

SILVER MAPLE FARM

Charts a new course

■ by **Christie Metz**

photos by *Gigi Grasso, Darryl Larson*

The life of an Arabian horse breeder is a life of adventure with each new day holding infinite possibilities for making new contacts throughout the world. Our day may start out in Santa Ynez, California by exchanging emails with another breeder in Germany. Later, we may need to send a Fed-Ex package for a delivery to Italy and then end our day by talking with friends in Australia where it is the morning of the next day. This is the world of Arabian horses today - it is more international than ever and by virtue of this fact we have the opportunity to share ourselves, our passions and ideas, and our treasured resources - our horses, with people around the globe. Henry and I have grown to appreciate the history of the straight Egyptian Arabian even more over the last fifteen years and we are so happy to be a part of the Arabian community that celebrates the Egyptian Arabian from the time of antiquity into this millennium.



Silver Maple Farm's foundation mare Glorietasayonaara (Ansata Abu Nazeer x Glorieta Shahlima), foaled in 1983; her daughter Sahbine, 1990-2004, sired by Ruminaja Ali and Sahbine's daughter; Shaboura, sired by PVA Kariim, foaled in 1998.



Seraphina SMF (*Simeon Shai x Shaboura), 2005 grey filly bred and owner by Silver Maple Farm.



Sabrina SMF (*Simeon Shai x Sahbine), 2004 filly bred and owned by Silver Maple Farm.





Recently Henry and I made a momentous decision about our breeding program at Silver Maple Farm. After more than fifteen years of breeding Egyptian-sired and straight Egyptian Arabian horses, we saw that the number of Arabian horses being bred worldwide was declining. The straight Egyptian horses, which are a very small percentage of these overall numbers – between 2 - 4%, were declining at an even more alarming rate. Henry and I love the Arabian horse and we have been especially enamored with the Egyptian horse. So, after many conversations, Henry and I chose to focus our efforts on the straight Egyptian Arabian horse. With this decision, we have begun to chart a new course for our farm and our breeding program.

Looking back over the past several years, it seems that this has been a natural progression, a course we have been drawn to in a very direct, yet gentle way. We have met many wonderful people who we enjoyed immensely and with whom we had mutual interests and goals. Some of these friends and associates belonged to the Pyramid Society and participated in their show - The Egyptian Event. After attending this show, Henry and I joined the Society and became members. That was back in 1991.

Like most everything Henry and I do, we jumped in with both feet. Before long we were participating and volunteering at the annual show. The more involved we became the more deeply we felt that the Pyramid Society was a good fit for assisting us in fulfilling our goals as Arabian horse breeders. The mission of the Pyramid Society is stated as follows, "To strive to be a unifying force within the Arabian horse breed and to assist its members in producing an ever increasing number of superior quality Arabian horses through the use of Egyptian bloodlines."



Seraphina SMF
 ("Simeon Shai x
 Shaboura),
 2005 grey filly
 bred and owned
 by Silver Maple
 Farm.



Princess Samaria SMF (PVA Kariim x Samura), 2005 grey filly bred and owned by Silver Maple Farm.



Samura (Anaza El Farid x Glorietasayonaara), 1995 mare bred and owned by Silver Maple Farm.

An overview of the Society includes the fact that it was founded by breeders who were determined to protect and preserve the heritage of the Egyptian Arabian horse. It goes on to say that this group of breeders were inspired by the belief that Egyptian blood is a historic repository of unique, valuable characteristics, and that the organization promotes the breeding of straight Egyptian horses and the use of Egyptian bloodlines as an outcross to perpetuate classic Arabian type.

The basic beliefs of these progressive breeders were then, and remain now, very much in line with our own. Henry and I feel very strongly that the straight Egyptian bloodlines are the best source for type and quality in the breed overall. When this gene pool is so small to begin with, it is imperative to preserve as much of it as possible.

**Ali Saroukh (Ruminaja Ali x Glorietasayonaara),
1994 stallion bred and owned by Silver Maple Farm.**



**Jade Lotus SMF (Ali Saroukh x Imdals Jade), 2001
mare bred and owned by Silver Maple Farm.**



**Bint Bint Sayo (Ali Saroukh x Samura), 2002 filly
bred and owned by Silver Maple.**

When we first planned to breed horses, our goal was to have two mares and breed them every other year! However, when our first foal arrived we immediately changed our plan. We were definitely committed! Fortunately, our mentors, Judy and Dr. Charles Jones of Atallah Arabian Farm introduced us to the Arabian breed, especially the straight Egyptian. Our first straight Egyptian mare, Glorietasayonaara was purchased from them in 1990.

Even though Henry and I both felt strongly about breeding straight Egyptians we also enjoyed the hybrid crosses resulting from using straight Egyptian stallions on Egyptian sired mares. The plan was to present these hybrids in the American show ring and encourage the American purebred breeders to utilize straight Egyptian stallions.



**Ali Hassan SMF (Ali Saroukh x Ansata Haalah),
2005 colt bred and owned
by Silver Maple Farm.**



**Haalani SMF (Ali Saroukh x Ansata Haalah),
2005 grey filly bred and owned by
Silver Maple Farm.**





**Ansata Haalah
(Ansata Iemohotep
x Hasbah), 1999 mare.**

Historically, this formula has been proven to be successful for infusing the characteristics of the straight Egyptian and to recapture type and refinement. In studying other Arabian breeding programs from Poland, Russia and Spain one may read about the addition of straight Egyptian blood through imported stallions purchased in Egypt. Today, astute breeders from around the world recognize the wisdom of returning to straight Egyptian horses as the source for the qualities that they have sought to perpetuate for centuries. Henry and I feel strongly about preserving these special creatures, not just for ourselves, but for other breeders who value these same qualities now and for the future.

Once we charted this new course, Henry and I asked ourselves what would be the best way to achieve our goals. For the answer, we looked to our most treasured resources - our broodmares. Although our breeding program is fairly young - compared to that of Judi and Don Forbis, whose Ansata Arabian Stud will be soon celebrating their 50th Anniversary - we feel that we have already made good strides. Granted, we took the shortcut and started with really exceptional mares, the strongest foundation a breeding program can have. Our mares represent some of the best mare lines of Ansata, Gleannloch and Babson breeding with the addition of several other bloodlines of American breeders whose horses go back to the EAO.

Through these mares Henry and I have begun to establish families that we believe will produce the quality and characteristics that we value. Our foundation mare, Glorietasayonaara, (Ansata Abu Nazeer x Glorieta Shahlima, by Ansata Shah Zaman), of the Dahman Shawaniyah strain, gave us three siblings that we have retained for our program. This is a rare tail female line and one we are dedicated to carrying forward. Sayo's two daughters, Sahbine by Ruminaja Ali (1990-2004) and Samura by Anaza El Farid by Ruminaja Ali, continue this tail female line for our program. Sayo's son, Ali Saroukh, by Ruminaja Ali, represents the male side of this line.

As part of our plan, we have decided to keep two daughters from each generation. To date we have two daughters of Sahbine; Shaboura by PVA Kariim and Sahbrina SMF by *Simeon Shai. Shaboura gave us two foals in 2005 through embryo transfer; a grey filly, Seraphina SMF (pending), and a bay colt, Seraph SMF (pending), both sired by *Simeon Shai. These foals represent the third generation of this line to be bred by Silver Maple Farm. In 2006 we are expecting a foal out of Shaboura and by our stallion Majestic Noble SMF (Marquis I x Nagda by Nabel), again by embryo transfer.



**Ansata Nariya
(Ansata Hejazi
x Ansata Neoma),
2000 mare.**



Champion, Jade Lotus SMF. Ali Saroukh is like a classic piece of artwork come to life. His silhouette is balanced and his carriage is animated by his floating trot and high tail carriage, all important breed characteristics. Equally important to us is his wonderful temperament. His eyes portray his nature which is the rare combination of fiery yet tempered with gentleness.

In our effort to expand our straight Egyptian mare herd, we have added the strengths of the Ansata program through three mares. Ansata Haalah (Ansata Iemhotep x Hasbah, by Messoud), of the Hadban Enzahiya strain, was used with our stallion Ali Saroukh and in 2004 she produced a very fine colt, Ali Hassan SMF. In 2005 Ansata Haalah produced Haalani SMF (pending), a lovely filly also sired by Ali Saroukh. We are so pleased with Haalah's foals that we are repeating the breeding again. Not only is Haalah a beautiful mare, she has become a very valuable asset to our program.

Samura has given us two daughters as well. Bint Bint Sayo, by Ali Saroukh and named for her grand dam, doubles this tail female line; Princess Samaria SMF, (pending), by PVA Kariim, is almost a full sister in blood to Shaboura. Samura has also been bred to Majestic Noble SMF for a 2006 foal. Of course we hope we will be blessed with many more daughters from this mare line!

The ethereal stallion Ali Saroukh (Ruminaja Ali X Glorietasayonaara, by Ansata Abu Nazeer), of the Dahman Shahwan strain, has sired numerous fine foals for us including 2004 and 2005 Egyptian Event

The mare Ansata Nariya (Ansata Hejazi x Ansata Neoma, by Prince Fa Moniet), of the Dahman Shahwan strain, came to us this year in foal to Ansata Iemhotep. She produced Ansata Nariyana (pending), a very nice filly. Ansata Nariya is bred to Ali Saroukh for 2006. Also of the same strain is Ansata Nile Starlight (Ansata Osiron x Ansata Nile Star, by Prince Fa Moniet), she is a very late three year old so she will not join our matrons until the 2006 breeding season.

The Dahman Shawaniyah strain continues through several other mares. Rebel Rose SMF (BB Thee Renegade x Royal Laleekha, by Ibn El Mareekh), produced her first foal in 2005, a beautiful grey filly by our stallion Majestic Noble SMF (Marquise I x Nagda). It was the first foal for Majestic Noble too and the results were extraordinary! We were so pleased with the filly that we immediately bred Rebel Rose SMF back for a foal in 2006. The lovely mare Jasmine IASB (Imperial Imdal x Ansata Justina, by Jamill) is bred to Ali Saroukh for a 2006 foal. Also, Jade Lotus SMF (Ali Saroukh x Imdals Jade, by Imperial Imdal) will be bred to Ansata Nile Nadir for a 2007 foal. "J. Lo" as we call her has been busy with her show career and is just now of the age when we begin to breed our mares. Jade Lotus was the 2004 Unanimous Champion Three-Year-Old Straight Egyptian Filly and the 2005 Reserve Champion Straight Egyptian Four Year Old Mare. We are really looking forward to her foals. This year we were fortunate to have leased the mare Ansata Starletta (Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata Marietta, by Ansata Ibn Sudan). She was bred to Ali Saroukh and with his pedigree closely tracing back to Ansata lines, we believe this could be a very powerful combination – we will just have to wait and see. Henry and I have found that patience is a key element to a successful breeding program!

Another mare of the Hadban Enzahiya strain is Dance Diva (Raquin RA x Antigua Dance, by Ruminaja Bahjat), who produced her first foal for Silver Maple Farm in 2005, Shai Diva SMF (pending), sired by



*Simeon Shai. Dance Diva was bred back to *Shai for a 2006 foal.

Although we treasure our mares, we equally value our stallions at Silver Maple Farm. Each is different, phenotypically and genotypically and has his own strengths to contribute. Yet there is something they all have in common - they all look as if they are Carl Vernet drawings come to life. Our primary concern is a stallion's ability to sire classic Arabian type at its best; quality, exotic beauty, carriage and character. We believe our straight Egyptian stallions have the capacity to contribute to the breed when used with straight Egyptian mares or mares with diverse pedigrees.

What can we say that has not already been published about the extraordinary stallion *Simeon Shai (Ra'adin Royal Star x Simeon Safanad, by Sankt Georg), a Hadban Enzahi in strain. He remains the breed record holder as the only Arabian horse to win these titles; Scottsdale All Arabian Horse Show Champion, Canadian National Champion, U.S. National Champion and World Champion at the Salon du Cheval - all in the same year - 1991. He is a Sire of Significance with over 400 purebred registered first generation get with over 800 second generation get. He is a sire of multiple international champions spread over many countries on five continents. Best of all, he is one of the kindest, most noble stallions that we have ever known. We feel blessed to be his caretakers and owners. At 21 years-old, Shai looks magnificent! At a recent presentation of some of the breed's current superstar stallions, *Simeon Shai captivated and enchanted the crowd with his physical beauty and exuberant nature. He represents the best of the best in the Arabian horse breed, regardless of bloodline.

BB Thee Renegade (Thee Desperado X PH Safina, by *Lancers Sahm), is considered to be a Kuhaylan Jellabi, but according to recent research, he is most likely a Saklawi in strain. Renegade is one of the most classically beautiful Arabian stallions we have ever seen. He has a very high opinion of himself and expects the same from his visitors. His way of bowing his neck and lifting himself into a prancing trot has to be seen to be appreciated. He has a power in his movement that is

Ansata Nile Starlight (Ansata Osiron x Ansata Nile Star), 2002 mare.



BB Thee Renegade (Thee Desperado x PH Safina), 1994 stallion owned by and standing at Silver Maple Farm.

surprising to many when they learn that he is straight Egyptian. But historically, these bloodlines have produced some very successful performance horses in the United States. Renegade's strengths include siring foals with classic type, exotic beauty and wonderful movement. One of his sons, Dreamcatcher SMF, is now a herd sire at Om El Arab International and is a living example of what can result when straight Egyptian bloodlines are used to strengthen the characteristics of classic type in outcross bloodlines.

Our newest stallion to join the ranks as a sire is Majestic Noble SMF (Marquis I x Nagda, by Nabel), an Abayyan Umm Jurays in strain. He has been a successful show horse winning championships including Unanimous Champion Straight Egyptian Four-Year-Old Stallion at the Event and 2005 Reserve Champion Straight Egyptian Five to Six Year Old Stallions. However, most important to us is his potential as a sire. It was our hope that Majestic Noble SMF would be able to pass on his own outstanding conformation, exceptionally classic Arabian type, very good movement and wonderful character. The birth of his first foal,





Royal Rose SMF (Majestic Noble SMF x Rebel Rose SMF), 2005 grey filly owned and bred by Silver Maple Farm.



Rebel Rose SMF (BB Thee Renegade x Royal Laleekha), 2000 mare owned by Maple Farm.



Majestic Noble SMF (Marquis I x Nagda), 2000 stallion, bred and owned by Silver Maple Farm.



***Simeon Shai (Ra'adin Royal Star x Simeon Safanad) 1984 stallion owned by and standing at Silver Maple Farm.**

a filly out of our mare Rebel Rose SMF, sired by BB Thee Renegade, has confirmed that hope for us. The filly, Royal Rose SMF (pending) is a beautiful foal and a wonderful addition to our program.

As we review and evaluate our horses, we look for both their strengths and weaknesses so that we can attempt to build upon the best and minimize the undesirable. It is critical for a breeder to be aware of the areas of conformation or character that need improvement. The goal for Henry and I is to produce the best straight Egyptian Arabian horses possible, not for the glory and not for the gain, but for the good of the horses that we love so much.

In our opinion, there is more to this endeavor than ribbons and accolades which are only fleeting moments in time. There is something more that we hope to achieve. It is our hope that in preserving, protecting and pepe-

tuating straight Egyptian bloodlines, that we are in fact creating opportunities for everyone to enjoy these wonderful horses either directly or through breeding to them. They embody so much of what is good in the world and more than anything we want to share that treasure and make it available to those who would appreciate it.

We believe that now, more than ever, our world needs the qualities that the straight Egyptian Arabian horse possesses in greater abundance than perhaps any other Arabian horse. The straight Egyptian Arabian horse continues to unite people from all countries, cultures and religions. This horse is a true ambassador; showing all of us the best things we share - our hopes and dreams for ourselves and our children - our appreciation of natural beauty and a noble spirit. It is humbling and yet gratifying to become a breeder of these very precious horses and truly a blessing from the Maker of us all. □



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