



## A Word from the President

Hello Spanish Barb Enthusiasts!

I hope you are all well and had a happy and healthy holiday season.

I want to say thank you to all those who renewed their memberships in 2020 and remind you all that the time is upon us to renew again. **Renewals are due in February** to stay continuous. Please utilize our brand-new website to renew your memberships! You are able to renew online or by printing out a membership form at [www.spanishbarb.com/membership](http://www.spanishbarb.com/membership). Revenue from our membership fees are vital in our ability to fulfill our mission of preserving and promoting the critically rare Spanish Barbs. We thank you as always for your continued support as we could not do what we do without you!

The board and I would like to offer additional condolences to Silke Schneider on the passing of her husband, Richard Felger. Silke and Richard have been long time supporters, breeders, and members of the SBHA. The board sent flowers and a card to Silke and she extends her thanks to the membership.

I look forward to promoting and supporting the horses alongside you all in this coming year!

Happy New Year to all!

Beth Mendivil, President



# Spanish Barbs' Day at School

By Kathleen Bellemare

On Friday, November 13th, Remi Bellemare and I had the opportunity to introduce two of our Barbs (Feliz, aka "Whipper" and Luna Crescente de Mogollon) to Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Menaul School is a private faith-based, college preparatory day and boarding school for students in grades 6 through 12 that has operated near downtown Albuquerque for 150 years.

The horses adapted very quickly to the urban academic environment, which they had never experienced, and soaked up the adoration and mane styling they received. Their calm sweet attitudes amidst many youngsters who had never been close to a horse before impressed the students, faculty, and Remi and me! Remi had done a project on Padre Kino for her Freshman Spanish I class, and she saw it as a perfect opportunity to showcase the horses. Whipper made friends with the school's headmaster, and we were invited back for a longer visit with more of the student body!





# Lupita Luz de Luna

By Esha Mork

My name is Esha Mork. I live in Oracle, Arizona. Everywhere I have lived there were animals and life would not be the same without them. My favorite animal has always been the horse. Silke Schneider got me hooked on Spanish Barb horses, I got my first from her, then another. Since then, my mother in-law, Gloria Mork, and I have started breeding these special horses. Pilar had a filly Faline and La Reina had a colt Sundance. We had La Reina bred again and even though I had done it before, it felt like I was going to wait forever. Finally, in March La Reina was given an ultrasound, "She is pregnant! It looks like a filly!" Estimated due date set for September 13, 2020. Waiting, waiting, and waiting. September 13th came and went. I camped out night after night waking at every grunt and fart. La Reina would be standing there or laying down looking at me blinking at the headlamp. The weather was growing colder so I moved into my daughter's house within walking distance of the barn to be able to check on La Reina during each night. One particularly chilly night in late October, my daughter and I came back from dinner and went to check on the horse before bedtime. La Reina was licking the wobbly foal and it was trying to stand. The moonlight was bright and shining on the baby as it stood for the first time. After watching it for an hour or more I went to bed and slept very soundly. A new foal is a wonderful thing. The next morning, we confirmed Dr. Lindholm's educated guess, we had a beautiful little filly. Her name is Lupita Luz de Luna!



# Wilbur Cruce Horses Return to the San Xavier Del Bac Mission

By Sarah Dunlap



The San Xavier del Bac Mission is one of the most stunning landmarks in Tucson, Arizona, and its rich history and that of the Wilbur Cruce strain of the Spanish Barb can be tied together since the 1600s. Father Eusebio Kino founded the original Catholic mission in 1692. Kino was an Italian Jesuit, employed by the Spanish to explore the American Southwest, where he devoted his life to the betterment of the region. In his life he became famous for his cartography of Sonora as well as his clear documentation of early American history. Father Kino was also known for his horsemanship and starting a livestock breeding station known for quality horses, as part of Mission and Rancho Delores near Magdalena, Sonora. Oral historical accounts tell us that horses which came from this area were gathered with the goal of driving them to the stockyards of Kansas City to be sold. Along the way this herd passed by the Wilbur ranch where a breeding group was purchased by the owner, Dr. Wilbur. So began the strain that we know today as the Wilbur-Cruce horses. In depictions of Father Kino, the horses he is riding greatly resemble the Wilbur Cruce horses, and from visual depictions in Kino's writings, they sound

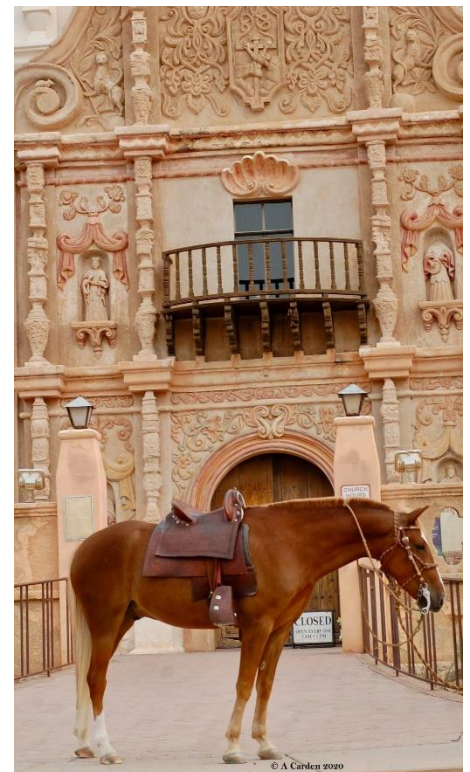
like the Wilbur Cruce horses that we know today. Father Kino devoted his life to breaking the cycles of violence between the native groups in the Sonoran region and European settlers and was beloved by both sides.

The connection between the Wilbur Cruce horses and Father Kino is something that has always been of enormous interest to the organization, so it is only natural that the interest would extend to the Mission itself. The current structure standing today is about 1 mile from the original that Father Kino oversaw the construction of and was built about 100 years after, but Kino's legacy remains, and the history of the place is almost overwhelming. In October 2020 some of the members of the SBHA, myself included, brought our Wilbur Cruce horses to the current San Xavier Mission, which was constructed between 1783 and 1797.

Firstly, we have to say an enormous thank you to the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Ministries of the San Xavier del Bac Mission, particularly Father Bill who was our contact with the staff, and David and Quintana Carter, who were integral in arranging this meeting and have proven to be exceptional friends to me personally and our organization as a whole.

The main point of this trip was to get photos of the horses in front of the mission, but we hope to visit again in the future to continue to build a relationship with the community of people who appreciate the history of the region as well as the history of Father Kino. We brought along 5 horses. Four of them are full Wilbur Cruce, and then Hermoso, who is a quarter Romero McKinley. All our horses were beautifully behaved and some of the photos were absolutely stunning, and something that the SBHA can use in the future to continue to spread information about the history of our outstanding breed. In the future we would also like to bring the horses back to events at the Mission so that we can spread the word about the SBHA in an environment where we feel people will be receptive to the importance of preserving the breed. We also must thank our Vice President, Alana Carden, for the beautiful photos that she took while she also balanced having her horse there as well.

This is an experience that I will continue to treasure, and I think it is a unique opportunity for the SBHA to reach out to people who care about the preservation of history. I apologize if this was a bit of a history lesson, but I think the history of the Mission is what makes this trip so special. As a way to thank the Mission staff once more, I encourage all of you to look up the Mission which many consider to be the finest example of Spanish Colonial Architecture in the United States.





# Meet your 2020-2021 SBHA Board!

## BETH MENDIVIL, PRESIDENT

Beth has been around horses all her life, as her grandpa bred Appaloosas. She now realizes that the Appaloosa breed began with Spanish Barbs as their foundation, consisting of horses selected from Barb stock. After owning and enjoying Arabians, Beth fell for a Spanish Barb weanling named Lorenzo, bred by Silke Schneider. A shy colt, Beth says, "He actually came up through the other horses and touched my hand with his nose. All the other horses just faded away & I saw only him."

So began her involvement with Spanish Barbs. Today, Beth and her husband Alfredo own several Barbs, including a young stallion and several lovely mares. By breeding, training, and match-making the horses to new owners, Beth and Alfredo contribute greatly to their preservation. With her many public appearances with Lorenzo, Beth works hard to teach others about how great these horses are and the importance of continuing the breed.

Beth has been a dedicated and diplomatic president for the SBHA for the past three years and we are fortunate to have her.



## ALANA CARDEN, Vice President

Alana has been involved with Spanish Barbs for over 10 years. Alana is a young healthcare professional, a cyclist, and avid equestrian, riding and competing in dressage and hunter jumper for nearly 20 years. She owns one Wilbur-Cruce mare, Fiesta, who is now 4 years old.

Alana brings to the table not only youth, but technical savvy with all thing's computer. She has done a wonderful job overseeing the SBHA social media presence.

Alana is excited to influence positive change and promote preservation of all the strains sitting on the board and from her officer position!



## KATHLEEN BELLEMARE, Secretary

Kathleen Bellemare has had a lifelong passion for horses. She was inspired to educate herself as an Engineer so that she could buy a horse faster than other potential careers. She holds a B.S. degree in Manufacturing Systems Engineering and a M.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. Her corporate experience includes six years with General Motors, and ten years with American Airlines/Sabre, where she focused on systems analysis, project management, and demand forecasting. Ms. Bellemare owns a business consulting firm and she maintains the company's financial records among other duties.

Kathleen purchased her first Spanish Barb as an untrained 3-year-old, Feliz, in June of 2000 and he has been a terrific partner, teacher, and friend for more than 20 years of adventures. She has brought her problem-solving mindset into her relationship with horses, where she constantly works to become more natural and connected with her horses and strives to better her skills so that they can perform at their highest potential. She enjoys teaching what she has learned and does demonstrations with her Barbs when she can. Kathleen's horse interests are varied, exploring different venues of horsemanship including natural, dressage, cutting, and competitive trail/endurance with her patient and cooperative Barbs, Whipper (Feliz, 23), Luna (15), Pajarita (1), and Jennebra (13). She lives adjacent to the Cibola National Forest in Cedar Crest, New Mexico with her husband, daughter (15), son (12), and their 4 dogs and 2 cats, and spends as much time as possible with her horses and family out on their local trails.



## MAGGIE ENGLER, Treasurer

Maggie Engler offered to be the SBHA Treasurer some years ago when she was blessed to have two Spanish Barbs. Despite the passing of Lucido and Saya, she remains involved with the organization to give back for all the blessings the horses gave her.

Maggie's involvement with horses goes back to age 8, when she got riding lessons for her birthday. It fueled her passion for these magnificent animals. Quarter Horses and Appaloosas were her breeds of choice before learning about Spanish Barbs from some friends who owned them.

Animals are interwoven into all aspects of Maggie's life. She is the co-founder of the Black Hills Raptor Center, which uses live birds of prey to educate about the natural world. Based in western South Dakota, the non-profit also provides rehabilitation to injured birds.

Forever a teacher, Maggie tutors dyslexics, both in person and remotely. Her relationships with her students and their families give her the assurance that there are wonderful, special people in this world, who will take care of critical things like learning, the planet, children, and animals long after she is gone.





## HEIDI COLLINGS, Registrar

Heidi grew up with horses “in her blood” and has worked with many breeds in her lifetime. She was introduced to Spanish Barbs in 1995 and today she considers herself “too spoiled to ride or train any other breed.” Her first introduction was a pair of Wilbur-Cruce geldings. “After working with these unbroke two-year-old boys for five minutes I knew there was something very different and wonderful about their brains. I have been hooked ever since.”

After a career in hospitality software, she married her rancher husband Jerry. Since 1998 they have bred and trained Spanish Barbs on their ranch in New Mexico. “We have been blessed to have raised some great horses and to place them with wonderful and appreciative owners. There are few things I enjoy more than sharing our horses and telling their story.”

Though they are in the process of retiring to Arizona, Heidi will keep a few broodmares to continue their conservation breeding program. She is looking forward to introducing Spanish Barbs to a new market in Northern Arizona.

She joined the SBHA in 2000, has been a board member for many years, and has served as Registrar since 2009.



## LOUISE NOVAK, Director

Louise Novak was introduced to Spanish Barbs when she purchased an untouched Wilbur-Cruce stallion in 1991 when that group of horses was removed from the Wilbur Ranch. It did not take long for Rojo Tesoro to become her horse of a lifetime and Louise knew she had stumbled onto something very special in these Barb horses. Before long, she acquired a few mares of the same strain and became a breeder.

These days Louise raises a few Barbs and volunteers for events to help enlighten the public about them.

Besides loving her horses, Louise is a medical doctor specializing in emergency care. In her past life, she and her husband Doug raised bucking bulls and light-weight horses. Louise was the one giving them their first experience with a rider on their backs!

Louise and Doug live in southeast Arizona where they love, care for, and ride their horses. Of her horses, she says, “they have been some of my best friends and companions!”



## ESHA MORK, Director

Esha became involved with Spanish Barbs in 2013 when she purchased a mare from Silke Schneider. She grew up on ranches and farms and has always loved everything about horses. When she was four years old, she climbed a fence to slide on to the back of a horse. She got the baling twine around its neck but was not quite brave enough slide on over onto her back. Since that “horsey” kid grew up, she has worked as a gardener, cook, veterinary technician, and assistant manager at a veterinary hospital.

These days Esha lives in Oracle, Arizona, with husband Paul, daughter Jade, and her many animals, including four Spanish Barbs. Esha is the manager at her family rental and investment office. In her spare time, she rides the surrounding desert.

Esha continues to be a tireless volunteer, organizing events and displaying her horses to the public every chance she gets. “Preserving these horses is good, hard work and I love it.”



## STEVE TURCOTTE, Director

Steve has always had a love affair with cows and horses, grew up working on a dairy farm, and working as a horse camp counselor. In addition, Steve rode hunter jumper and played polo. After high school Steve attended Marquette University and upon graduation was commissioned in the U. S. Navy and served as a fighter pilot for 32 years. During his Navy career, Steve was able to keep riding, as most Navy bases have equestrian facilities. During this time, he also helped his daughter become involved with equestrian sports. She ended up becoming an eventer and still rides today.

After the Navy, Steve retired to Tucson and served as the president of Advanced Ceramics Manufacturing in Tucson, Arizona, a company that produces advanced materials and products for the Aerospace industry. In addition, Steve and his wife bought a ranch in Aravaipa Canyon. After retiring again in 2013, they started a cow/calf and a grass-fed beef operation that they continue to operate today. Steve has 3 Spanish Barbs, 2 of which are used in their cattle operations. The other has remained a stallion and is used for stud. Steve has been very impressed with the breed's abilities in ranch work that is mostly upland and mountain range; not only are they great in the rocks but one of the horses is now his primary rope horse and is very smart and gentle. Steve's goal is to help sustain and improve the breed for future generations.







## Support the SBHA with AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Every item available for purchase on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) is also available on AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

It is easy to sign up. Just go to [SpanishBarb.com/donate](http://SpanishBarb.com/donate) and scroll to the bottom to click on AmazonSmile.



## Membership renewals are due in February!

Please go to [www.spanishbarb.com/membership](http://www.spanishbarb.com/membership) to renew online or to print out a renewal form.

Revenue from our membership fees are vital in our ability to fulfill our mission of preserving and promoting the critically rare Spanish Barbs. We thank you as always for your continued support as we could not do what we do without you!