

STAYING IN TTOUCH

Formerly TTEAM Connections

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Happy 80th Birthday Linda !!!!

A WOMAN STILL AHEAD OF HER TIME



Photo by Gabriele Boiselle

Picture left: Linda riding in Jordan around 2000 and right on Bint Gulida in the 1960's conditioning for a 100 mile ride. Linda's riding life has been so diverse.



In 1991 Robyn wrote a brilliant article about Linda being a woman ahead of her time. What was truly amazing 26 years ago is even more astonishing now as Linda has by no means slowed down as she flew past what regular people would call the retirement age with the energy and enthusiasm for learning and teaching we all know and love her for.

As Linda turns 80 this year it is once again time to look back at her amazing life. There is no way even a sliver of her accomplishments can be captured in a short article, even the 200+ page autobiography that is in the works with Gabrielle Boiselle can not cover everything Linda has done.

Here is Robyn's article and tribute to Linda's accomplishments.

While much has been written about Linda Tellington-Jones and the development of the Tellington-Jones Equine Awareness Method, aka Tellington TTouch, many people are unfamiliar with the other areas of the horse industry in which Linda has been a pioneer. As I look back on the years growing up and having an opportunity to work with my sister Linda, I realize that there are many 'new' things in the horse world that Linda was doing twenty years ago and were looked at as 'strange.' The TTEAM work is no different, its basis comes from a classical background with horses. There are few horse people in the world

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Mission Statement

Animal Ambassadors is an educational organization dedicated to building a heartfelt relationship with animals, with each other and with all of Nature by teaching the philosophy and the Techniques of the Tellington TTouch Method.

Philosophy

To honor the role of animals as our teachers.

To respect the individuality of each animal and person.

To celebrate interspecies connections with Tellington TTouch

To encourage trust between humans and animals and also between humans

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with a background as diverse and accomplished as Linda's. This enables her to speak to riders of all disciplines all over the world.

Linda has been riding all her life and started showing at major shows at the age of 11. During her teenage years, she 'catch rode' at shows, as well as showing her own horses.

She has won top-flight competitions in every discipline in which she has competed: steeplechasing, Western and English pleasure and equitation, sidesaddle, dressage, driving, jumping, hunter, three-day eventing and endurance.

Linda co-owned and operated a breeding farm with ninety Thoroughbred broodmares, four stallions and twenty Arabians in the early 60's.

In 1961, Linda completed two 100 mile races within weeks of each other, a feat then considered impossible. First came a top ten finish in the Tevis Cup on Bint Gulida. Five weeks later, Linda and Bint Gulida set a record in the Jim Shoulders 100 mile ride, finishing six hours ahead of the next horse in thirteen hours and thirty-six minutes. She also won the Best Conditioned Horse award. Bint Gulida became one of the legendary broodmares in the endurance world producing numerous top endurance horses including Kuwiya, Jackpot, and the famed Cougar Rock.

Linda received a classical cavalry horsemanship education from her first husband, Wentworth Tellington. Linda and Went founded the Pacific Coast Equestrian Ranch Farm which included a nine-month residential school for instructors in the United States - the first in North America that was not an apprenticeship program and included daily lectures and riding classes. Graduates were expected to complete a 50 miles-in-one-day endurance ride; compete at preliminary three-day events; show at second level dressage; and show in English and Western Pleasure.

In the early 60's, Linda became a recognized American Horse Show Association (AHSA) and North American Trail Riding Conference (NATRC) judge while at the same time participating in numerous competitions.

In the summer of 1963, Linda decided to take a team of horses and riders through three major events: the Tevis Cup, the Washington State Horsemen's Ride

(a 2 day 100), and the Mt. Diablo Ride (a Class A NATRC ride). In the Tevis Cup, all the riders were entered as one entry. All five horses completed, in top twenty time, to give their team collective completion. By the end of the summer, Linda's group had won twenty out of twenty-two possible first place awards in the three events. All horse and rider teams finished in all three events.

In 1965, Linda and Went published Physical Therapy for the Athletic Horse, the first monograph published about using equine massage for speeding up recovery time after taxing athletic events. This was followed in 1967 by the first endurance manual. These two publications were combined and edited into the 1979 Doubleday book, Endurance and Competitive Trail Riding, again coauthored by Linda and Went.

Linda's first exposure to Therapeutic Riding came in 1958 when she taught a 12 year old girl, hearing impaired and non-verbal, to ride. Not only did she learn to ride, but competed successfully in Hunter classes both on the flat and over fences

In 1964, at the Pacific Coast Equestrian Research Farm in Badger, California, Linda organized a three month program for mentally impaired young adults between the ages of 15 - 21, from a California State training program. She experimented with great success with the use of bareback riding to increase her student's confidence and sense of independence.

Linda coordinated and taught the first adult education courses in horse management and horse psychology for the University of California in the early 1970's. She developed and taught a safe and force free method of starting a horse under saddle for amateur owners which was referred to in many magazines as the Tellington Method.



Photo: Linda & students from PCERF did bridless jumping demonstrations across the US.

At the Pacific Coast Equestrian Research Farm (PCERF), Linda and Went researched and developed many products which are now considered fairly new and innovative in the horse industry. Items such as humane muzzles, an aluminum muzzle to prevent cribbing and wind sucking but still allows a horse to eat and drink; kelp, now used regularly as a feed supplement; an every-day-wormer Linda and Went developed, tested and used for years at the PCERF; and an Horsemen's One Step saddle cleaner very similar to Carnaubá.

In the mid 60's, Linda and Went designed and tested rear-facing horse trailers. They kept track of pulse and respiration on horses traveling both forward and backward and published the findings. They traveled around the U.S. with four Hungarian horses (one of the first Warmblood breeds in the U.S.), including two stallions, a mare and a gelding and gave demonstrations of a jumping routine without bridles at major horse shows.

Linda was a founding member of the California Dressage Society, a Pony Club Instructor and member of the Los Altos Hunt Club.



Photo: Linda & Robyn at the Los Altos Hunt Club steeplechase

In the early 70's Linda wrote a series of articles on distance riding for German publisher Ursula Bruns' magazine, 'Freizeit Im Sattel.' These articles led to Linda's initial trips to Germany to conduct clinics in distance riding.

In 1975, she was invited to participate in Equitana, the largest horse trade fair in the world, where she demonstrated bridless jumping with three horses jumping in formation. At the next Equitana, Linda imported a Competitive Trail horse and introduced yet another aspect of riding to Germany. She has participated at Equitana ever since and is considered a major attraction. Linda was

instrumental in the initial importation of Canadian horses into the German market through Equitana.

Between 1975 - 1978, Linda began conducting clinics for handling and retraining problem horses throughout Germany. At the same time, her ongoing studies as a human Feldenkrais practitioner introduced radical insight into the dynamics of so-called 'problem horses'. In 1978, the formal system of TTEAM was birthed at a six-week research project conducted at Ursula Bruns' Reken Test Center. This collaboration also led to the publication of the Tellington-Jones Equine Awareness Method: an Introduction to the T.E.A.M. Approach to Problem-Free Training, still one of the best selling horse books in Germany and the U.S.

In 1976, she coordinated the importation and conditioning of fifteen Icelandic horses which were then ridden on the Great American Horse Race by international riders - four Germans, one Austrian and one Swiss.

Since 1975, Linda has traveled constantly teaching TTEAM worldwide to amateurs, professionals and veterinarians. Her presentations to the veterinary community include the University of Zurich Veterinary School, the University of Vienna Veterinary School, the Ohio State Veterinary Association, and the University of California at Davis Veterinary School. She gave a two-week intensive course to a group of twelve Russian veterinarians in 1985. Linda has worked on Olympic level horses from almost every nation competing in modern equestrian sports including Canada, United States, the Soviet Union, Switzerland, France, Austria, Germany, Finland, England and Australia.

The consistent and often dramatic results obtained from TTEAM work on horses caught the eye of the zoo community early on. Linda has worked for many years with Ewald Isenbugel, V.M.D. at the Zurich Zoo.



Photo: Linda demonstrating her adapting the Feldenkrais work for animals to Moshe Feldenkrais and class.

Linda was a keynote speaker at the 20th Annual Zoo keepers Convention in San Diego, California. She has given presentations and consulted on animals at the Moscow Zoo, Frankfurt Zoo, San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, Los Angeles Zoo, Syracuse Zoo, Washington National Zoo, Toledo Zoo and Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. Her work with zoos has been instrumental in providing safe and non threatening ways of handling and healing exotic animals.

Linda made ten trips to the former Soviet Union to work with horses and riders, including Olympic horses and Olympic veterinarians, to teach the TTEAM work. She worked with riders at the Bitsa Olympic Horse Complex in Moscow. When Linda first started working with the Soviet Dressage riders in 1984 they were eighteenth in the world. In 1990 the Soviet Dressage Team was second at the World Equestrian Games on the same horses they were riding when Linda first met them.

Throughout the years, Linda has maintained a deep and abiding commitment to therapeutic riding, conducting many clinics and private consultations to therapeutic riding programs in Europe and the U.S. In 1987, Linda was one of the key speakers at the 6th World Congress for Therapeutic Riding in Toronto. In 1988, she gave a clinic for the Swiss Association for Therapeutic Riding and Vaulting at the invitation of Marrian Gang, noted Swiss author on therapeutic riding. Since 1989, Linda has been featured at both the NARRA Annual Conventions and the Delta Society World Congresses on Relations between Humans and Animals. The TTEAM methods are being used in a growing number of Humane Animal Shelters and in Animal Assisted Therapy programs thanks in large part to the continuing work of Tom Beckett, DVM and TTEAM Practitioner Marnie Reeder.

In November, 1989, the Austrian Equestrian Federation hosted Linda for a TTEAM demonstration that



Photo: Linda doing the Clouded Leopard on a Clouded Leopard at the Zurich Zoo.

was a required event for continued licensing for all instructors, trainers, and student instructors and trainers in Austria.

In January, 1990, Linda was a featured speaker at the Canadian Equestrian Federation annual convention in Vancouver, and in March, 1990 was a key speaker at the American Endurance Ride Conference Annual Convention.

Linda's interest in endurance riding has continued as the TTEAM method has become an accepted part of the care of endurance horses. TTEAM has been used on the Winning horses and teams at the World Championship Endurance Riding, the North American Championships and the Race of Championships as well as most major endurance races.

TTEAM has been used on most species of animals and will come full circle back to humans as the Animal Ambassadors program takes TTEAM into schools.

Linda has always been about twenty years ahead of her time with an ongoing commitment to exploring, learning and sharing her knowledge with others.

This is where Robyn's article ended in 1991, but so much more has happened since then. Linda's Starting Young Horse Video, which came out in 1991 became one of the most popular horse videos ever produced.

In 1992 Linda received the ARICP Lifetime Achievement Award (American Riding Instructors Certificate Program). Recognized an individual whose lifetime experience and accomplishments exemplify the pursuit of excellence and uncommon devotion to the art and science of riding instruction.

As the work started to spread more to dogs and cats two videos came onto the market, Happier, Healthier Cats and Happier Healthier Dogs.

The book Llama Handling and Training by Linda and Marty McGee showed people a new way of working with their llamas.

In 1994 Linda became Horsewoman of Distinction North American Horsemen's Association. For a stronger, safer more insurable horse industry.

TTEAM underwent a bit of a facelift and name change to Tellington TTouch, which was implemented when Thane marketing promoted a set of videos, flashcards and book-

lets called a TTouch of Magic for horses, dogs and cats that sold over 100 000 tapes in the first 4 months alone and made the list of top 100 infomercials in 1994.

In 1995 the book Getting in TTouch – Understand and Influence Your Horse's Personality by Linda and co-author Sybil Taylor was published first in English and German and later in Japanese, Slovenian, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian and Spanish

In 1997 Linda was included in the Spur Magazine article about women who are the backbone of the horse industry. SPUR celebrates the contributions of a selection of them. "A Century of Horse Women: 1997 Hall of Fame" Compiled by L. A. Pomeroy. Spur Magazine, December, 1997 pp. 60-61.

The TTouch for Dressage Horses Video was published in both English and German, as well as the book Let's Ride with Linda Tellington-Jones, co-authored by Andrea Pabel, a book for younger horse lovers, which was published in 7 languages.

In 1999 the very popular book Getting in TTouch with your Dog was published and later translated into 8 languages. It was updated in 2012.

Linda also wrote the book Improve Your Horse's Wellbeing, which was published in English, German, Italian, Japanese, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish and Korean.

The TTEAM Up With Your Horse newsletter won best newsletter of the year by the American Horse Publication.

In the year 2000 Linda joined the Board of Directors of the Pacific Pet Foundation. The Pacific Pet Foundation was created to save and enhance the lives of relinquished and adoptable pets. The purposes of the foundation is to serve our community, its pets and people, by offering services, programs and facilities to promote pet adoptions, assure responsible pet ownership and provide long term care for the un-adopted.

Since the year 2000 celebrated the 25th anniversary of TTEAM and TTOUCH Linda organized the first of 3 Celebrations, conventions with a variety of speakers attended by hundreds of Practitioners and people new to TTouch alike in Santa Fe, NM

In 2001 Linda created two videos called Solving Riding Problems with TTEAM 1. From the Ground and 2. In the Saddle.

In 2002 in celebration of Trail Blazer Magazine's 25th Anniversary, Linda was awarded the "Publisher's Silver Star Award of Recognition."

She also released the DVD Unleash Your Dog's Potential which today is still the best selling DVD on TTouch for dogs.



Photo: I love this picture of Linda - the fun and the freedom.

In 2003 Linda joined Dr. Bill Benda's Advisory Board of the Unbridled Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports equine-assisted therapy centers in creating and publishing clinical outcome research. Our mission is to have such therapy become one of the options presented to the parents of disabled children by the medical profession.

Linda wrote and published the book TTouch for You about the work on humans with Sybil Taylor as well as the book Getting in TTouch with your Cat.

In 2004 Linda was voted RFD-TV Magazine Personality of the Month, January 2004

She also released the DVD Hit it Off with Your Horse, which taught viewers about the Personality Analysis Linda is well known for.

In 2006 Linda became a Massage Therapy Hall of Fame Inductee.

She wrote and released the Ultimate Horse Behaviour book, co-written with Bobbie Lieberman. It was introduced at the Celebration and later translated into German, Dutch, French and Italian.

The following year, 2007 she was the Equine Industry Vision Award finalist. Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, the award is intended to recognize innovation, leadership and service. She was also inducted in the Hall of Fame which was sponsored by the Western States Exposition.

Linda also received the Silver Star Award from Trail Blazer Magazine

The book Getting in TTouch with Your Puppy was published in 2007 and translated into German and Italian.

In 2008 Linda Tellington-Jones received an Honorary Doctorate degree from the Wisdom University and was granted the position of Director of the Institute for Interspecies Communication.

In 2010 she was named first honorary member of the National Board of Certification for Animal Acupressure & Massage (NBCAAM).

In 2013 Linda and her co-author Rebecca Didier wrote the book Dressage with Mind, Body and Soul. The same year Shannon Yewell published her book Strike a Long Trot about Linda's early years.

In 2014 Linda received the Certificate of Recognition for exceptional achievements in development and research in the field of pet behavior by the DHVE - Dachverband fuer Haustiervhaltensberatung in Europe e.V. (Umbrella Organization for Companion Animals in Europe).

In 2015 Linda was celebrated for attending Equitana in Essen Germany as a valued guest speaker for the past 40 years.

In 2016 Linda became the US spokesperson for the BEMER vet product - this is the first time Linda has so visibly endorsed any product. After experiencing the benefits of the Bemer for herself and family she was inspired to promote the version for horses.

Photo: Linda & Roland at the Bemer event in Florida last December. It has been such a blessing for Linda to have Roland's support over the last 17 years in her travels and her life.



I would like to add a special THANK

YOU to the wonderful Carol Lang who has spent many, many years keeping careful records of Linda's achievements and publications. This is just a partial list and I apologize for the events I have missed.

And yes, there will be many more to come as Linda is busy planning her next 15 years before a well-earned retirement. Thank you, Linda, for all you have taught us and shared with us, it's been quite a ride and Happy Happy Birthday from your TTouch family all over the world.

Christine Schwartz