2015 in various locations around Springfield. A member of Springfield Bible Church, she is survived by her husband, Jamal; children, Timothy (Jessica) Rashmawy of Omaha, NE and Elaine (Michael) Wurdinger of Nashville, TN; grandchildren, Clarice, Layla and Maia; brothers, Khalil, Mario; sisters, Nadia, Sihaam, Munira, Nuhaa and Hanaan; and several nieces and nephews.

## Calendar

**May 20-21** Laura Graves Clinic, WI Dressage and CT, Madison, WI.

**May 25-28** Region XI Sport Horse Champs & Pre-Show, Illinois State Fairgrounds

**June 16-18** Suzanne von Dietze Clinic at StarWest, CLD *sponsoring dinner and lecture, contact Judy Nordstrom, (217) 341-8398*

**June 24-25** CenterLine Classic I and II at the Illinois State Fairgrounds

**July 1** CLD Firecracker Schooling Show, Tower Hill Equestrian Center, Dawson.

**July 7-9** National Pony Cup & Open, World Equestrian Center, Wilmington, OH

**August 5-6** SLADS Classic, National Equestrian Center, Lake St. Louis, MO

**August 21-27** U.S. Dressage Festival of Championships: Grand Prix, Intermediare I, the Pony Rider, Junior, Young Rider, and Young Adult 'Brentina Cup' Championships and Markel/USEF Young and Developing Horse Dressage National Championships, Lamplight Equestrian Center, Wayne.

**September 11-16** Arabian Sport Horse Nationals, World Equestrian Center, Wilmington, OH

**September 21-24** Region 2 Championships, Lamplight Equestrian Center, Wayne

**September 28-October 1** Region 4 Dressage Championship, Maffitt Lake Equestrian Center, Cumming, IA

**November 9-12** USDF Dressage Finals, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington

**November 13-18** AHA Annual Convention, Virtual