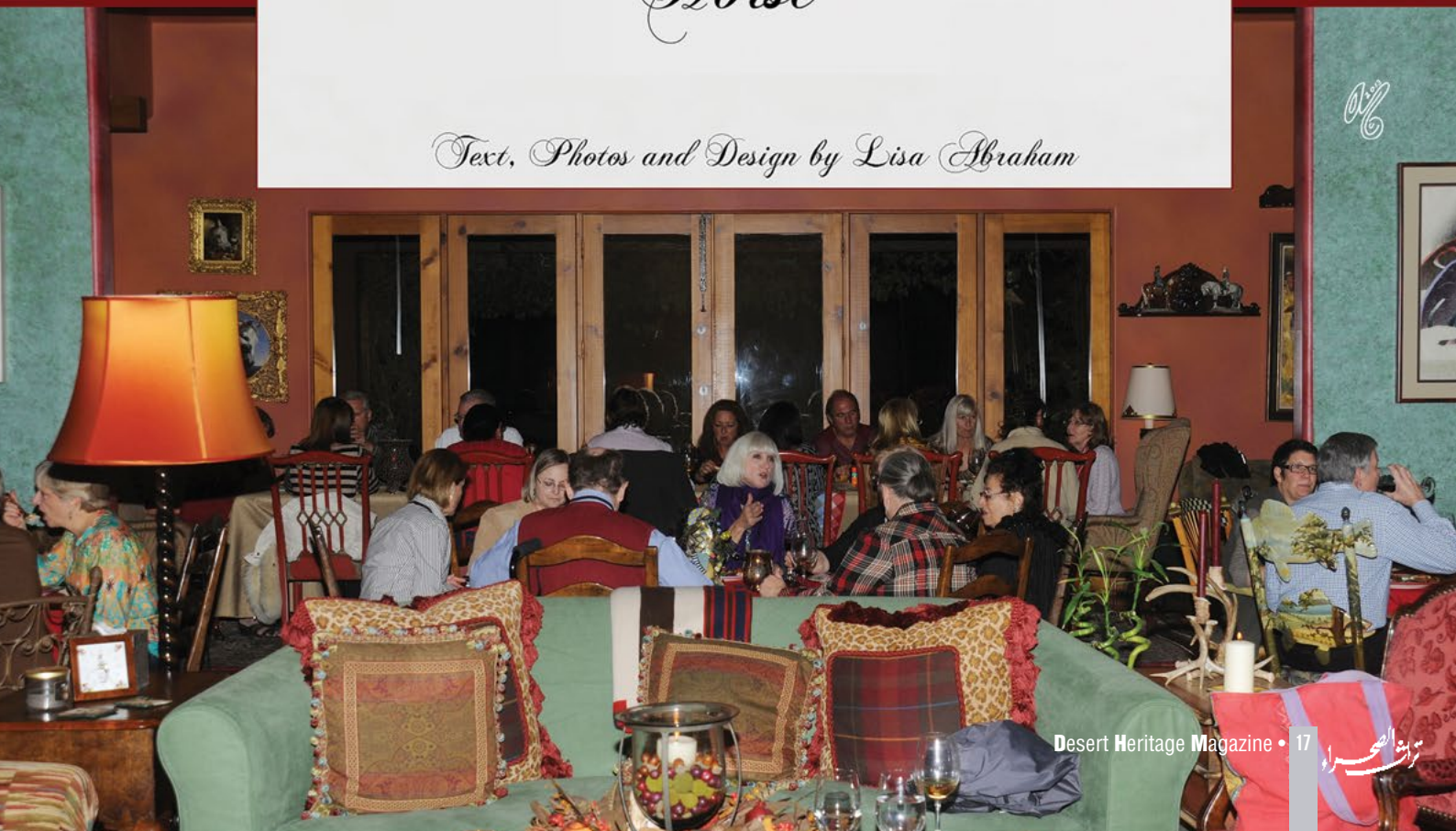


*The Pyramid Society's
2015 National Egyptian Breeders Conference*

*"The Global Influence
of the
Straight Egyptian
Horse"*

Text, Photos and Design by Lisa Abraham





With gratitude to the generous Patronage of Bait Al Arab, The Kuwait State Stud, The Pyramid Society's 6th National Breeders' Conference titled, "The Global Influence of the Straight Egyptian Arabian" was another educational triumph. This conference took place on November 1-2, 2013, in Solvang California and brought Egyptian Arabian breeders and enthusiasts together from all over the United States and as far south as Australia. The Pyramid Society's Education Committee Chairman, Keri Wright shared, "We have worked very hard to make sure that this year's conference continues the long standing tradition of excellence you have come to expect from The Pyramid Society. We sincerely hope that as the events of the next few days unfold you will find it is time well spent as you further your education, renew old friendships and make new ones, and just bask in the joy of the camaraderie that exists among the breeders, admirers and enthusiasts of the Straight Egyptian Arabian Horse."

The Pyramid Society's mission statement reads, "By forming an international community of Arabian horse breeders, we seek to preserve the standards of this ancient breed. Through educational offerings with foremost experts in Egyptian Arabian breeding, such as our annual Egyptian Event Seminars and the illustrious National Egyptian Breeders' Conferences, we ensure opportunities for our members to continually learn, grow and adapt." This 6th National Breeders' Conference represented this standard.

As with the previous conferences, each speaker held high credentials in their individual fields. Although the topics seemed diverse, they were woven together in a complimentary fashion; each one interesting, incredibly informative, filled with "food for thought," practical information and, in some instances, heartfelt and touching.

Friday: November 1

The conference began with three presentations involving the study of Egyptian bloodlines through very different perspect-

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ives. Scott Benjamin, opened the first of his three lectures with: "The Global Influence of the Straight Egyptian Horse: A Historical Perspective." Scott holds a degree in Animal Sciences and specializes in Equine Management and Animal Breeding/Genetics. He has been actively involved in various capacities with the Arabian horse industry for nearly 30 years and is a respected judge of prestigious International shows. Although Scott's primary experience has been with the Arabian breed outside of Straight Egyptians, he very effectively illustrated with historical information and excellent photographs how Straight Egyptian Arabian horses have influenced the breed at large, including the programs of Crabbet, Weil-Marbach, Poland and Russia.

Joe Ferris was next with his ever-popular lecture on, "The Immortal Nazeer." For several decades, Joe has been a frequent contributor to many of the most influential industry medias. His career with Arabians began in 1970 and today he is one of the most respected historians in our Egyptian community. Keri introduced him as "having a passion for research and a passion for the horse." This was clearly demonstrated as Joe's scholarly presentation effectively conveyed the history and influence of Nazeer, not only touching on our emotional connections to this great sire and his get, but also validating their everlasting historical importance worldwide.

Keri Wright, concluded the morning session with his own presentation: "The Global Influence of the Straight Egyptian Arabian Horse: It's Rise to Prominence--Dam and Sire Lines Studies of US, Canadian and Show Horse National Championships and US Egyptian Event Champions." Keri illustrated the showing accomplishments in both halter and performance of the Straight Egyptian Arabian horse with numerous charts obviating his detailed research. He specifically noted the importance of the Pyramid Society's Reference Handbooks in his own studies and their value for other students of pedigrees and historical data. A complete copy of Keri's charts was included in the conference notebook provided to each attendee.

After Friday's lunch, the conference took a different turn. Keri introduced the next speakers by posing the provocative question, "How does one accomplish balancing science with art?"

First to speak was Dr. Matthew Binns PhD, on "The Science Behind Breeding Decisions." A delightful lecturer and world renowned genetic scientist, his lengthy resume includes publication of more than one hundred and fifty scientific papers in peer reviewed journals.

Judith Forbis of Ansata Arabian Stud and Ansata Publications was responsible for requesting him for this conference. Judith shared, "I first heard Dr. Matthew Binns speak at the WAHO conference in Qatar and was impressed with the unique perspective he offered on the use of evolving techniques in mtDNA testing that will enable breeders to make more educated decisions in selecting stallions and mares for their

Front cover: top: A Santa Ynez view from the home of Christie and Henry Metz

Front cover: bottom: Saturday night's dinner hosted by Christie and Henry Metz, in their home

Left page: Presenter Keri Wright

Top of Page: Presenter Joe Ferris

Bottom: Presenter Dr. Matthew Binns



He addressed a number of significant issues in the use of genetics, while also noting that some things are still 'unexplainable'. He made genetic equations make sense to the average person.

"It was interesting that he noted only one in 100 males reach the breeding shed, while some 50% of females breed on! Another point he drove home in relation to problematic diseases was 'do not throw the baby out with the bath water'. Genetic diversity is a must, and must be maintained. Certain challenges such as CA, SCID, LF and other syndromes come along and should be dealt with intelligently; they are not reason to destroy a program or throw out bloodlines because, again, maintaining diversity in the breed is paramount. Dr. Binns was easy to understand, and he held attention of the group with his practical presentation. I would recommend anyone holding an educational seminar about horse breeding to invite him to speak."

Each presenter's subject was unique but Karen Kasper especially touched everyone with her heartwarming: "Understanding the Living Art that is the Straight Egyptian Arabian Horse," Karen began as an artist in 1981 and has established herself as one of the most important modern sculptors in our global Arabian com-

munity. Her work resides in some of the world's most prestigious private, government and royal collections.

Karen asked attendees for a show of hands for anyone who possesses some Arabian horse art in their home or stable. As nearly every hand was raised, with tender humor Karen shared, "Well then you are all on your way to becoming great breeders because one thing I found when I visited Judith Forbis {at Ansata Arabian Stud in Mena, Arkansas} was that she had a library and a house and a lobby at the farm show barn, that were filled with art. Additionally, I have found that every serious breeder in the world--from South America to the Middle East to Europe and across the United States--that I ever visited has multiple inspirational pieces of Arabian horse art in their possession."

Karen went on to state, "Art gave breeders a means to form their vision. And that vision translated into the direction they were going to take their breeding--what appealed to them and what they strove to produce with their breeding horses." She illustrated her point by presenting an image of a painting by Alfred de Dreux--the one, she said, that inspired Judith Forbis during her visit in 1959 to the EAO office overlooking the Nile. Karen then followed the slide with a near identical image of Ansata Hejazi. She continued; "Art translates into life...and life translates back into art--it's a continuum, a con-



inuous circle." Karen then shared a photo of a sculpture that she is now creating of Ansata Hejazi for his owner, Mr. Mohammed Marzouq of Ajmal Arabian Stud, Kuwait. She continued, "and it translates back into life again as we have an Ansata Hejazi daughter who, after several years of trying, has recently produced two embryos for us."

Following Karen's thoughtful presentation, several attendees approached her and shared how deeply she had touched them. Jaleen Hacklander of Hadaya Arabians noted: "I was so moved by Karen's presentation--more so than I have ever experienced in a seminar. With both pictures and words, Karen eloquently spoke directly to the emotional bond we have with our Straight Egyptians. We are so fortunate to have individuals like Karen Kasper to foster and inspire all of us into the future."

Recapping the afternoon's session was Scott Benjamin's presentation: "Balancing Science and Art in the Breeding Barn." Scott discussed the practical applications of the science of breeding--including genotype and phenotype--and respect-

ing the vision we have for combining the bloodlines, pedigrees, and individual horses in developing in our breeding programs.

The Silver Maple Farm Open House and Horse Presentation

The Friday classroom session ended early enough for everyone to enjoy a horse presentation at Silver Maple Farm, in Santa Ynez, just a few lovely minutes from Solvang. Christie and Henry Metz, whose breeding families are generations deep, began their program in 1989, with the guidance of their mentor, Judy Jones of Atallah Arabian Farm. Since then they have established themselves as one of the country's most prestigious breeding farms.

A significant observation about the area is how much animals of all shapes types and sizes are loved and appreciated—and Silver Maple Farm is no different. The farm mascot is a gorgeous, loving Great Dane named Gina who is owned by Bart Van Buggenhout, the manager of Aljassimya Farm who has also purchased property in the area. While Bart is overseas, Gina lives with Christie and Henry, diligently performing her farm du-



ties in between meals and naps.

The presentation began with the Farm's stallion power: Ali Saroukh, who is a Ruminaja Ali son by the Metz's root mare, the 1983 Glorietasayonaara; Majestic Noble SMF (Marquis I X Nagda); Symbolic SMF by Majestic Noble SMF and out of Shaboura, a granddaughter of Glorietasayonaara; and finally, Sayo Sahran SMF by Makhnificent KA and out of Bint Bint Sayo, an Ali Saroukh daughter.

Saturday: November 2

Saturday's conference day began after everyone enjoyed a continental breakfast and socializing before the morning session opened. The Santa Ynez area is home to some of the most valuable horses of all breeds in the world and the veterinary care and available services are at the highest level. Two of the expert speakers were from this region and were recommended by Christie and Henry Metz, who have called this region home since 2002.

Dr. Phoebe Smith, DVM, opened with: "My Mare is Pregnant! Now What? Maximizing the Successful Management of the Broodmare and New Foal." Dr. Smith took us completely through the breeding process--from actually breeding a





mare to foal care. Dr. Smith is a board-certified equine internal medicine specialist, and was also a teaching faculty member at Ohio State University. Her academic and hands-on experience as a current practicing veterinarian, enables her to credibly demonstrate how we can best care for our mares and

foals. On a personal note, I found that Dr. Smith took sincere interest in the Question and Answers. One question concerned a matter in which she was unfamiliar, and she asked if anyone found an answer, to be kept informed of the outcome. Furthermore, she made



Opposite page: photos from Friday afternoon's horse presentation at Silver Maple Farm

Top Image: (l-to-r) Jean White, Martha White, Henry Metz, Christie Metz, Tim Manring, Sandy DeShazer, Ken & Karen Schutts with Gina in front
Left: Ann Marie Linn, Judith Forbis, Keri & Carolee Wright
Above: Debra Geiser, Tzviah Idan, Christie Metz, Carol Steppe



2013



Opposite page: Presenter Karen Kasper
 Top and bottom image: Presenter Scott Trees
 On right: Presenter Dr. Pheobe Smith





her contact information available for any questions attendees might have in the future.

By way of personal commendation, Christie Metz remarked on qualities every breeder hopes for in an equine practitioner: "Dr. Phoebe Smith is the primary veterinarian at Silver Maple Farm, managing all aspects of equine health. Phoebe is a very attentive and thoughtful, connecting with the animals magically and communicating with us in an easily understood manner. You only have to watch Phoebe do a new foal's first exam to recognize her thoroughness and skill. On a personal level she is always cheerful, fun and above all professional."

Dr. Fernando Campos-Chillon and his wife Dr. Joy Altermatt gave a fascinating lecture on advance assisted reproductive care, titled "Got Foals? No foal--No Global Influence! Making the Most of Today's Advances in Equine Reproductive Technologies." Speaking in layman's terms that were easily understood as they illustrated advanced techniques such as: intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), embryo transfer and cryopreservation and genetic analysis. They continually drew attention to the present-day high cost of such techniques and procedures. Dr. Campos-Chillon stated that while these procedures will be more affordable in the future, they nevertheless balanced their cost with the market values of such potential foals.

Saturday afternoon covered that all-important topic: Marketing. Scott Trees opened the session with, "A Primer on Equine Photography for Marketing." Scott's huge body of work includes images that--for some--have come to represent their mental vision of an Arabian horse. Very graciously, he began, "I want to commend all of you as a group. I started with the Arabian horse in 1963 and one of the things that I have observed is how well The Pyramid Society promotes your breed and educates your people."

Referring to himself as an "advertising shooter," Scott shared, "When I first started we were glorified portrait photographers--it was head shots and body shots and not a lot of variety in terms of the types of shots being used. Then when the eighties rolled around, we were able to start doing some different stuff, and I was one of the photographers who said, 'Let's try something different--let's try to look at what we can do to get attention'--and that is the bottom line--when we are using advertising images, the goal is to get attention!"

Scott went on to illustrate his career as a photographer and videographer who has constantly "thought outside the box", his experience with some of the largest farms in the world and also his participation in some of the most meaningful advertising campaigns. He closed with the basics on how to successfully use imagery in a marketing campaign.



Opposite page: Marilyn Lang participating in a Q & A with Janet Stinson on her left

Opposite page: on left: Presenter Scott Benjamin; on right: Presenter Keri Wright

Top of page: Presenter Scott Benjamin

On right: Anna Bishop, Mauri Chase and Cynthia Culbertson enjoying ice cream during an afternoon break.



Becky Rogers, the Vice President of The Pyramid Society as well as the Chair of the Public Relations & Marketing Committee, followed Scott with "A Picture Really is Worth a Thousand Words: Selecting the Right Image" in which she provided sound advice regarding imagery. What constitutes a marketable image of an Arabian horse is often confusing--not only to newcomers, but to seasoned breeders, she observed. Through her clever and useful illustrations, Becky demonstrated the differences in what make a marketable photo versus one that is not.

The final presentation, "Effectively Telling the Story of the Straight Egyptian Arabian Horse: Creating and Branding the Image You'll Present to the Global Arabian Horse Market," was given by Scott Benjamin who also

opened the conference. His subject not only encompassed what both Scott Trees and Becky had said earlier, but went deeper into the principles of marketing and advertising by also using examples found within the Arabian horse breed world-wide.

Dinner hosted at the Residence of Henry & Christie Metz

Simply put, this particular evening was most lovely. Groups of people gathered in the home's many warm comfortable pockets--which were both inside and out. The evening air was cool and mild, so it was easy to enjoy the softness of the Santa Ynez outdoors which was lit up with candles. As we enjoyed the setting before dinner, servers weaved in and out with trays offering appetizers: savory bourbon meatballs and Asparagus



Top images (on both pages): Saturday evening's lovely dinner hosted by Christie and Henry Metz, in their Santa Ynez home.

Left: Keri Wright, Darryl Fry, Gwenn Tyler and Jaleen Hacklander
Above: Cindy BeVier Hodges, Theresa Weaver and Danny Tucker
Right: Group shot of happy 2013 Conference Attendees!



with Asiago cheese wrapped in Phyllo dough.

Dinner was served buffet style. The main courses were chicken and a local California favorite called "Tri Tip," which is also called "Santa Maria" steak because it was in Santa Maria, California where it first became popular. Tri tip is a triangle-shaped cut of beef from the bottom sirloin. Typically it is rubbed with a mixture of salt, black pepper and garlic salt, then barbequed over red oak wood. It is absolutely delicious and certainly a California treat as this cut of meat is not readily available outside of the state.

Complementing the tri-tip and mouthwatering chicken was another local specialty called Santa Ynez salsa, an organic European Green Salad, southern comfort cream scalloped potatoes and seasonal grilled veggies in olive oil and herbs. For desert, double fudge brownies and scrumptious lemon bars coat-

ed in powdered sugar were offered.

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I conclude this editorial with a synopsis of Keri Wright's remarks in addressing the conference as he expressed sincere gratitude to those who made this conference possible--Ms. Judith Forbis who went above and beyond to help arrange this conference, and especially to our premier conference Sponsor, Bait Al Arab, The State Stud of Kuwait as recommended by its longtime and influential patron, Mr. Mohammed Al Marzouk. Keri further noted: "I was able to visit with him during the Egyptian Event Europe this year and came to understand his passion for education. We are so grateful for his generosity in making this conference possible."

