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The Gift of Love

Love is universal. However, sometimes on our life's journey, circumstances will cause us to shut our hearts to avoid more pain. This was my path! I started shutting my heart at a very young age. Being an empath and highly sensitive person, this created more pain - although I didn't realize it at the time. While I was a good listener and liked to help people, I thought that I could give love to people without opening my heart and receiving love in return.

The horses
gave me the

gift of Love!
Love for
others and
most
importantly
for myself.
They brought
me back
home to
myself,
healing my
heart in the
process.
Horses are
spiritual
beings
connecting
with people
from a place
of pure
heartedness.



Contendor demonstrating vulnerability.
Photo credit: Stephen Uhraney

Opening my heart and exchanging loving energy with a horse's heart is a transcendent moment of pure grace where I feel at one with the horse and the universe. They taught me that being vulnerable and open to receiving love, heals the wounds of my heart. Living from a heart centred place brings joy and fosters compassion for all. As Andre explains "Compassion is an action of the heart without thought". The horses teach me every day to be the gift of love and compassion to myself and all other beings.

"All hearts have but one request. One simple, unspoken, undeniable need. One undeniable fear. To be known."

Charles Martin

Invite the horses to bring you the gift of Love!
Wendy

Remember to [Like us on Facebook!](#)

Upcoming Activities

Horse Spirit Connections provides private sessions, personal retreats and workshops.

See our [2018 Workshops here.....](#) Our first workshop "Discover Your Inner Self" occurs March 24 & 25, 2018.

"A really powerful and connecting day that I will never forget. The facilities, the guides, the horses are all magical and a must to experience. I feel forever connected and inspired by the work being done here."

Maria Theriault

Looking for Something Unique to give your Loved Ones? Gift Certificates from Horse Spirit Connections

It is not too late to give the gift of horse magic with our incredible herd of horses. Gift Certificates are available for private sessions and workshops. Contact Andre at 416-520-6276 or andre@HorseSpiritConnections.com

Horses Changing Lives

By Kebbie Gibb, FEEL Practitioner

It's amazing what can happen when we put all thought aside, and instead, logic is traded in for those quiet whisperings of the heart. Giving ourselves the time and space to allow ourselves to listen. Horses have such a skilled ability to help us better hear those whisperings of our own heart.

During various FEEL (Facilitated Equine Experiential Learning) ® sessions, it slowly started to dawn on me just how much of a disconnect the average person has (including myself), from what we communicate verbally and what we communicate through body language, emotions, and facial expressions (the non-verbal).



Horses are attuned to subtler ways of communicating and pay close attention to non-verbal signals such as a slight movement in our body, hand gestures, a sigh of relief or tensing of the body that we are often unaware of. They

understand the truth of what we are really saying with our bodies and "mirror" back to us what we are truly feeling moment to moment. Through mirroring, horses will visually show us what we are really communicating, tapping into our inner wisdom and helping us listen to the knowledge that is already within us. This is the wisdom of the horse: that intuitive knowing they so freely share with us. Through this way of intuitive listening and reflection, the doors of many possibilities are opened, often reaching the depths of our soul and guiding us towards our true essence of being.



With each FEEL session, I am left in awe and wonder. The horses always have a way of communicating and highlighting a particular area in a person's life that they happen to be working through. Horses quickly connect with the hearts of our clients and more importantly, shed light on the heart of the matter.

I do especially want to share some of the joy I have felt surrounding a heartwarming outcome for a courageous young lady and her family that the horses and I (mainly our wonderful horses) worked with over the past year and a half.

I have had the honor of sharing in one young woman's journey of reconnecting back to her real authentic, genuine self. This journey included meeting on a bi-weekly basis for FEEL sessions. These connections with the horses have significantly brought positive change to not only this young woman's life but to her surrounding loved ones as well. After the connection with the horses, this young woman was able to successfully achieve the following:

- Increase self-care and quit smoking
- Independently go back to school
- Successfully obtain her driver's license and independence!
- Move out of her family's home to her own apartment
- Procure full-time employment

Many a time she sat by the fence, connecting with the horses one on one. These caring, sentient beings gave her constant support, holding space for her with non-judgment.

One of the most inspiring sessions I have ever witnessed with the herd was on a day we were working outside. It was a beautiful day and when the client and I entered the corral, I noticed

something quite unusual... the herd was split into two groups. All the younger horses were off in the distance down in the back corner of our hundred-acre farm. The rest of the herd (elder and mature horses) were up at the front with



us. At this point, our courageous young woman had been coming to see the horses for several months and was starting to work on some heavier issues and emotions. During this particular session, she reflected on how she had started identifying with the broken memories from her childhood. She started identifying and affirming the parts of her that had been hidden away; verbally speaking out loud that "she felt certain parts of her were in a box or in a room shut away". At that exact moment all the young horses off in the distance, started whinnying and came galloping up to the front of the corral to rejoin the herd. Whinnying and kicking and frolicking - happy to be back together again. It felt as though I was witnessing someone putting the pieces of themselves back together again. I will never forget that day and the profound effect that moment had on such a special young lady.

Now after many horse sessions and much reflection, this brave young woman and her family's lives have been changed for the better. In fact, this family have bought their own horse farm and are now living out their dreams with the horses!

Horses have so much to share with us, such profound teachings that are only made possible and accessible by slowing down and connecting with them on their terms. They have power, beauty, grace, and are often seen as a symbol of freedom. And yet despite their size and power, they can connect with such intimacy, full of unconditional love, creating and holding the space for our true self to emerge.

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Dusty: Celebrating 30 years of life!

Dusty started her partnership with humans while playing the sport of polo. She was one of Wendy's first polo horses brought up from Kentucky in 1998. While being a very quiet



thoroughbred at the farm, when her feet hit the polo field, she was charged with excitement. She loved leaping and galloping down the field following the play of the ball. When Wendy stopped playing in 2000, Dusty partnered with Andre and retired in 2012 giving her the opportunity to give her full attention to helping people.

In 2006, Dusty found a deeper calling supporting people on this path of self-discovery and profound soul connection. Her huge heart was immediately attracted to the immense opportunities for horses to heal people's hearts through the FEEL Approach. Being a quiet, reserved horse, she had an incredible ability to hold a sacred space for people as they journey deep within themselves. People felt held by Dusty.



We had someone in a wheelchair in Dusty's stall and she wrapped herself around this person creating a close intimate connection. One of our favourite memories of Dusty is how she loved to blow bubbles!! Yes, after eating a juicy apple she took great delight in blowing big bubbles.

Dusty has been dealing with dementia for the last couple of years and came in from the field early in December with no control of her back left leg; coupled with a sore back right leg, Dusty could not stand without support. Dusty said it was 'time to go home'. She traveled the gold light and was joyously met by Thor, Rosa, Monty and Angelina - her herd mates from over the years.

We will miss her solid, grounded heartfulness!

On Friday, I was co-facilitating at Horse Spirit Connections (HSC), a Veterans Program Mission Butterfly, that includes Equine Group Therapy. We had to tell the participants who were attending their second session, that when they were to meet the herd that morning, they would notice an empty stall. Dusty passed this week and joined the HSC ancestors herd. I have a poster above my desk of the herd at HSC from 2010. From this herd photo collage, Thor, Rosa, Angelina, Monty, Papi, and now Dusty have re-herded. With a warm heart, I recognize the wisdom of these 4-legged co-facilitators that have added to my experience and knowledge of being with horse in the healing practice of FEEL (Facilitated Equine Experiential Learning).

A few weeks ago I participated in the FEEL partners program and was participating in the meet the herd morning activity. First drawn to Encore that morning, I turned my direction and gaze down the aisle to witness Lady and Dusty



repeatedly passing breath across from each other. Years ago my mother attended a workshop at HSC with me. My mom wanted to understand exactly what did I do with the horses. And she left that workshop knowing it was more about what 'to be' with the horses. My mom had connected during that workshop with Dusty (see photos) and Lady, the matriarchs.



Witnessing Dusty reaching over to connect with Lady in the stall, I felt Dusty seeking and acknowledging the support from her herd leader, and friend. It was as if Lady was grounding Dusty. I was reminded of Lady's strength and love of

how she has attended Dusty while her mind and body was aging. And I reflected also how I have to hold that space for my mother, as she enters her 90th year, now residing in my home for support during her elder years. That was the last time I saw Dusty.

So on Friday morning, before the participants arrived for the day, I stood in front of the empty stall, Dusty's former stall, and watched the birds picking up the grain Dusty had

left. I then turned to share a heart connection with Lady. I not only feel an immense gratitude for the horse teacher elder in my life, Dusty, but I also feel immense compassion for Lady who has held sacred space for her herd mate Dusty. A true matriarch.



The horses have stepped up to help our Canadian Veterans through Mission Butterfly. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Darlene DeStefano, PhD, Mission Butterfly's pilot program was successfully initiated in November 2017. Our FEEL Team is Tori Poe, B. ED, MSW, Andre Leclipteux, Deborah Bonk providing Art Therapy, and the horses. They are supported by a psychologist and a team of professional healers. For more information on Mission Butterfly please visit: <http://missionbutterfly.ca/>

Congratulations to our new FEEL Trainers!

Mia Holm in Sweden and Brenda Brown in British Columbia. The FEEL Approach continues to expand bringing the healing power of horses to new places and people.



Brenda Brown

This is a special moment in time, a dream of partnering with horses that I have been working towards my whole life, even though I may not have known the exact path. My dream and passion has driven me to keep working towards this goal. I am honored to be a big part of the future of FEEL. To bring the wisdom and teachings of these

soul hearted beings to more people so they can experience the deep and profound heart connection horses provide for us.

Blessings Brenda

Mia Holm

It is a privilege to become a FEEL trainer, to step in to a deeper relationship with life, spirit, and horses.

When I first came to Canada and the FEEL program at Horse Spirit Connections back in November 2009, I (as most of us) felt like coming home on many levels. That sacred place and portal of heart and wisdom. The horses told me about a dream. Now I don't remember which activity or session it was, but of course I remember the Horse, it was Angelina who showed me the dream of horses and taking FEEL to Sweden both as a



FEEL Practitioner and a Trainer myself. Well, it's been 7 to 8 "interesting" years, and I loved a lot of the learnings, joy, and interactions within the human-horse bond. And finally, 2016 it started, taking the Train the Trainer class, be part of a FEEL program with Wendy and Andre in Sweden, then do the training in the next program together with Janis and finally got my Certification as a FEEL trainer YAY!!

Now I have started a FEEL Program in Sweden in Swedish, and my beloved mare could be the Ceremonial Queen for the first time. Happy tears. It is such a joy and privilege to be a Practitioner and a Trainer, and I wish more FEEL Practitioners to the World, we are all needed, both for humans and horses, and the special bond we honor. The transformation this program brings.... Amazing!

With a huge gratitude to Wendy and Andre who created FEEL, the foundation, wisdom, love and generosity you hold and share, and to Janis for all your support. THANKYOU!!! And THANKYOU HORSES!!!

Congratulations to our FEEL Trainees!

We are so proud of our FEEL trainees who recently participated in our Ontario, Sweden, and British Columbia Certification programs! What amazing journeys they so courageously undertook in the six month FEEL training programs as they learned how to facilitate equine experiential activities in partnership with the horses. Each graduate has a special gift and way of taking out this work with the horses. See our website under 'Contact Us' for information on how to connect with a FEEL Practitioner near you.



Ontario: Front: Isabel Iaconis, Constanza Gardeazabal, Michael Bürli
Back: Emma Hicks and Betty Jean Mathews

"The FEEL training at Horse Spirit Connections was life changing. Wendy and Andre are impeccable facilitators and not only pass on tremendous knowledge and wisdom, but also hold space for remarkable self-discovery. The herd was a blessing to work with and offered feedback that opened me back up to my authentic self. The FEEL Approach has taught me new ways of connecting with others and my relationships with the horses, and people in my life have all changed for the better. The learning environment safely pushed me to edges that needed travelling and made the vulnerability of being there, with myself, possible. I leave having returned home to my true self and I cannot wait to share the FEEL Approach with others!"

Emma Hicks



BC: Nicole McCurdy, Lindzie Bouillett, Lisa Hobbs and Leigh Hodgins

"I didn't expect the change in myself to be so dramatic. The richness of the training has forever impacted and changed me - in how I view people, the world and horses. The woman who walked in on the first day is not the woman who

graduated on the last day. I have changed how I connect with others and myself. I now have faith in myself and faith in humanity. To see the shifts in everyone around me, especially my children, makes me full of gratitude. I never knew horses could be such powerful teachers. They led me back to my authentic self."

Nicole McCurdy



Sweden: Mats Lindström, Gunneli Fallmark, Kenneth Bolinder, Brit-Marie Gyllensvaan and Malin Alm

"To me it has been a life changing journey. It opened my eyes to the where/what I want to be, and not to lose myself again. I HAVE to follow my heart and path, Heart for the Horses."

Malin Alm

"The program did not only give me the skills of FEEL, it made me grow as person too. I am sure this will affect other aspects of my life"

Mats Lindström

Become a FEEL Certified Practitioner

Horse Spirit Connections founded the FEEL (Facilitated Equine Experiential Learning)® Certification Program in 2008 to explore, expand, and share the incredible teachings of the horses.



Attain your dreams of a fulfilling career with horses. The FEEL Certification program is not just a training program, it leads you to an inspirational career bringing profound change to people's lives.

The FEEL (Facilitated Equine Experiential Learning) Certification program is suitable for coaches, educators, facilitators, equine professionals, wellness practitioners, and other individuals who are looking for practical training and experience in developing FEEL programs in the expanding field of Equine Facilitated Learning and Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy.

Participants learn to create a horse-centered, experiential learning environment that supports personal discovery. Throughout the training, prospective FEEL Practitioners gain self-knowledge and acquire skills and experience to develop their own FEEL programs where horses are valued for their roles as teachers and healers.

Graduates have taken the FEEL Training for a variety of reasons - a new career celebrating their love with horses and helping people, personal development, and deepening their relationship with horses. It is so personally gratifying to be instrumental in bringing such a powerful healing modality into the world for both humans and horses.

Our trainings are limited to eight participants, so reserve your space today.

Are the horses calling you?
Enroll in our next training program starting April 2018!

Upcoming FEEL Training:

Ontario Campus

At Horse Spirit Connections
Tottenham, Ontario, Canada
With Wendy Golding and
Andre Leclipteux,
Founders of the FEEL
Approach

Includes all three on-site sessions
April 18 to 22, 2018

July 11 to 16, 2018

October 10 to 15, 2018

Contact: Wendy Golding 905-936-4450

Wendy@HorseSpiritConnections.com



British Columbia Campus

Mystic Water Ranch

Langley, British Columbia, Canada
With Brenda Brown, FEEL Trainer and Advanced
FEEL Practitioner
Includes all three on-site sessions
March 7 to 11, 2018
May 9 to 14, 2018
September 12 to 17, 2018
Contact: Brenda Brown 604-788-7524
bmorehealthy@gmail.com
www.mysticwatersranch.com

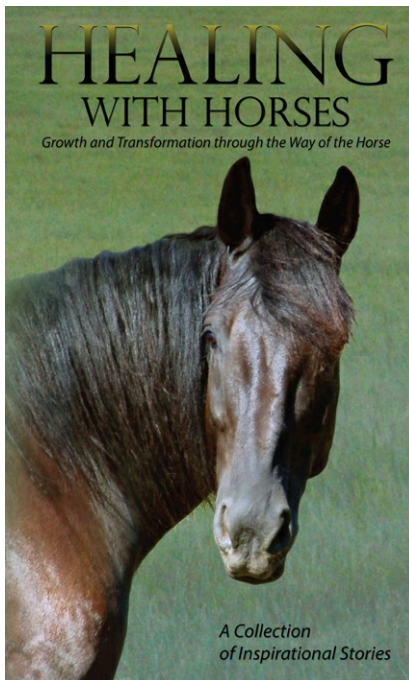
Sweden Campus

At The Horse Call
Rials - Norrtälje, Stockholms Lan
In Swedish
With Mia Holms, FEEL Trainer and Advanced FEEL
Practitioner
Includes all three on-site sessions
March 21 to 25, 2018
June 27 to July 2, 2018
September 26 to October 1, 2018
Contact: Mia Holms 46 (0)70-770-07 55
mia@thehorsecall.se or horsedreamia@gmail.com

**Empower your life and others by partnering
with horses**

Visit the [FEEL Certification](#) section of our website,
download the [FEEL brochure](#),
email Wendy@HorseSpiritConnections.com or call Wendy
at 905-936-4450 to learn more about this exciting program
and change your life!

[Register NOW!](#)



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Wendy Golding & Andre
Leclipteux, co-authors.

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