



2013

*The Pyramid Society's 55th Annual
2013 US Egyptian Event*

“Mares Queens of the Nile”

*Text, Photos and Design by Lisa Abraham
with Contributions by Christie Metz and Judith Forbis*





2013 US Egyptian Event

"Mares Queens of the Nile"

by Lisa Abraham

Although the phrase "more than just a show" has become commonplace and over used, in describing the US Egyptian Event, it is still accurate. The 33rd Annual Egyptian Event, held from June 3-8, 2013, "Mares: Queens of the Nile," sponsored by Albaydaa Stud, left participants and attendees feeling enriched and inspired. Previous to the start of the week, The Pyramid Society President Bob Miars wrote, "The most anticipated week of the year for Pyramid Society members and Straight Egyptian Arabian breeding enthusiasts has finally arrived, and we are once again gathering for what promises to be another unforgettable week. This year will no doubt live up to its storied billing of showcasing excellent breeding programs, hosting numerous educational opportunities, and perhaps most of all, providing time to socialize with our fellow breeders."

In a week which included daily seminars, social events, meetings, shopping and a show-down time was a valuable commodity. But where else in the world could one spend casual, unscheduled time to amble around with industry

leaders such as: Judith Forbis, the matriarch of Ansata Arabian Stud; Omar Sakr of Egypt's Sakr Arabians; Arabian Horse Historian, Cynthia Culbertson; the famous Marion Richmond of Simeon Stud; Jenni Ogden, recognized internationally both for her skills as a breeder and as a photographer; and Cynthia Richardson, the new President of the Arabian Horse Association--to name just a few.

Each Event seems to have an underlying theme which permeates the atmosphere. With the influence of social medias, such as Facebook, in 2012, the Event seemed to bring us closer as a community as our "virtual" friendships became the stepping stones into real relationships.

But 2013 had a more serious tone. As our community is becoming more affected by the economy and by growing problems such as pedigree discrimination, to this journalist, the focus of this year's Event was on finding solutions. Breeders came from all over the globe to meet others, to listen to stories and opinions, to ask questions, to learn, and to study a show whose impact can affect the face of breeding for several seasons to come--or more.

Lisa Abraham is an International Journalist and Photographer from the United States. She is also a breeder of Straight Egyptian Arabians.

www.lisaabrahamphotography.com lisa@lisaabrahamphotography.com

011 615-579-3478



2013

Educational Opportunities



When it comes to education, The Pyramid Society is a worldwide leader. This year's seminar roster of information was not only comprehensive, it also addressed some very important concerns in our modern breeding and business environment. In response, all seminars were attended in impressive numbers and the information was received with open ears and thinking minds. Presenters in the daily seminars included: Cynthia Culbertson, Tommy Garland, Jenni Ogden, Randi Clark, myself--Lisa Abraham, Becky Rogers and Dr. Jeremy Whitman DVM.

Although each clinic and seminar was content heavy, Friday and Saturday were special days. On Friday, presenters Christie Metz, Judith Forbis and Judy Sirbasku all contributed to an inspirational presentation titled, "Mare Lines & Families: A Breeders Perspective." Each woman touchingly discussed a mare who had great influence in their individual programs.

Saturday was the traditional "Pyramid Lecture" which was generously sponsored by Al Shaqab Member Of Qatar Foundation. Judith Forbis and Omar Sakr gave a historical presentation titled "The Establishment of a Breed: The Story of Creating The Straight Egyptian Arabian Horse." It was in this final lecture where the subject of pedigree discrimination was addressed. As this topic has become a hot bed of both opinions and concerns, not only was attendance high, it was followed up with a riveting Q & A where noteworthy breeders such as Dr. Hans Nagel and Marion Richmond made meaningful contributions.

Previous pages: image on left: Steve Dady presenting ESA Delilah
Previous pages: image on right: Johanna Ullstrom and REA EL Kaream
Top of page: Judith Forbis and Omar Sakr
On left: Judith Forbis

A Contribution by Christie Metz

The Mares are Queens

This year's Event theme "Queens of the Nile" was truly a fitting way to highlight the contributions made by our straight Egyptian Arabian mares. Following this theme, I was one of three breeders on a panel which included Judith Forbis of Ansata Arabian Stud and Judy Sirbasku of Rock Creek Arabians. It was quite an honor to share this panel with such distinguished breeders.

As we each chose the mare whose contribution was significant to our individual breeding programs, my obvious choice was Glorietasayonaara (Ansata Abu Nazeer x Glorieta Shahlma by Ansata Shah Zaman). She was the first straight Egyptian Arabian mare that Silver Maple Farm purchased and the foundation of our straight Egyptian breeding program. Her family is the Bint Bint Sabbah branch through Ansata Sabiha, of the Dahma Shahwaniah strain.

Twenty-four years ago, "Sayo" was the choice of my heart. I saw a snow-white mare floating across a paddock with her tail carried high, head in the air and nostrils drinking the wind--just as the books describe. I was instantly captivated. It was neither an educated nor knowledgeable decision at the time. Yet, I just knew she was ethereal and a very, very special horse.

Sayo provided the inspiration for Henry and me to become breeders and to learn about the Arab traditions of breeding. She gave us the desire to understand the continuum of the straight Egyptian. We learned through their history that the isolation of those Bedouin cultures strengthened the genetic prepotency in their herds by breeding the strongest to the strongest. The mares' pedigrees were the only ones kept orally for many years, demonstrating their value. These herds provided the rootstock for the founding of the straight Egyptian Arabian horse, as we know it today. Due to the many generations of inbreeding, the genetic contribution of these mares is prepotent even today.

At Silver Maple Farm our Glorietasayonaara family is four generations strong with sons and daughters, granddaughters and great grands. Although Sayo is no longer with us, her family reminds us daily of her beauty and presence. In every one of these relatives, we see her traits, both physical along with personality and I am still captivated.

Christie along with her husband Henry have been in the Arabian horse business since 1991. Their multi-generational program of straight Egyptians is renowned for outstanding quality as well as beauty. She has been a past Board member and officer of the Pyramid Society and Henry served as President for eight years. They are both Trustees for Society and Christie serves as President of the Pyramid Foundation the 501 c 3 charitable education arm of the Pyramid Society.



Top image: Dr Hans Nagel

Second from top: The presenters of "Mare Lines and Families":

Judith Forbis, Judy Sirbasku, Shawn Crews and Christie Metz

Third from top: The presenters of "Maximizing Your Photo Shoot": Polly Knoll, Lisa Abraham, Randi Clark and Jenni

Ogden (photo by Kaia Larsen World Press Photography)

Bottom image: Keri Wright, Becky Rogers and Omar Sakr

Progressive Barn Parties



On Wednesday evening, the Progressive Barn Parties provided a blue jean and t-shirt kind of casual fun. The barns were filled with attendees buzzing around. While some canvassed the area on foot, others zipped around in golf carts jam-packed with people. The parties were scheduled such that when one was ending, another was beginning so that if one chose, it was possible to attend all. Each barn hosting a party generally offered a selection of food items, interesting beverages, and of course, a horse show—it was one of the most festive nights of the week!

The highlights of this year's Barn Parties were the presentations of: Sandy and Hank DeShazer's young stallion, Aziim Al Amaar (the 2013 EE Bronze Champion); Botswana (the 2009 EE Supreme Champion Stallion and the EE's leading sire from 2007-2012), owned by the Botswana Trust and presented by Talaria Farms; and his barn mate, Thamer Al Khalid (the 2010 Reserve National Champion Stallion of Egypt), owned by Al Bawady Stud and leased by Talaria Farms.



EBC Challenge Live Auction of SE Stallion Breedings



The EBC Live Stallion Auction is always another show highlight. As this year's auction was scheduled on a lighter class day, energy was high! For this annual Sale, the arena is converted into an exciting auction house with staging for live presentations. As usual, to get everyone warmed up, attendees were treated to wine and a generous selection of finger foods.

Auctioned off are breedings to stallions enrolled in the current Egyptian Breeders' Challenge Auction. The resulting foals from the breedings generated from this auction are then eligible to participate in the lucrative EBC classes as yearlings. Additionally it is also an opportunity to purchase breedings to certain enrolled stallions whose stud books are not open.

This year's lineup presented some of the most exciting stallions in our industry--and the final results proved them to be a very competitive group. The auction brought in a total of \$198,525--\$1,175 more than in the previous year, with Ramses Mishaal Nadir (Mishaal HP X Ramses Minx) topping the list at \$12,000! Another notable achievement was that by the young stallion, Ansata Sheikh Halim (Ansata Hejazi X Ansata Samiha). Ansata Sheikh Halim, who was bred by and is owned by one of the world's most accomplished breeders, Judith Forbis and her partners Mauri & Steve Chase of Chase Arabians, earned \$7,000 in his very first public offering!

Left page: top left: Allison Mehta speaking at the Talaria Farms Barn Party

Left page: top right: Thamer Al Khalid being presented at the Talaria Party

Left page: middle: Aziim Al Amaar being presented at the DeShazer Barn Party

Left page: bottom: Luis Paniagua presenting at the Arabians Ltd Barn Party

Top: Botswana being presented in Stallion Auction

Bottom left: Judith Forbis and Bart Van Buggenhout

Bottom right: Hank DeShazer, Fanus Crous, Joe Polo and Chris Fichaud having Stallion Auction fun!



"Mares: Queens of the Nile"



"Mares: Queens of the Nile" was an elegant evening to remember. This annual Gala and Fundraiser provides show attendees with yet another way to celebrate both our breed and our friendships. It is on this evening that we all trade in our show duds for formal evening attire and enjoy each other's company over fancy cocktails and a several course meal. It is also a time to recognize the new lifetime members, to celebrate and honor the recipient of the prestigious Trustees' Award, and to have a world class auction showcasing some of the most high end art in the modern Arabian world.



Tri pic at top: TPS President Bob Miars, Dancers, artist Lynn Maderich counter clockwise from top:
 Top: Lisa Lacy, Nawal Nagel, Judith Forbis, Dr. Hans Nagel
 Middle: Christie Metz, Judith Forbis, Mauri & Steve Chase, Robert Fauls
 Bottom left: Henry Metz, Colleen Jackson, John Cranston and Jenni & Paul Ogden
 Direct left: Judy Sirbasku, Todd Nelson and Brenda Benz
 Directly above: Robert Fauls, Greg Gallun and Bruno Guiraldelli
 Top right: Carolee & Keri Wright and Lisa Lacy

Gala and Fundraiser

A Contribution by Judith Forbis

Lifetime Member Recognition

The Egyptian Event continues to be a meeting place for Egyptian breeders around the world. This year was no exception as the Pyramid Society welcomed three prominent international breeders as guests and new Lifetime Members. No stranger to the Event, Dr. Hans Nagel and his charming wife, Nawal flew in from Germany. Owner of the world famous Katharinenhof Stud near Bremen, Dr. Nagel was recipient of the Pyramid Society Trustees Award in 2011. He is the current president of the World Arabian Horse Organization, a founder of the world famous Nation's Cup, a prominent international judge, and a founding member of the newly formed Egyptian Arabian Horse Pyramids Foundation of Egypt. He has authored several books and will release his latest one in August.

Another long-time breeder, who usually celebrates her birthday at the Egyptian Event, is Marion Richmond of Simeon Stud fame in Australia. Marion has been breeding countless champion Arabian horses "down under" for well over a half-century, and her farm name, Simeon, graces the prefix of prominent Arabians around the globe. One of the most famous is, of course, the internationally winning "triple crown winner", Simeon Shai, now an elder senior stallion the Metz's Silver Maple Farm. In Santa Ynez. Any Arabian horse breeder visiting Australia automatically wends their way to Simeon Stud near Sydney. Marion has long been a supporter and member of the Pyramid Society and it was a pleasure to welcome her to the roster of Lifetime Members this year.

Dr. Nasr Marei also joined as a Lifetime Member this year. The Marei family is one of the oldest and deeply rooted families in Egypt. The Albadeia Arabian horse breeding program, founded in 1935 was brought into global prominence by his father Sayed Marei, who was Minister of Agriculture in Egypt in the 50's and a strong supporter of the Egyptian Agricultural Organization. The Albadeia Stud, a stone's throw from the Great Pyramid of Egypt, has received thousands of visitors over the past half century, and Dr. Nasr, who has taken its breeding program to a new level. Always a most gracious host, he is well known as a prominent international Arabian horse judge as well as lecturer and a fine photographer. He was also the recipient of the Arabian Horse Breeders Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award at the Las Vegas Show in April 2013.

Judith Forbis has lived and traveled in the Arab world studying and writing about Arabian horses for more than fifty years, accompanied by her late husband, Donald, until his death in 2008. She is known worldwide for authoring *The Classic Arabian Horse*, *The Abbas Pasha Manuscript* (co-authored with Gülsün Sherif), *Authentic Arabian Bloodstock, Volumes I and II* which have become the bible for Egyptian Arabian horse breeders, among other books, educational articles, and documentary films. The Ansata breeding program of straight Egyptian Arabian bloodlines continues as it has in the past, to produce halter and performance champions and foundation bloodstock for royal, government and private breeding farms throughout the world. An international judge, artist, photographer, and president of Ansata Arabian Stud and Ansata Publications, Ms. Forbis is the first woman to win the prestigious J.W. Galbreath Award for outstanding entrepreneurship in the equine industry. She has also received numerous lifetime breeder awards, served as secretary of The Arabian Horse Trust, and has been publicly recognized by her peers for service to the international Arabian horse community. She and Douglas B. Marshall were co-founders of The Pyramid Society, he serving as the first president and she as secretary. Ms. Forbis later served as president and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees.



Top Image: Anna Bishop, Nawal Nagel, Dr. Hans Nagel and Bob Miars

Middle: Anna Bishop, Marion Richmond and Bob Miars

Bottom: (at the 2013 Arabian Breeders World Cup in Las Vegas) Anna Bishop, Dr. Nasr Marei and Cynthia Culbertson



2013 Trustees' Award



Another function of the Gala is to recognize a recipient for The Trustees' Award, one of The Pyramid Society's highest honors. It is an award chosen by the Board of Trustees which "Seeks to acknowledge and formally recognize the lifetime of achievements and the passionate dedication of its recipients--both to The Pyramid Society and to the Egyptian Arabian Horse." Past recipients include: Anna Bishop, Donald and Judith Forbis, Barbara Griffith, Dr. Hans Nagel, Rhita McNair and Judy Sirbasku.

The 2013 Board of Trustees includes: Dr. Joseph Cruz, Robert Fauls, Judith Forbis, Martha Lucas, Christie Metz, Henry Metz, Sherry Moseley, Tom Salome and Howard Wallace. This year the Trustees chose to honor legendary photographer Polly Knoll for her enormous contribution.



Top: Robert Fauls, Dr. Joseph Cruz, Polly Knoll, Christie Metz, Henry Metz and Judith Forbis

Opposite page: top: Polly Knoll and Judith Forbis

Dear Polly,

You are truly a pioneer. Your images and style have greatly influenced me as a photographer and have contributed to what has become my own style. When I was a young girl, I studied photos of Arabian horses taken by Johnny Johnston, Jerry Sparagowski and you. In an industry where men seemed to dominate, your photos stood out. To me it was clear that because your vision was unique you were able to capture the horses differently than the other photographers. It seems as though you see through to the souls of your subjects and draw them out, inviting them to reveal their true beauty. I find your images to be more carefree, more natural and truer to the horses themselves. Even as younger person, when my eye was still untrained, I could clearly see the connection between you and your subjects.

~Suzanne Sturgill

Dear Polly,

You have taken some of the greatest horse photos of our time and have produced types of shots that are still copied--you are definitely on my favorites list!

~Jerry Sparagowski

Dear Polly,

You are a woman of femininity, elegance and strength. You are generous and kind with an absolutely delightful sense of humor. The times I have shared with you are dear to my heart (and funny bone). But most significantly, you possess a gift in which you have touched and blessed the entire Arabian horse world--past, present and future. You have immortalized some of the most important horses that have ever lived and it is one of my deepest honors to call you a friend.

~Lisa Abraham



Dear Miss Polly,

You have been the cause of so many of my smiles! You have inspired and loved me for as long as I've known your images. Thank you for giving me so much of YOU!

~Love, Randi Clark



Dear Polly,

You are truly a gifted artist! You are the "Master" at capturing and portraying the essence of each horse and the people who love them. Your portraits demonstrate the very personal and unique connections that you establish with both humans and animals--a rare gift my friend. Henry and I feel enriched to have the many beautiful photos you have taken that are benchmarks in our lives, but to count you as a friend, is the added bonus.

~ Christie Metz

Dear Polly,

Thirty years ago you photographed a very young RDM Maar Hala--she was only six years old and I myself was in my early twenties. Since then you have done some of our most special work including your photos of Tuhotmos, Prince Ibn Shaikh, Glorieta Gazaal and Richter MH. You are a very kind and gentle woman and I think that is reflective in your photographs--they all have your personnel touch. You have shot horses for us for over thirty years and we consider ourselves very fortunate to have had that kind of relationship.

~Dr. Joseph Cruz

Art Auction Raised \$59,500!



The first sculpted Moniet el Nefous in 1986, as an older, pregnant mare, based on the historical photos taken by Judith Forbis at the E.A.O. That bronze was a highlight of the 1986 Egyptian Event art auction, acquired by the late Barbara Griffith.

From then until now, my perception of this great mare has been enriched by personal studies of many of her living descendants, deepening my understanding and appreciation of this family. For this year's Egyptian Event, I portrayed her as a young mare, full of promise and anticipation of her life's potential in the world. It expresses everything I love about this treasured mare: the essence of her unique poetry of form, delicate refinement, and timeless expression that carry forward in her descendants, generation after generation."

Karen Kasper

The 2013 Premier Art Auction was a success. The charismatic Greg Knowles of Arabian Expressions, along with Judith Forbis and Rachel Deel, kept the bidding high. For the second year in a row, Karen Kasper's donation brought in the highest dollar. In 2012, it was her Nazeer bronze which topped the list. This year it was her gorgeous Moniet El Nefous bronze, won by Mohammed Al Marzouq for an impressive \$14,000, which earned the highest dollar. The second highest selling item was Lesley Bennett's "Queens of the Nile," a handcrafted 18K gold and diamond pendant, won by Nancy DeLisi. Third was the sponsored trip to the European Egyptian Event won by Jeff Barth and Jaleen Hacklander and fourth was the absolutely stunning piece by Shary B. Akers titled "Sunlit Run" won by Al Masr Stud.



Top image: Being auctioned, Karen Kasper's Moniet El Nefous Bronze

Middle image: left: "Sunlit Run" by Shary B. Akers with its new owner, Al Masr Stud

Middle image: right: Karen Kasper with her Moniet El Nefous Bronze

Image on right: Jaleen Hacklander and Dr. Joseph Cruz

Below left: Being auctioned, "Daughters of the Desert," by Lynn Maderich

Below right: Being auctioned, "Morafic" by Anneliese Weber



2013 Egyptian Event Photographers



"Our photographers are the world-wide lens to our Egyptian Event. Nothing captures either the story or the imagination like a good photographer. At the end of the day, the photos and the memories are what's left. And when the memory's faded, it can once again be relived, thanks to the dedication and passion of good photographers. A special thanks to each and every photographer who unequivocally tells - and sells - our story better than anyone else!"

Anna Bishop,
The Executive Director of The
Pyramid Society

"One of the interesting things about photography is its ability to forever capture a moment in time. And as time marches on, those moments then become historical, and those frozen, visual moments then become bridges to memories of the past.

In the horse industry photographers that cover shows and photograph farms do much the same thing: their images freeze forever moments in time that can be later used as reference in a variety of ways. As photographers we don't necessarily think of shooting in an historical aspect while doing a session or covering an event. But certainly as time moves on, the importance of those images cannot be overlooked as they become a key that offers a visual access to the past."

Scott Trees



As one of the most beautiful equine facilities in the world, The Kentucky Horse Park is a photographer's paradise. 2013 was an extra special year for photographers as one of our own, Polly Knoll, was not only the recipient of the prestigious Trustees' Award, she was also honored with a sizable gallery of her work on display throughout the show. Polly's photography will also be featured in the Changing Gallery of the Arabian Horse Galleries, at the Kentucky Horse Park, from April through November 2014.

Top image (l-r): Lisa Abraham, Don Stine, Suzanne Sturgill, Jerry Sparagowski, Jenni Ogden, Polly Knoll (photo by Cookie Serletic)

Middle row: left: On Championship night: Jerry Sparagowski, Judith Forbis and Don Stine

Middle: middle: Suzanne Sturgill and Cookie Serletic

Middle: right: In front of Polly's Gallery: Jenni Ogden, Polly Knoll and Jerry Sparagowski

Bottom: Polly Knoll hard at work!



Classes



To what could only be attributed to a struggling economy, only 243 horses were shown compared to 307 in 2012, and 311 in 2011. That being said, this was a year for high quality. The judges for the 2013 US Egyptian Event were: Scott Benjamin of Canada, Holger Ismer of Germany, Murilo Kammer of Brazil, Marco Pittaluga of Italy and Renata Schibler of Switzerland.

The 2012 Pyramid Society's National Egyptian Breeders Conference in Tomball Texas, hosted by Sandra and Hank DeShazer at DeShazer Arabians, introduced the new publication titled Standard of Excellence: A Guide to The Pyramid Society Straight Egyptian Horse. In a very generous seven page dedication to the Standard and how it relates to this show specifically it is stated, "The purpose of the Breed Standard is to serve as a blueprint, a guide, a general framework, within which breeders make their own decisions as to style, details and in this instance use of the horses they will breed. It is used by both breeders and judges alike." It further states, "The Standard of

Excellence serves as the basis for the **judging** and **scorecard** used at The Egyptian Event."

Because of the huge payoffs, the Egyptian Breeders' Challenge Classes are two of the most competitive and exciting of the show. This year's winners shared from a pot of almost 80K! Competing were the yearling colts and fillies who were the progeny resulting from breedings won in previous Egyptian Breeder's Challenge Auctions. The unanimous EBC Champion filly was Amer Nihaal (Justynn X Evangeline CC), owned and bred by Ahmad Amer of Yorklyn Arabians, while Lalo RCA (Thee Desperado X Lola SIG), owned and bred by Rock Creek Arabians, was the EBC Colt Champion.

As there were wide variances in scorecard placement, the Senior Stallion Champion, Monther Al Nasser (Ansata Hejazi X Aliah Al Nasser), owned by Sheikh Nawaf bin Nasser Al Thani, was the only other unanimous winner. This demonstrates the depth of quality and degree of variation of "type" present in the exciting 2013 US Egyptian Event ring.

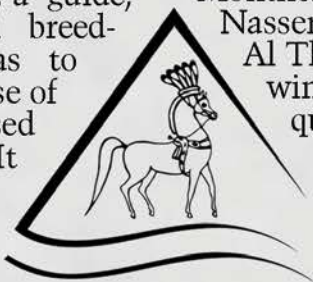


Image: Johanna Ullstrom with Supreme Silver Champion Stallion, REA El Kaream

Egyptian Breeders' Challenge



Won \$16,918!

Champion Colt

Lalo RCA

(Thee Desperado X Lola SIG)

Owned by Rock Creek Arabians (USA)

Won \$17,062!

Champion Filly

Amer Nihaal

(Justynn X Evangeline CC)

Owned by Ahmad Amer



Junior Filly Championship



Gold

Jamillas Belle RCA

(Pimlico RCA X Desperados Belle
RCA)

Owned by Melonie & Michael Behan

Silver

Jasoorah Al Ameen

(Pimlico RCA X Noir Desir)

Owned by Cheryl and William Corcoran III



Bronze

Lady Bella

(Bellagio RCA X Serendipity's Lady)

Owned by Jeff & Laurie Harwood

Junior Colt Championship

Gold

AJ Thee Luca
(Thee Desperado X HED Caramba)

Owned by Manuel Durini



Silver

Ibn Raad
(Scapa X LPS Thunderstruck)

Owned by Elizabeth Witt



Bronze

Bariq Al Shaqab
(Al Adeed Al Shaqab X Wahayeb Al Shaqab)

Owned by Al Shaqab Member Qatar Foundation

Senior Mare Championship



Gold

TF Exotikah

(Botswana X EAI Etheena)

Owned by Nabeel Ali A. & Aldana Al-Meslemani

Silver

Yakoutah Al Shaqab

(Al Adeed Al Shaqab X Badawieh Al Shaqab)

Owned by Al Shaqab Member Qatar Foundation



Bronze

Masri Nijmi

(Thee Infidel X Masri Kinz)

Owned by Kenneth Blake McDonald

Senior Stallion Championship

Gold

Monther Al Nasser

(Ansata Hejazi X Aliah Al Nasser)

Owned by Sheikh Nawaf Bin Nasser Al Thani



Silver

REA El Kaream

(PVA Kariim X REA Nisrs Angel)

Owned by David L. Myers



Bronze

Aziim Al Amaar

(Amaar Al Rayyan X Imperial Maysama)

Owned by Sandra of Hank DeShazer