

WE, WOMEN

by Giorgia Mauri

Extraordinary women from around the world are joining We, Women project.

I couldn't be happier.

Dedicating space and pages to the women of this world is not only important because it highlights the many women's voices that animate and keep this world alive, it is also a duty, given that only 24% of global media news include women (Global Media Monitoring Project 2015 held on 114 countries).

So let's join us, join We, Women.

JUDITH FORBIS



Dog breeder, Artist, Photographer, Writer and Publisher, Breeder of Straight Egyptian Arabian Horses, Lecturer, Consultant, International Judge and World Traveler

My name is Judith (Freni) Forbis. I grew up in the small but charming town of Bayport on Long Island, New York. After graduating high school in 1952 I studied art at Syracuse University. Now enjoying my "fourth quarter of life" I have been: a dog breeder (collies and poodles), artist, photographer, writer and publisher (Ansata Publications), breeder of straight Egyptian Arabian horses (Ansata Arabian Stud), lecturer, consultant, international judge, and world traveler. Today I enjoy writing articles and books and living on Lake Wilhelmina in Mena, Arkansas with my Pomeranian, George, my cat Sassy, and a few chickens. I still travel frequently to the Middle East countries to see my friends and the many horses of Ansata bloodlines that permeate breeding programs in that part of the world.

From the time I was three years old I loved horses. When I read Walter Farley's *The Black Stallion*, I knew someday I must have Arabians. A desire to travel led me to join the US Government's International Cooperation Administration (ICA) Program that assisted developing countries after World War II. I was posted to Ankara, Turkey in 1957 and in that faraway land my dream came true. I bought my first Arabian mare from a Turkish Cavalry officer and won the country's Civilian Jumping Championship with her. Soon after I met Don Forbis. We married in Ankara then moved to the primitive Roman fortress city of Diyarbakir inhabited by Turks, Arabs, Kurds and Armenians. Here we purchased two Arabian horses and raced them on the southeast Turkish tracks. Don trained and I jockeyed - the first woman to race in that part of the world (chronicled in my book, *Hoofbeats Along the Tigris*). Don's job with the Halliburton company found us living in cities, jungles, deserts or mountains (Turkey, Libya, Iran, Greece, Egypt, Columbia SA, England), some places far more challenging than others. In 1958 we purchased our first Egyptian Arabian horses in Egypt, and over the years owned farms in Oklahoma; Texas, Kentucky and Mena, Arkansas - the latter our primary farm until Don passed away from cancer in 2008.

Few women have had my opportunity of living and traveling in the homelands of the Arabian horse, so by writing articles and books, lecturing, and judging Arabian horse shows worldwide I have tried to convey life lessons learned worldwide. Being involved with this breed opens doors to

people one would otherwise never have met: Kings, Princes, Sheikhs, Doctors, Lawyers, Teachers, Presidents, Bedouins, Celebrities, and the list goes on.

I began with Arabian horses 64 years ago when women were a strong influence in the Arabian breed in America. Later it became more dominated by men (particularly with trainers) but today many women are owners, trainers and breeders throughout the globe. I have always tried to respect various cultures, and, like Lady Anne Blunt - I was accepted in the most primitive male-oriented places because of my sincere love and interest in the horses and the people of those countries. A wonderful guide for dealing with anyone or circumstance in life no matter where you are is Don Miguel Luiz's book, *The Four Agreements*: "1) Be impeccable with your word, 2) Don't take anything personally, 3) Don't make assumptions, 4) Always do your best."

In pursuing one's dream, "know thyself" then criticism and jealousy will not kill it. Have vision, make a design, and have a purpose. With all thy getting, get understanding. Study history, travel if possible to other countries. Develop plans to make your purpose effective and your vision come true. Dedicate your life to the profession you choose. Have patience and perseverance. Success succeeds, never precedes. Be prepared to make the necessary sacrifices because they will come knocking at your door along with golden opportunities.

My life has been one of adventure and unique challenges overcome. I believe the books I have written will be my greatest contribution to history. We stand on the shoulders of those who've gone before us. I could not have added to the Arabian breed's history without the aid of libraries worldwide. History repeats itself.

Do what you love. Dream Big. Seek mentors past or present. My uncle Whit, crippled from polio at age 5, taught me about courage. James Allen's book - *As A Man Thinketh* ("so is he") is an inspirational guide to life. Malcolm Gladwell's book *The Outliers* confirms 10,000 hours of patience and perseverance has its rewards (Bill Gates, the Beatles, for example).

REMEMBER LIFE IS A JOURNEY. NOT A DESTINATION. EVEN THOUGH THE PATH MAY SWERVE, VIEW EACH CHANGE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN. AND NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP!

TARYL O'SHEA



Executive Director for the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona, Producer of the Scottsdale, Manager of the Arabian Breeders World Cup

Over 20 years ago, I had moved to Phoenix, Arizona and saw a sign on the side of the road that said horse show on now so I decided to volunteer it happened to be at the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show. I had just moved from Canada to Scottsdale on New Year's Day and had seen signs promoting the show. I left a message at the listed number and did not hear back, so I went out to WestWorld and was immediately signed up as a ribbon presenter. I loved the show and through the volunteer position I got more involved and it grew to more involvement with the organization. My official position as the Executive Director for the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona followed quickly after which includes the organization and management of the 11-day Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show & Shopping Expo the largest Arabian horse show in the world with over 300,000 people entering the gates. Through the 23 years as executive director the organization has grown and changed throughout the years to the amazing show it is now. AHAA also organizes numerous other shows and events throughout the year which include the Arabian National Breeder Finals and the American Cup Championships Arabian Horse Show. For the past 16 years I have been organizing and managing many other Arabian shows and events including the Arabian Breeders World Cup (Vegas Show), the Scottsdale Polo Championships, the largest Polo event in North America and have been involved in numerous international Arabian horse Shows.

I love what I do, I not only get to work in the industry but I also own Arabian horses and own a small ranch where I get to go home and enjoy them each day as well. I am fully immersed in the world of the Arabian horse by being involved in the most amazing shows and events in the World for Arabian horses. For the past 10 years a lot of my focus and work with the AHAA has been on the promotion of the Arabian Horse and to introduce these them to the public. To know these horses and to see others experience their beauty, intelligence and friendship of Arabians is amazing and very rewarding.

I am lucky because I am positioned in organizations that produce world-class competitions that also take advantage of tremendous opportunities to share every aspect of the Arabian horse lifestyle. It means I get to be around these amazing creatures as well as be in a community with so many wonderful people. We need to work together to keep this breed strong worldwide and provide positive experiences for others so we can continue to cultivate Arabian horse lovers.

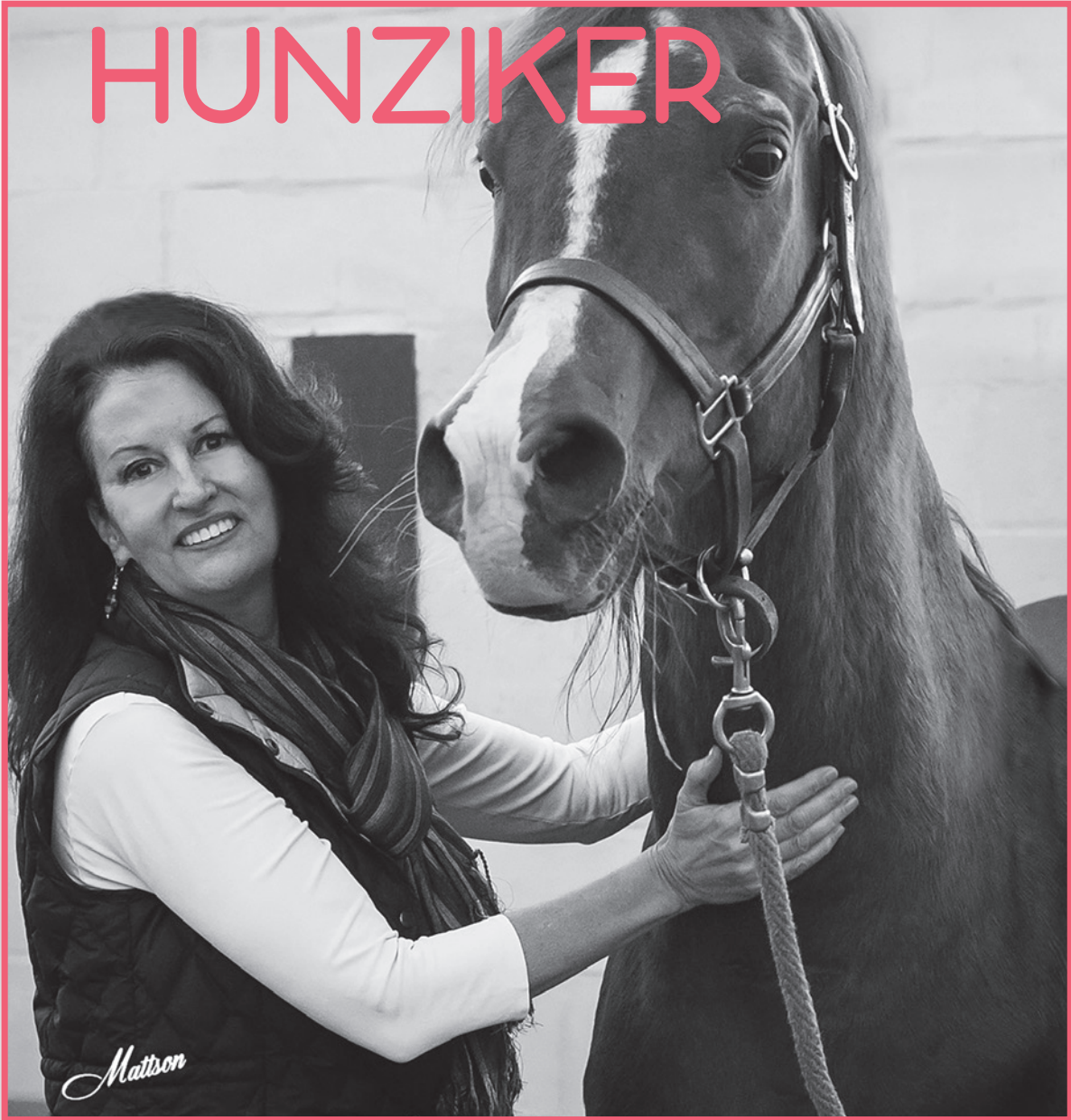
Like everything there are challenges, this past year in particular was very challenging with the Covid-19 pandemic. We had many obstacles we had to overcome to continue to host our horse shows to help support our community. We had to work through the new rules with our governing bodies and our government officials to change our events so they were safe not only for the horses and exhibitors but everyone involved. Everything from education to our horse community, additional security, enhanced cleaning protocol to limited attendance at the competitions. We had over 100,000 people in attendance and made it through with zero reported Covid-19 cases!

The qualities and characteristics needed to pursue the focus of Arabian breed promotion to others is perseverance, focus and education. We need to work together to identify opportunities where we can further expand exposure of Arabian horses to the community. Our hope is to find some Arabian horse lovers out there who want to own, breed, compete or just love our horses.

My experience and leadership can absolutely be an inspiration to women and young girls. I am thankful for the opportunities I have had and continue to have and realize that if I had not been brave enough to try them would not be where I am today. My focus everyday is to help support the Arabian horse industry wherever I can worldwide. We need to work together to create opportunities to keep this breed the best it can be and help others experience the passion of the Arabian horse.

ADVICE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS: BE OPEN AND WILLING TO TRY NEW THINGS, YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE THEY MAY LEAD YOU!

BETH ELLEN HUNZIKER



Graphic Designer, Writer and Book Maker

My name is Beth Ellen Hunziker. I was raised in a small town in southern Minnesota along with my very large family. I have no idea when or where my love for horses began; it's always been a part of me. No one else in my family shared my feelings and so they could never understand such a strong passion in such a small child. I had no physical connection to horses, so I read every book I could find about them, especially illustrated books, which nurtured my other great loves of literature and art. When I was a young girl, I read the book, "King Of The Wind" by Marguerite Henry. The story is about an Arabian Stallion from Morocco. I was so captivated, that I used my family's globe to find Morocco and that sparked another great love in my life, which is to travel. Books, Arabian horses, art, and travel became the foundation of my personal and professional life, first as a graphic designer and later as a writer and book maker.

My approach to Arabian horses, and all horses, is a deep appreciation for their beauty and spirit. They inspire me every day. I enjoy their company whenever and wherever possible and I love to ride for pleasure. It is difficult – almost impossible – to describe the joy I feel around horses. Only people who share this passion can ever truly understand this feeling. It does not matter if a person is an aristocrat, a movie star, a teacher, or a groom, those of us who share this love share a special bond.

The Arabian Horse community is primarily women. Although there are many personalities

and personal agendas, we share a passion that unites us. I find the world of Arabian horses exciting, thrilling, challenging, and rewarding. I admire and respect women, and men, who follow their dreams, who follow their heart, and who support and encourage others to do the same.

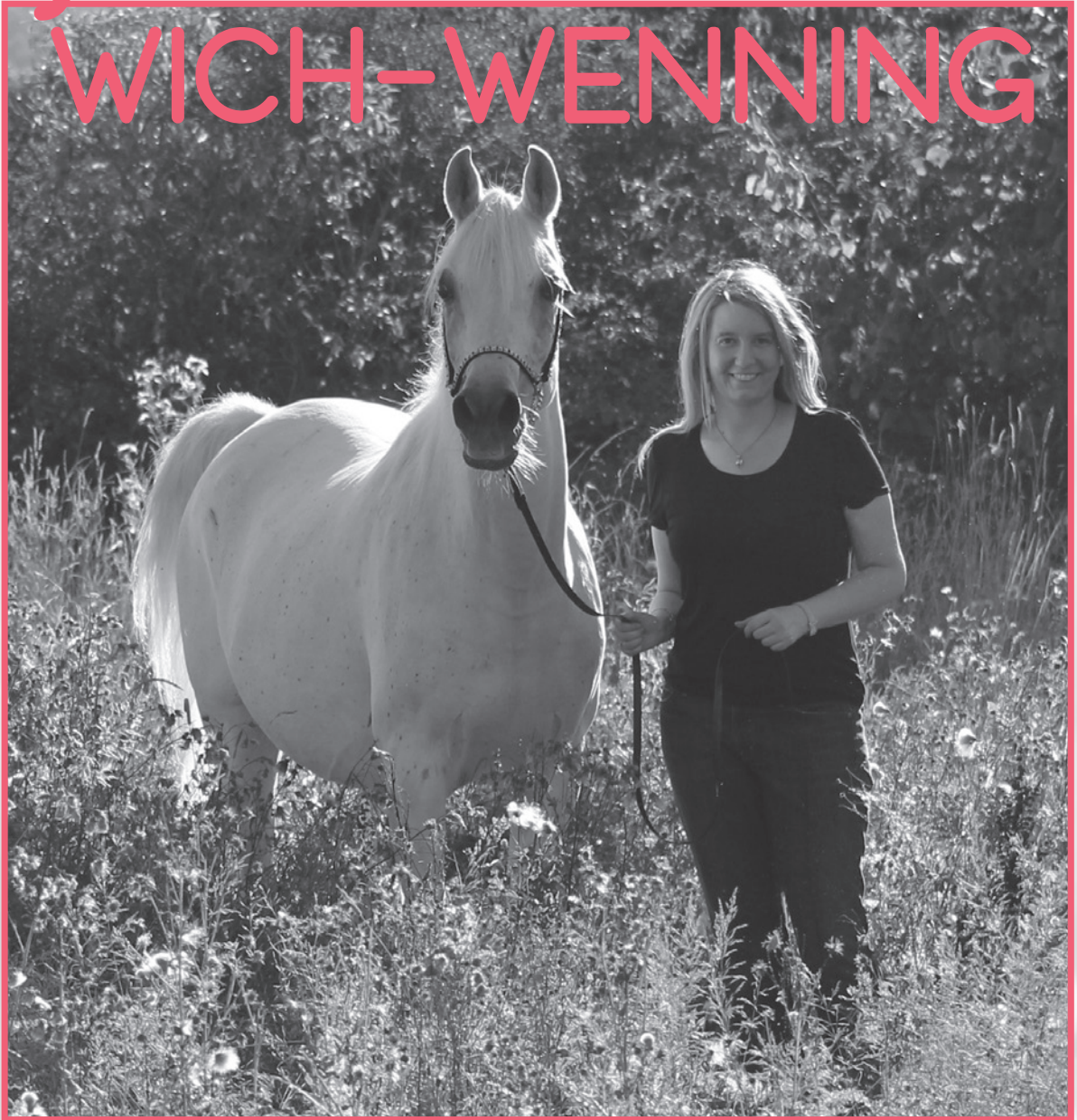
I can say that I have not found any unsurmountable difficulties or obstacles in this community. I think it is natural, that when people do not know you, that it will take time to gain their trust and respect. However, I have found that when I give my best, which I always try to do, people accept you for who you are and allow the quality of your work to speak for you.

I never set out thinking, okay, today I am going to follow my dreams... But when I look back at the choices and decisions, I made that have formed my life, I see risks that I took, I see sacrifices that I made, I see some mistakes, I see some regrets, and I also see some glorious moments. In all of these situations, I believe I have always followed my heart. Whatever I do, I try to give it my all, to do my best, to exceed expectations, to surprise and delight, to create something special and beautiful that brings joy to others. These always have been and always will be my motivations.

I don't know if my work will inspire any young women. But it would make me very happy if I can encourage them as they work to find their place in this community. Making a difference in even one person's life makes life worth living.

I COME FROM A VERY HUMBLE BACKGROUND, BUT THE ARABIAN HORSE HAS GIVEN ME A LIFE RICHER THAN I COULD EVER HAVE DREAMED OF. IF I CAN DO IT, SO CAN YOU. AND YES, THERE MAY BE OTHERS COMPETING FOR THE SAME JOB, OR WHATEVER, BUT IF THEY CAN BE SUCCESSFUL, YOU CAN TOO. ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST, BE KIND, BE GRACIOUS, AND GOOD THINGS WILL COME TO YOU.

JUDITH WICH-WENNING



Freelance Journalist, Photographer, Book Author and Breeder

My name is Judith Wich-Wenning and I am a freelance journalist, photographer and book author. At my stud farm "Orienta Arabians" situated in scenic Northern Bavaria, Germany, I breed classic straight Egyptian Arabians since many years. I named my farm after the ethereal mare Ansata Orienta, an unforgettable daughter by Ansata Halim Shah out of the El Zahraa mare Bint Baheera EAO. Ansata Orienta was my first straight Egyptian and certainly stamped my ideal. The name "Orienta" conjures thoughts of the Orient as well as of Orientalism, a 19th century art movement, which brought about numerous artwork of Arabian horses. Art is my second passion and I got important inspiration for my breeding programme from antique artwork, as for example 19th century lithographs by Carle Vernet or Victor Adam.

My breeding programme is based on rare, classic lines, which are nowadays hard to find outside the Middle East. Horses born at Orienta Arabians today grace the pastures of important stud farms in Europe and the Near and Middle East. I usually breed just very few foals per year, but superior quality is always my most important guideline. Horses lead a happy, stress-free life at Orienta Arabians. A fair treatment of animals without violence is essential for me. No wonder that the farm is also a haven for wildlife.

I am married and we have a marvellous four-year-old daughter called Dana. The apple does not fall far from the tree: she already adores horses, loves horse-riding, as well as feeding her favourite young mare.

Looking back today, I must say that I am an equine enthusiast since childhood. I studied journalism as well as English and American literature and psychology at Bamberg University. My travels have taken me around the world and especially to the Middle East. In 2008, my book "Jewels of the Desert - The Magic of Egyptian Arabians" was published. Numerous horses pictured in this book have in the meantime turned into icons of the breed. I am happy when people tell me that my book has inspired them and nurtured their love for Arabian horses.

Moreover, I have published innumerable articles and photos in International magazines and books worldwide. I for example regularly contribute to

"Tutto Arabi" and "Desert Heritage" since over 20 years. At the moment I am also working as the project manager for a very important and extensive book project, which will be published by the Kuwait state stud Bait Al Arab. A very promising work!

Fortunately, as a woman, I had no restrictions or obstacles in the world of the Arabian horse so far - or at least I did not realise them. The history of the Arabian horse boasts numerous great women and I am sure we can hardly imagine today what difficulties a woman like for example Lady Anne Blunt had to face in the 19th century - only because she was female.

When building up a breeding programme, I am a firm believer that quality is essential, not quantity. Patience is perhaps the most important characteristic when handling or breeding horses. For example sometimes it is better to wait a while or acquire an excellent, but very young horse instead of a grown up, finished breeding animal of inferior quality.

Also, I think it is very important to read and study a lot. The internet has turned into a common means of information in these days, but an extensive library with numerous books and magazines is vital for in-depth research.

Times are not easy for Arabian horses in many parts of the world at the moment. The COVID-19 pandemic is certainly no help here. Travelling and shows - normally inspiration for enthusiasts and breeders - can only be done on a very small scale. However, especially in Europe and the US it is very important to inspire new people for the Arabian horse. In my opinion, this can only happen in a positive, friendly atmosphere. If some people speak badly about other horses and breeders, this may be a brief triumph. But the damage is done to everyone involved in the end. Kindness, politeness and mutual support is now more important than ever.

Hopefully, the upswing that will surely come after the end of this pandemic will also bring new heights for the Arabian horse. New initiatives and ideas from committed women will be essential here. They would bring a breath of fresh air that is urgently needed in many places.

My message to future generations of young women is the following:

REMEMBER TO LOOK AT THE STARS AND NOT AT YOUR FEET! THINGS TAKE TIME. THE SEEDS PLANTED TODAY WILL NOT SPROUT TOMORROW, BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THEY NEVER WILL. BE PATIENT AND PERSEVERING. WORKING HARD AND ALWAYS GIVING YOUR BEST IS SELF-EVIDENT AND ACTUALLY NEEDS NO SPECIAL MENTIONING. YOUR SUCCESS WILL COME! BUT EVEN THEN, ALSO FATE WILL STRIKE. DON'T BE DISCOURAGED, NOW IT MATTERS THAT YOU JUST DON'T GIVE UP. AND NEVER FORGET WHO HELPED YOU AND WHO TRIED TO KNOCK YOU DOWN!

MARTINE VAN HEE



Breeder and ECAHO International Judge

I live in Belgium and grew up in a family where horses were always a part of my life.

Since childhood I had the passion for horses.

After graduating I decided to concentrate myself to the knowledge of the Arabian horse.

What started in 1985 as a hobby, grew into a real professional Arabian horse farm.

Today, 36 years later, I still have this "ARABITIS"... the Arabian Horse virus. No vaccination is able to cure this.

Once started as a very small stud with 4 mares - one of which was Navarroné that is with me in this picture - and 1 little colt named...Dion, ended up into a huge facility and 72 Arabian horses.

The farm "Dion Arabians" has been named after my first colt.

Each year I tried to organise my breeding program in a way not to exceed my limits.

Of course as many breeders will confirm, you end up every year with some extra foals because you were unable to resist to cover one of your mares with that particular stallion you choose for her, thinking that this opportunity is THE one.

It is an addiction to have this goal to breed that "exceptional" foal. Thanks God I have been blessed many times with outstanding results. Those breeding successes were my first steps into the huge Arabian Horse World.

I approached the Arabian Show World by participating the very first time at the World Championships in Paris in the year 1989. My yearling filly became World Reserve Junior Champion.

Those days we did not have the separated yearling classes, we had Junior classes 1-2-3 years old.

Suddenly I was contacted by people from around the world, Dion Arabians was placed on the map.

It has never been a problem to me to be a woman in this Arabian Horse world.

Those days it was generally a men's world. At the moment we notice more and more women involved with the Arabian horses which I only can approve.

Of course you should always know your position in

this world but this is a rule that applies to women and men. Stay always respectful to each other.

Abroad I never felt any difficulties to be a woman acting as a breeder or showparticipant.

It is sad to mention that in my own country it was quite difficult and not always fun. I admit that I experienced jealousy during many years. Much injustice has been done and some scars will remain in my heart.

In my life honesty is the common thread and this will always be rewarded.

I was asked what qualities or characteristics you must have in order to pursue your dream.

First of all, if you do not feel the love and passion for the Arabian horse for the full 100%, do not start this adventure. It will never work!

We do see often new starters into this world with lack of experience, this is not a problem as long as you have the passion. We all had to learn, first mandatory rule... The horses must fit into your life and family, this is the first step to realise your dream. Do not be afraid to visit different kind of farms and learn from what you see and hear out of the knowledge of experienced breeders.

Make your own schedule according to your options, capabilities and budget.

Try to maintain your planning and remember 2 golden rules,

"Quality rules over Quantity", "The welfare of your horse has always priority".

Breeding is a large dose of knowledge and of course some luck.

I do hope that my experience and breeder history as a "selfmade woman" can be an example to many future generations of women in the Arabian World.

I trust that we women do have the knowledge and the eye for Arabian horses.

As a woman I am proud with what I realised in breeding - and showing of Arabian horses.

I obtained my goal and it makes me happy.

MY ADVICE TO ALL ARABIAN HORSE WOMEN...

MAINTAIN THE GOOD FEELING AND THE PASSION FOR YOUR HORSES.

THE WELFARE OF YOUR HORSES MUST BE YOUR FIRST PRIORITY AND THAT WILL LEAD TO YOUR SUCCESS.

BE PATIENT AND DO NOT WANT TO RUSH IN YOUR SCHEDULE AND PROGRAM.

BE AWARE, SOME DAYS OF SADNESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT WILL CROSS YOUR LIFE BUT NEVER LOOSE FAITH IN YOUR HORSES. NOTHING WILL GO ABOVE THE JOY AND HAPPINESS THEY BRING YOU.

ALL THE BEST OF LUCK TO ALL ARABIAN HORSE "WOMEN" AND REMEMBER, NEVER GIVE UP!

NABILA AL ALI



Commentator

I am Nabila Al Ali and I am from Kuwait, I am an FEI International Equestrian Federation approved level 3 international show jumping judge and I am a commentator for all equestrian games, especially for show jumping and Arabian horse events.

I was commenting on a show jumping event in Kuwait and I have always done that because my children are all riders, so while I was doing that the general manager of Bait Al Arab, Abdulla Al Brehi, really liked my voice and asked me to try to comment on an Arab horse show. At first I was very scared because I knew nothing about that world and had not participated in any event regarding Arabian horses, but I promised him to do my best. Before the first Arabian horse event I commented I watched all the Arabian horse events held locally and internationally and read about Arabian horses everything I could and from there I started my first Arabian horse show and my first connection with Arabian horses in Kuwait as a commentator.

I am so proud to be in this world. Being in the Arabian Horse Society makes me feel like I am part of a big, beautiful family all over the world. I have had the opportunity to meet so many people in Europe and the Middle East, the Gulf and of course Kuwait. Most of these people are breeders or judges. I have made a great circle of friends and also attended seminars on Arabian horses and how to judge them and this has opened up a new field and new places for me to visit. I am very proud to have been the first female voice to commentate in Saudi Arabia before the changes in recent years. It happened in Jeddah and from Jeddah they called me to commentate in Al Khalediah which was a great show and I was really proud to be the first female voice in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Also in Europe I started in Belgium at the Elran Cup and I was honored to be the first Arab woman to participate in an Arab horse show

in Europe commenting in both languages, Arabic and English. I was not only proud, I was happy that people came and asked me what the name of that Arabian horse meant and they were really happy to hear Arabic and to be involved with an Arabian lady. So I'm honored, happy, and I'm glad I got into this field.

I entered this world really smoothly and the first show I commented on was in Kuwait. Then I was invited to Egypt, to Jedda, from Jedda to Riyadh, from there to Doha, and then from the Gulf to the Middle East, Egypt, Lebanon and then to Europe, in France in Chantilly and also in Germany and in Italy in Milan... I had no obstacles or difficulties and the longer I was with the shows the happier I was. I actually started to write in English or Arabic a kind of diary for me with all the information regarding Arabian horses and I started to collect everything in my diary so that I could add some information for the audience and make them aware of the judging system and so on.

In show jumping my dream is to stay at the top of the judging level and to judge in high level events around the world. Since I'm not a judge in Arabian shows, I'm a commentator, what I think is that you have to have a good voice, first of all, clear, and that's a talent, I mean you can't change your voice, so you have to have talent, be gifted with a good voice. Secondly, you have to prepare yourself by gathering information, reading books, updating yourself with all the new judging systems or changes in ECAHO to be ready and up to date. You have to be talented with a good voice, you have to be educated, if you have a chance to attend some seminar or course you have to take it. I attended two seminars in Germany with Mrs Heike Hain and also Bait Al Arab in Kuwait offers good courses and seminars and I tried to attend to update my skills.

MY MESSAGE TO ALL WOMEN IS, IF YOU HAVE A PASSION YOU SHOULD GO FOR IT, PUT YOUR EFFORT INTO IT, YOU SHOULD TRY TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT AGE YOU START AT, IF YOU HAVE A PASSION GO FOR IT.

My passion, actually, from a young age was really horses and the love of horses and I also had a great relationship with the microphone. I loved using the microphone from an early age. So all women, regardless of what your passion is, if it's horses, if it's commentary, if it's...swimming...whatever, the love of Arabian horses.... put in your efforts, do your educational part by reading and overcoming any obstacle in your way and keep doing it and you will surely achieve your goal. The second

piece of advice: no difference between men and women in any kind of work, in any kind of hobby or passion. We are all the same, we have different body features, different mindset but in the way we achieve our dream or reach our goal there is no difference. If you make an effort and if you insist to continue and start gathering information and never stop even if there is some kind of obstacle, you will surely achieve your goal, passion or dream will come true.

EILEEN VERDIECK



Breeder, Manager and Businesswoman

My name is Eileen Verdieck and I have been involved with Arabian Horse for over 45 years.

My father was in the Armed Forces in the United States and due to the fact we traveled from base to base during my childhood I didn't get to really start with horses until I was 14 years old. I fell in love with the Arabian Horse when I was very young and I used to write stories about a black Arabian stallion called Lightning. I bought my first horse when I was 14 from my babysitting money for \$150 and that was the start of my life with horses. I never had any doubt that having a career with horses was what I needed to do in my life and was fortunate to have some very interesting and unique experiences from the beginning of my journey.

I opened up my own Arabian training center in Albuquerque New Mexico in the early 70s and while there met Richard Pritzlaff, who was one of the first importers of Straight Egyptian Arabians in 1958. He had a old beautiful ranch outside of Las Vegas, New Mexico and he had a wonderful herd of straight Egyptian mares and stallions for me to fall in love with. I loved the history and the romance of the Egyptian horse and Richard was a wealth of information and had traveled to Egypt himself in the late 1950's to learn about the Egyptian Arabian Horse from General Van Szanter who was the director of the EAO at the time.

From that point I passionately devoted myself to learning as much as I could about the straight Egyptian horse which eventually lead me to accept a job at the famed Imperial Egyptian Stud in Maryland as the manager and trainer where I worked for 17 years. I was very fortunate as Barbara Griffith, the owner of Imperial allowed me a tremendous amount of freedom to learn about the Egyptian horse and also promote Imperial bloodlines throughout the world. Her trust in me was very instrumental in helping me also to become established as a national and international trainer, judge and consultant.

At that time there were very few women that were showing in halter at the national and international show ring. Her support of me in the show ring, as

well as allowing me to travel around the world to learn more about the Egyptian horse turned out to be so crucial to my success and future accomplishments in the Arabian horse industry. I will always be grateful to her.

I left Imperial in the early 90s and expanded my travel in marketing and showing mostly to the Middle East region, where I was one of the first people to re-introduce Arabian horses and particularly the straight Egyptian horse back to the Middle East and the Gulf states. I was very fortunate again to have been one of the early people to be traveling throughout the world and especially in the Arab world.

As a woman in a male dominated industry I did face many obstacles that would get in my way that were frustrating at time, but on the whole I usually just walked around them and made my own path, which allowed me to accomplish quite a lot all over the world in the showing, consulting and marketing of Arabian horses.

I really enjoyed introducing newcomers to the Arabian horse and I was very fortunate to have been a guiding force to many of the worlds best breeding programs through the world especially in the Middle East and Gulf states regions. I eventually moved to Dubai in 2002.

While I was in Dubai I stepped back from the showing and selling of Arabian horses to be able to devote more time developing a program that I felt was truly needed in the Arabian Horse industry. I saw the horse industry in general was becoming too elitist and expensive for the average person to feel comfortable to become involved with. I really believed that something needed to be done to broaden the base of new and potential horse lovers. At that time I read two books that changed my view on the horse industry. They were "The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid" and "Blue Ocean Strategy".

These two books inspired me to look for a different way to encourage people to have a safe, fun and educational experience with horse which usually led them to fall in love with horses and hopefully

become forever horse owners. I spent most of my 14 years of living in the UAE researching and developing my newcomers program, HoofbeatZ, which became a successful and innovative way of getting newcomers involved with horses and particularly the Arabian horse. the goal is to hopefully have many of these HoofbeatZ centers around the world that are totally devoted to bring new people in and letting them know and learn about the the horse and how much they will change their life for good.

I currently live in the United States in Scottsdale Arizona where I still operate my marketing and consulting business for both purebreds and straight Egyptian horses and where last year during the middle of Covid I opened up my newcomer program, HoofbeatZ USA which has grown every day and introduced hundreds of new people to the horse and particularly Arabians.

I think for me the most exciting thing that I've really done in my life is the amount of people that I have introduced to the horse and particularly the Arabian Horse and to see breeding program grow and prosper. I feel blessed when I look around the world and see the thousands of people and horses that I have touched in one way or another over my career. I find incredible joy watching people be exposed to what the horse can do and how they can change ones life.

I find that being a woman in the Arabian Horse world today is much easier than it was when I was younger. I think the main thing is not to focus on what the obstacles might be, but extent your vision beyond them and keep on keeping on. Trying to make a career in the horse industry is very difficult whether you are a man or a woman. I think to

succeed everyone has to work as hard as you can to be as good as you can in whatever you are doing. Women on the whole are well suited to working with horses and I think we should emphasize and follow the path that is best for us.

Woman have a natural affinity with horses and in turn the horses have the power to make us feel stronger, more capable and more empathetic which in today's world is very relevant.

I was lucky that with my family being a woman was never considered a negative or something that would hold me back. Even though are very serious obstacles that women have to go through to be able to achieve their goals in life, I believe probably the most important quality I've had to learn is that it shouldn't be an excuse or considered insurmountable. You just have to be very firm in your beliefs and be willing to work hard for those beliefs and be as professional as possible and believe that you can achieve your goals.

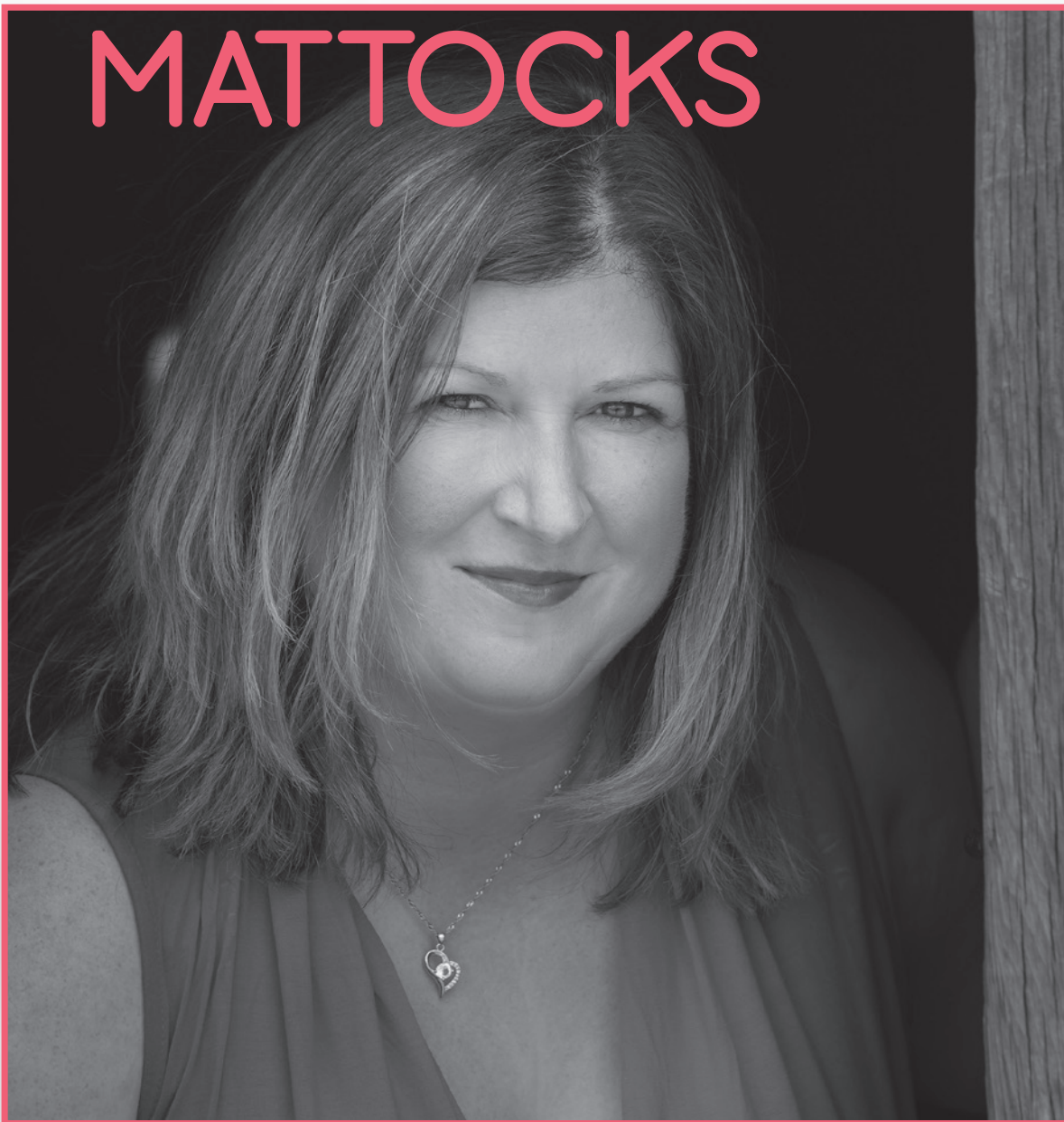
As far as what qualities or characteristics I feel that a woman needs in order to pursue her dreams or undertake a project that she cares about: I believe determination and the ability to keep going in spite of the difficulties are essential to achieving ones goals.

I feel if you have a dream or a vision that is important to you then you need to stay devoted to that idea and work very hard to not let the negatives get you down. I've found in my life that sometimes going head to head and competing in an industry that doesn't appreciate my values is pointless. Better to find a way to create a world that is a little bit my own and build from there. This has worked very well for me in my life.

I THINK THE BIGGEST ADVICE THAT I COULD GIVE THE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF YOUNG WOMEN THAT WANT TO SUCCEED AND HAVE A CAREER IN THE HORSE INDUSTRY IS REALIZE THAT NOW MORE THAN EVER THE CHARACTERISTICS THAT MANY WOMEN HAVE OF FAIRNESS, EMPATHY, AND DOING AND STRIVING TO DO THE RIGHT THING ARE ESSENTIAL QUALITIES TO SUCCEED. RIGHT NOW THE WORLD NEEDS MORE OF THAT. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE HORSE IS MORE IMPORTANT OR MORE RELEVANT TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THAN IT'S EVER BEEN. THE HORSE AND HORSE ACTIVITIES OR BEING AROUND HORSES HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER PERSON. WE ARE SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE THIS MAGNIFICENT ANIMAL IN OUR LIVES THAT CAN HELP US GROW AS A PERSON EVERY DAY. THERE'S SOMETHING ENPOWERING ABOUT WORKING WITH A 1000 POUND ANIMAL AND ACHIEVING REMARKABLE GOALS.

NEVER LOSE YOUR CURIOSITY AND MAKE SURE YOU FUEL THAT CURIOSITY BY READING OR EXPERIENCING THINGS FROM OTHER INDUSTRIES. OPEN YOURSELF TO LISTEN HOW YOU CAN CARVE A NICHE IN YOUR OWN LIFE AND BUSINESS. I THINK THAT'S PROBABLY BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON THAT I HAVE LEARNED IS THAT I CANNOT CONTROL THE WHOLE WORLD OR THE WHOLE INDUSTRY, BUT I CAN CONTROL MY LITTLE SPACE IN IT AND THEN TRY TO BE THE BEST I POSSIBLY CAN WITHIN THAT ENVIRONMENT AND THEN HOPEFULLY EXPAND OUT. I ALSO WOULD RECOMMEND THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX AND READ THE BOOKS I MENTIONED BEFORE WHICH REALLY MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE AND IN MY THOUGHT PROCESS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD. LASTLY FIND A MENTOR WHO CAN GIVE YOU ADVICE AND SUPPORT AND THEN ENJOY YOUR JOURNEY!!

SAMANTHA MATTOCKS



Editor, Author, Writer, Breeder

My name is Samantha Mattocks and I come from Norfolk, England. I have always felt incredibly lucky as I was born into the world of Arabian horses – my mum had a part-bred before I was born, followed by our first purebred. Growing up with these beautiful horses, combined with a passion for writing, resulted in my starting *The Arabian Magazine* at the end of 2004. I have never looked back, allowing myself to embrace all the opportunities that this magical breed has put my way. I have written for many Arabian horse publications the world over and have recently published my debut novel, *Sandstorm*, set in the world of the Arabian horse.

While we now no longer breed or show, our horses remain a huge part of our family and our daily lives, as well as being my career. Once you are bitten with Arabitis, it never goes away... I have been a member of our local Arabian horse group for all of my life, spending 30 years on and off the committee, was Chair for many years, ran our annual show and also produced our newsletter. The grass roots of the Arabian world remain so important – it is there that the next generation will see and fall in love with the breed.

I would like to say that being a woman in this world does not matter – but sometimes it does. For example, being in certain parts of the Middle East can be a challenge. In that part of the world, as a woman, I cannot just walk up to an all-male group of breeders and introduce myself to them as my male counterparts can. I have to wait to be introduced to them. I also think that, regardless of where you live in the world, if you are a strong woman, you can be labelled 'difficult' by some. But surely this is what all young women should aspire to be – strong, determined, bright individuals with self-belief and the confidence to follow their dreams? These are the women we need to be raising, encouraging, and supporting.

Being a woman in this world also can have its benefits.

My emotions are always close to the surface, and sometimes my reaction to a horse can break down invisible barriers between myself and clients. Never be afraid to show how a horse can move you – this is the whole reason that we are here. And if I can convey that emotion to the reader, then so much the better.

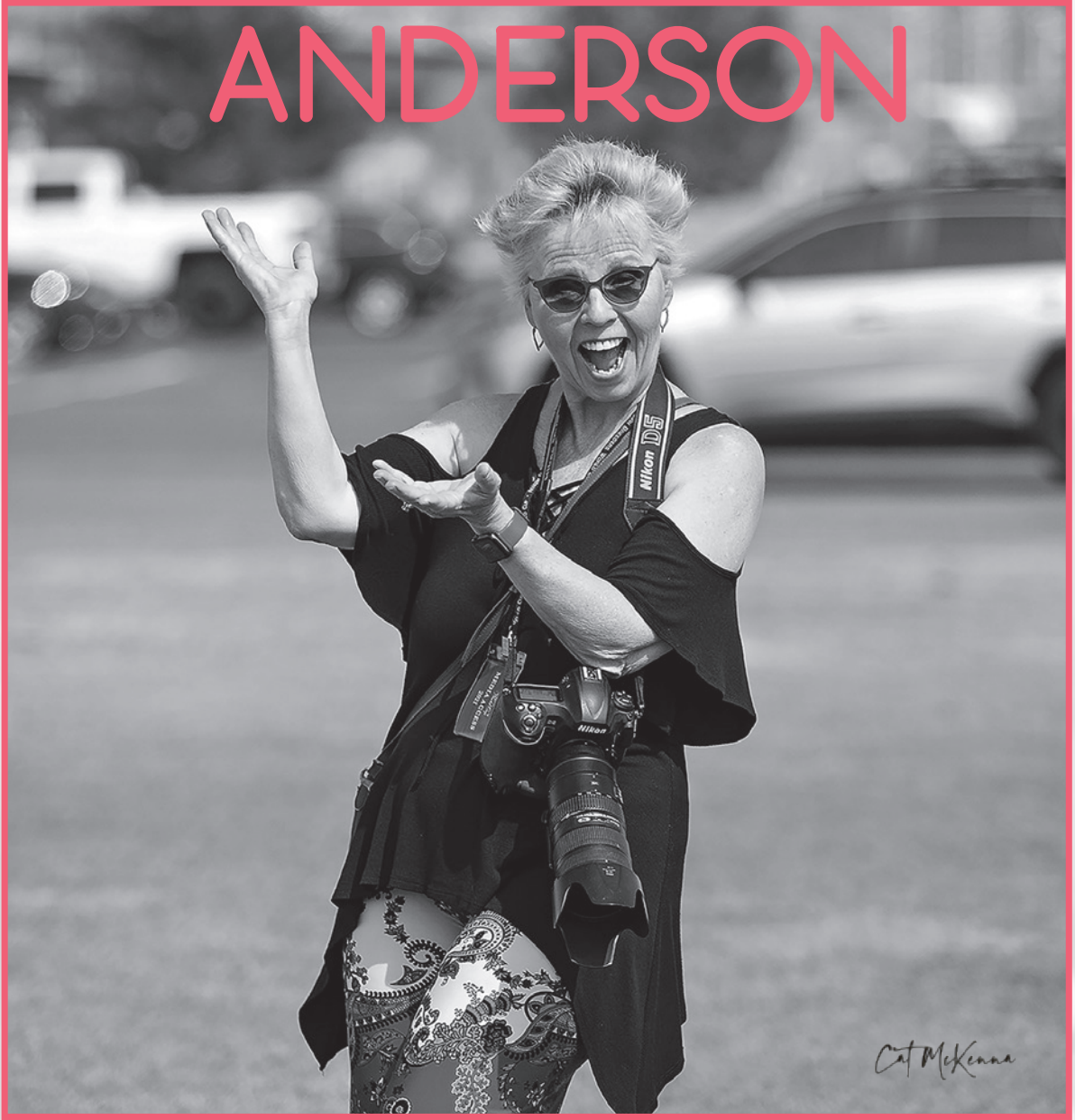
Sheer self-belief and determination go a long way in realising your dreams. There are so many amazing people in this industry, all willing to share their time and knowledge, and I have been blessed to work with so many strong women over the years. Women have that ability to lift each other up, which is an amazing thing. Even though we often have different goals, when we work together, we achieve so much. To be able to support others in making their dreams a reality is a true blessing. No matter what life puts in your path, always remember that you can overcome anything if you are determined enough; you just have to have a grain of belief and from that, you can grow. And, as I always say, nothing is ever impossible...

If you realise your dream, remember that there are plenty more to go for. There is no limit, only your own imagination! As well as my life spent with a pen in my hand, I have also explored other dreams, such as cooking. This led me to being on the television programme *MasterChef*, and new dreams have spiralled from there. All my dreams connect at the root, but then they go off to be explored and expressed in different ways. It is important to remember that you can have different parts of your life and you can follow – and realise – different dreams.

As for being an inspiration for others... Those are big words. I just do what I do in my own way, and I always aim to stay true to myself. If by doing that, this has made me someone to look up to and inspire others, then I am honoured. For me, however, inspiring others doesn't necessarily mean them going down the same path you are on yourself, but helping other women believe in and achieve their own dreams.

TO THE NEXT GENERATIONS READING THIS, I WOULD SAY FOLLOW YOUR PASSION. KNOW YOUR CRAFT INSIDE OUT, BE THAT WRITING, SHOWING, RIDING, TRAINING, BREEDING. NEVER ASSUME THAT YOU KNOW IT ALL, THERE IS ALWAYS SO MUCH TO LEARN. YES, THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN YOU HAVE TO WORK TWICE AS HARD TO PROVE YOURSELF, BUT IF YOU DO SO IN A WAY THAT IS TRUE TO YOU, THEN YOU ARE ALREADY HALFWAY THERE. NEVER BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR ADVICE, THERE ARE SO MANY BRILLIANT PEOPLE IN THIS INDUSTRY ONLY TOO HAPPY TO HELP MENTOR THE NEXT GENERATION, AND I FIND THAT WOMEN IN PARTICULAR ARE MORE PREPARED TO SHARE. AND ABOVE ALL, NEVER BELIEVE YOUR OWN HYPE: STAY HUMBLE AND STAY TRUE TO YOUR ROOTS. IT IS ONLY BY BEING REAL THAT YOU CAN SHINE, AND EVERY YOUNG WOMAN HAS HER OWN LIGHT TO SHARE WITH THE WORLD.

LAURELLE ANDERSON



Show and Event Photographer

I am Laurelle Anderson... and in the world of the Arabian horse, I am a horse show and event photographer. I was born and raised on a farm in Canada but because of the Arabian, I have lived the greater portion of my life in Scottsdale Arizona where I spend most days working as a Realtor.

As I reflect back to my youth, being born with a passion for horses, has been a gift ... heaven sent. I recall the absolute thrill I felt as a child when I was anywhere near a horse! Growing up on in a quiet farming community allowed me to have adventures and experiences that any young girl with a horse-driven mindset would be grateful for. I'm sure everyone in my family believed it was just a 'phase' I was going through. Yet, year after year, my repetitive desire and eagerness to pursue a different path with horse-focused dreams, became increasingly evident. My parents and family did not necessarily share or understand any aspect of my passion for horses.

Even so, living on a farm did allow me to acquire a few of them, and this privilege was allowed provided I was largely responsible for their care. I am eternally grateful for that opportunity. And in retrospect, those experiences provided such a magical memory as I reflect on my youth.

My own approach into the world of the Arabian horse came about in an unexpected manner. I did not discover the breed until I was 15 years of age in the early 1970's. It was a spontaneous invitation from a friend to attend the Saturday evening classes at a local horse show, but that 'show' just happened to be the finals for the Canadian National Arabian Horse Show.

For me, that experience was like someone had suddenly flipped a bright light switch on and suddenly all became clear to me. It launched my ambitions into a heightened whirlwind of passion that would lead me down a trail of experiences I could not have possibly imagined before. I was

obsessed with my desire to pursue this creature with unrelenting determination. I subscribed to every Arabian Horse magazine I could find, I located a nearby training center and began working at that farm after school, on weekends and holidays. We worked hard, played hard and spent countless hours discussing various aspects of the breed. I tried to glean information and shape it to my own path based on a variety of experiences and certainly from individuals who I admired, many who became my mentors. As time passed, I found it wasn't enough to read about the Arabian horses I was so smitten by. I intentionally refocused my ambition with a desire to earn a position where I would be working with these Arabian horses I was ... so far ... just reading about them in the magazines. I began writing letters, introducing myself, seeking words of encouragement, watching for that window of opportunity to open. And it did.

Before long I had launched myself off into what may be considered to be a truly unique adventure... to quench my insatiable Arabian horse appetite.

In retrospect... it seemed to all happen in a blink of an eye, yet at the time... it seemed to drag on 'forever'! But my determination paid off and I found myself caring for some of the most treasured Arabians of that era, and in the history of the breed. That journey changed my life.

As with most things, we out-grow one chapter of our lives and we evolve into another. For myself, I discovered how the excitement of photography and the thrill I felt in being challenged to capture the beauty of a magnificent horse... especially the special ones that believe in themselves so wholeheartedly... that they just seem to have a love affair with the camera. It just never gets old to me and yet I find myself kind of renewed in this process. I quite like it, and it makes me feel very content.

As a young woman who was determined to embark

on this Arabian horse journey, experiencing obstacles and difficulties were anticipated and even expected. Some of them were practical, some were financial limitations and others may have been influenced by the feedback from those who were not necessarily supportive of my ambitions. Even so, we all experience varying levels of self doubt as we struggle to discover our place in the world we have chosen to pursue and I was no different in this regard.

However, as with any challenge we face, the school of life has a way of teaching us the lessons of survival. Gratefully, I didn't lack in tenacity and determination, in fact, it likely served to strengthen my resolve by enabling me to persevere through the difficult times. In doing so, I met so many remarkable people, shared endless conversations with several of the most influential and widely respected architects of the breed. Their words of wisdom and encouragement had an enormous impact on me as a young woman. My life would likely be much different today, were it not for those esteemed conversations. I will forever be truly grateful for their gifted words, and the significance it imparted to me.

Today, for me, being a woman in the Arabian horse world ... feels like freedom. At this point in my life, I am abundantly thankful for the Arabian horse

journey I've experienced and the opportunities I continue to have.

There is a great deal of color in that reflection of my past and I'm anticipating the future will continue to disclose a few more chapters for me to add to my repertoire of memories.

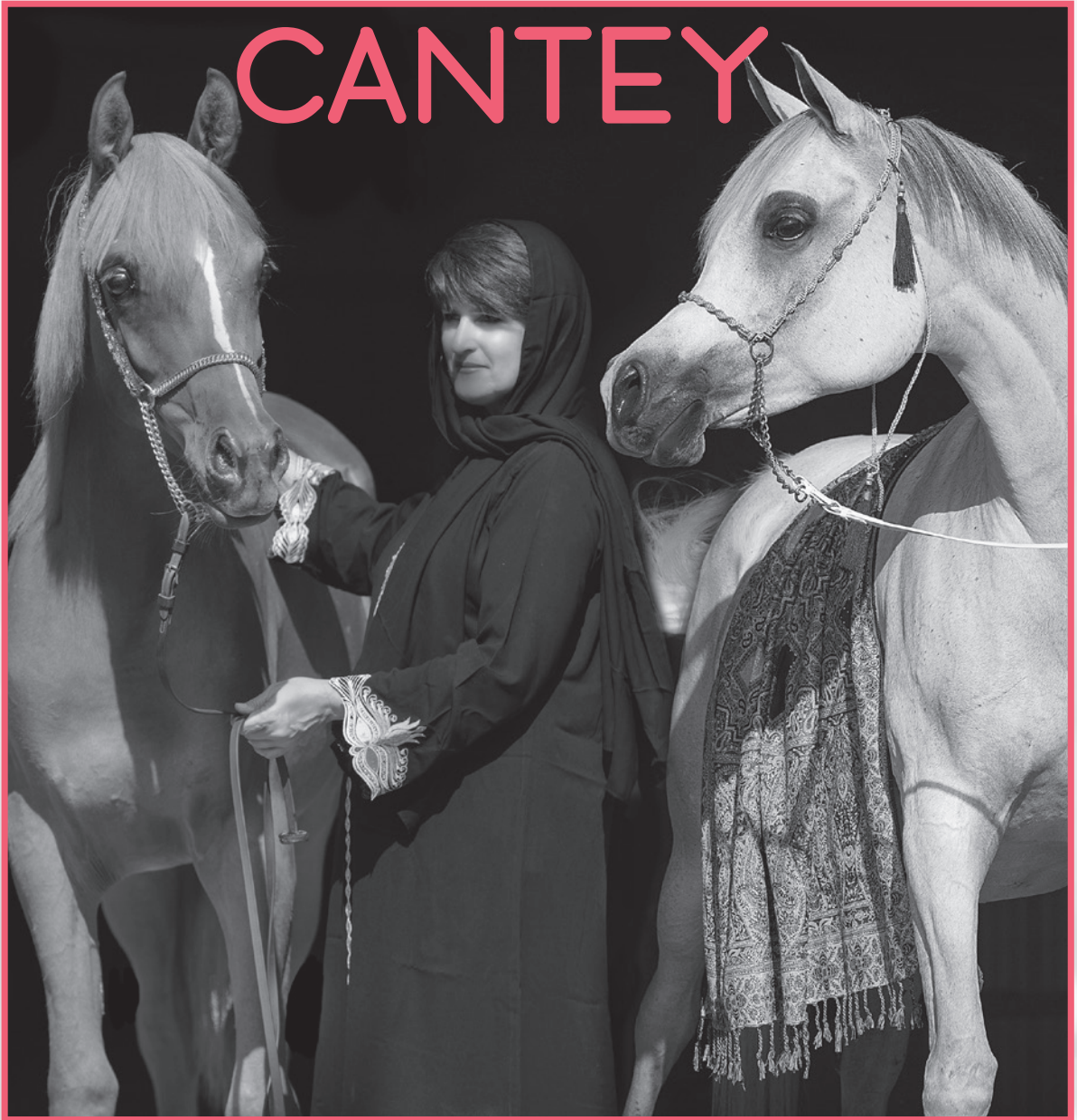
I remain captivated by the love affair I continue to share with the Arabian horse and in the future I'm determined to find the time to share long overdue conversations with people I recognize but would like to get to know them better since we all share this amazing passion. Yet, it is certainly understood that the ebb and flow this business is a bustling one.

Sometimes our time together seems so fleeting and it often passes us by before we are able to make all the connections we had hoped to.

My camera generally keeps me moving at these horse shows or events, but I would like to take more moments to slow it down a bit, perhaps less hustle and more moments to catch up with an old friend, or make a new one ... or simply enjoy the view. And yet, I still find it so rewarding when I am able to capture special image for an owner of their beloved horse, or a priceless photo that will become an cherished memory from a moment of pure joy. In many ways and for many reasons, it has become a gift I give myself, ... I absolutely love it.

A PASSIONATE DESIRE, A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE, A PLAN OF EXECUTION, AND A DECIDED MIND SET, AFTER ALL 'A MIND MADE UP' IS UNSTOPPABLE WHEN ONE BELIEVES THAT IT WILL BE SO. FIND A MENTOR, ASK QUESTIONS, BE COMMITTED TO PUTTING IN THE NECESSARY WORK, AND REMEMBER TO DO SO WITH A POSITIVE PERSPECTIVE. PERHAPS MOST OF ALL, EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES YOU WILL HAVE AND FOR THOSE WHO WILL GIVE YOU A LEG UP OR CHEER YOU ON. THIS ALONE IS ABSOLUTELY INVALUABLE AND IT WILL DOUBLY BLESS YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREER. DARE TO DREAM BIG. WOMEN ARE ESPECIALLY GIFTED AT BEING PATIENT BUT PERSISTENT, BE THAT. BE AUTHENTIC...YET KIND. WHEN YOU GIVE YOUR WORD, KEEP IT, IT DEFINES YOU. REMAIN POSITIVE, GLEAN INSIGHT FROM YOUR MIS STEPS. WHEN YOU RECEIVE, FIND A WAY TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK. PURSUE WITH A PASSION, BUT ENJOY THE JOURNEY. DON'T THIRST TO START AT THE TOP, YOU WILL MISS LESSONS FROM THE WORK...IT'S WHAT MAKES THE EXPERIENCE SO WORTHWHILE...REMEMBER THAT ALL THE LOVE AND JOYFUL MOMENTS WE SEEK, ARE MOST OFTEN FOUND IN THE PROCESS MORE SO THAN THE END RESULT, SO DON'T LET THEM PASS YOU BY... THEY CAN EASILY BE MISSED IN MOMENTS OF HASTE. AND ALWAYS... COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS AND REMAIN GRATEFUL. GOD BLESS YOU, I WISH YOU ALL...ALL THE BEST!

DIANA CANTEY



Breeder, Photojournalist and Videographer

I am honored to participate in the Tutto Arabi We Women feature. My name is Diana Cantey of Zajaddi Egyptian Arabians, located in Mount Vernon, Arkansas. My husband Duane and I have been breeding Straight Egyptian Arabian horses for over 20 years. We have always managed just a few mares and have a proven breeding formula of success with "quality" over quantity. Having a small herd enabled us to breed, show and promote our horses while keeping expenses reasonable, and doing much of the work ourselves. We have been very fortunate to have bred horses who have impacted breeding farms around the world including the US, Australia, New Zealand, China, and the Middle East.

As a photojournalist and videographer, I have had several freelance assignments which allowed me to not only visit breeders and attend shows in many countries but to broaden my knowledge about bloodlines, history, and culture. It is very rewarding to meet others who also share the love of the Arabian horse, to share in the passion and preservation of the breed, especially the Straight

Egyptian Arabian. No matter where I travel, I see how much the Arabian horse is loved and admired, and the love of this noble horse unites us.

I always had a love of horses and as a child, I read many books including Walter Farley's *The Black Stallion*, and Marguerite Henry's *Misty of Chincoteague* series. I also collected horse posters and Breyer horse models, dreaming of one day owning a big horse farm. I would draw, color, and paint pictures of horses during my free time, and found myself always fascinated with the artistic beauty and spirit of the Arabian horse.

I was employed by a Thoroughbred breeding farm in high school and learned about breeding, mare and foal care, marketing, grooming, and general management. My education would take me one step further in preparing myself for one day having a breeding farm. I earned an Associate Degree in Animal Health Technology, then a Bachelor of Science in Laboratory Medicine with a minor in Agriculture. I worked with all types of animals during employment with the United States Army and also with Schering Plough Animal Health as a Quality Control Scientist. My responsibilities at Schering Plough included initiating and monitoring equine vaccine testing. As a wife and mother of two young boys, I stayed connected to horses in one capacity or another but it was on a limited basis. Sometimes you need a course correction to take you in the direction you were meant to go, and after two moves in 3 years, we found ourselves in Arkansas with six horses, two dogs, and a cat on a twenty-acre farm.

With the help of a few experienced bloodstock agents, our foundation mares were carefully selected and we were excited about our future breeding plans. We purchased two Straight Egyptian mares in foal to prominent stallions, along with one young filly. When the first of the Zajaddi foals arrived, we were on our way, but it was the foals from the stallions who we selected that ignited the spark to future successes. Our first filly named "Barizzah" was a dream and she became the catalyst for almost every blessing that followed. For several years to follow, she was the gift that kept on giving. Through Barizzah we met some great people who helped us on our journey of showing and breeding, learning photography, videography and web design, and other essential elements that were important to our success.

I embrace any opportunity to promote Straight Egyptian Arabian horses which are my passion. I feel that no matter where I go, there is a common thread that unites us through the Arabian horse.

It is exciting to attend shows and visit breeders to make those valuable connections that help us all grow, learn and celebrate the joys of Arabian horse stewardship. Many doors have been opened to me through several prominent magazine publications to share photos and stories of travel, as well as to cover Arabian horse shows throughout the world. These experiences have been invaluable in understanding the amazing and powerful influence the horse has all over the globe.

I ran across this quote the other day, "If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead you anywhere." We all encounter obstacles along the path that could potentially derail us from achieving our goals. I think it is the understanding of an obstacle and our approach to it that eventually leads us to hopefully a desirable outcome. I have had some challenging times over the 20 years we have bred and shown horses that tested my resolve and patience. Being able to identify, evaluate, and deal with my emotions helped me make decisions, stay focused, and overcome difficulties. Some obstacles were tough, others not as much, but we all face these in life. I found over the years that having a strong support network can see you through the toughest of times.

I have to give credit to some amazing women who were great mentors and helped pave the way for my experiences and successes. These ladies generously gave of themselves to help me stay strong and believe I could achieve the goals I set for myself. A few of the notable women who impacted me over the years were Beverly Sziraky, manager of the Imperial Egyptian Stud,

impacted me over the years were Beverly Sziraky, manager of the Imperial Egyptian Stud, Elizabeth Salmon, International Judge and Equine Consultant, and a dear friend and mentor, Carolyn Shelton of Twelve Oaks Arabians. I also appreciate the ongoing support from the accomplished breeder and author Christie Metz of Silver Maple Farm, and Judith Forbis, owner of Ansata Stud. Judi is one of those truly special people who are larger than life. Not only is she an icon in the Arabian horse world, but as a breeder of Straight Egyptian horses that have made a substantial on breeding programs globally. She is also an author of several reference books that I utilized often. I also have to mention long-time friend Lisa Brady, owner of Brady Farm, who was with us from the beginning, and without her help, we would not be where we are today.

I also have to give a shout out to my husband who is always by my side, taking care of the farm, loving the horses and sharing in this adventure.

I think that if you have realistic goals and a vision, a strong desire to pursue your passion whether it is breeding, photography, or in whatever capacity you are involved with horses, you can accomplish anything. It does require the five P's or keywords: positivity, passion, patience, persistence, and perseverance to get you through. Have confidence in what you are doing but don't be afraid to see the advice of others for help.

I firmly believe that my success can be a study in less is more, and that you do not need a large herd of horses to be successful as a breeder. If you love these horses and start with a strong foundation, you can achieve success. I was given some great advice from Beverly Sziraky, former manager of the famed Imperial Egyptian Stud who said "Purchase the best mare you can afford". She advised us to make an investment in the future and to have a well-researched plan when breeding. Her words of wisdom resonated with me for many years in the fruits of our labor.

MY ADVICE TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS WHO ARE EMBARKING ON A SIMILAR JOURNEY INVOLVING ARABIAN HORSES IS TO HAVE PATIENCE AND STAY FOCUSED. DON'T LET OBSTACLES DERAILED YOU FROM ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS. LIFE IS SHORT, LIVE YOUR DREAM, AND FOLLOW YOUR HEART. HAVE FAITH AND DON'T SECOND-GUESS YOURSELF. DON'T BE AFRAID TO REACH OUT TO MORE EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUALS FOR MENTORSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP. OPEN YOURSELF UP TO LEARNING EVERYTHING YOU CAN THROUGH TRAVEL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. HAVE FUN. IF YOU DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT.

WE, WOMEN

is:

Margot Chazel
Sunny Sassudelli
Chiara Carrer
Antonia Bautista
Jennifer Dhombre
Kamila Kozłowska
Anna Maria Raffa
Jennifer Von Dahn
Urszula Łęczycka
Kathleen Ohlsson
Ally Nelson
Mindy Peters
Rosangela Brugali
Elena Vignato
Cristiane Durante Guardia
Talitha Bakker
Desiré Faraone
Sandra Platzeck
Raquel Jacobas
Adriana & Alessandra Moura
Magdalena Muraszko-Kowalska
Helena Jodie Byrne
Manuela Lucini
Christie Metz
Dana Russo
Patrycja Makowska
Mary Hellen Chavez
Dulce Rosas

Flávia Torres
Kasia Dolińska-Witkowska
Elisa Grassi
Raquel Sorvilo
Yassmin Atieh
Nadia Boersch
Paola Marinangeli
Sandra Zänglein
Lisa Brown
Anna Scarpa
Judith Forbis
Taryl O'Shea
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