



THE TRUSTEES OF  
THE PYRAMID SOCIETY FOUNDATION

2023  
*Award  
Dinner*

## THE PYRAMID SOCIETY FOUNDATION

# Trustee Award

In the recent merger of The Pyramid Society and The Pyramid Foundation, the Society Board of Trustees will continue to serve the merged organization The Pyramid Society Foundation. The Trustees serve to provide continuity of purpose and philosophy, and for such additional contributions of services the Board of Directors may request.

In 2003 the Pyramid Society Board of Trustees introduced, The Trustee Award, for distinguished service. This award recognizes those whose support has significantly benefitted the Egyptian Arabian horse. To memorialize this honor, world-renowned sculptor and artist Karen Kasper was commissioned to create a unique bronze sculpture for presentation to each recipient.

The award was given annually from 2003 until 2018 with the exception of 2017. The Pyramid Society Foundation Board of Trustees are proud to resume this tradition and bestow the 2023 award to 2 deserving recipients:

Cynthia Culbertson, USA

Karen Kasper, USA

### *The following are past recipients of this Distinguished Service Award:*

2003	WILLIS & IMOGENE FLICK, USA
2004	AMID ABDELHAMID, MOROCCO
2004	TOM MCNAIR, USA
2005	JOE FERRISS, USA
2006	MARTHA MURDOCH, USA
2007	BARBARA GRIFFITH, USA
2008	DONALD & JUDITH FORBIS, USA
2009	LEE CHOLAK, USA
2010	DR. HANS NAGEL, GERMANY
2011	ANNA BISHOP, USA
2012	RHITA MCNAIR, USA
2012	JUDY AND THE LATE JIM SIRBASKU, USA
2013	POLLY KNOLL, USA
2014	DR. DOUGLAS B. MARSHALL III & HIS WIFE DR. AMRITA AHUJA, USA
2015	BAIT AL ARAB, KUWAIT STATE STUD, KUWAIT
2015	MOHAMMED JASSIM AL MARZOUQ, KUWAIT
2016	THE HERB ROGERS FAMILY, USA
2017	NO TRUSTEE AWARD GIVEN
2018	SHEIKH KHALED BAGEDO, SAUDI ARABIA



## Welcome to THE TRUSTEES OF THE PYRAMID SOCIETY FOUNDATION Trustees Award Dinner

OCTOBER 21, 2023 • THE MERRICK INN, LEXINGTON, KY

### Our Evening Program

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Judith Forbis

DINNER

THE PYRAMID SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Keri Wright

THE 2023 TRUSTEES AWARD FOR HONOREE CYNTHIA CULBERTSON

Judith Forbis

THE 2023 TRUSTEES AWARD FOR HONOREE KAREN KASPER

Judith Forbis

AND NOT TO BE MISSED:

A Thousand and One Nights – and Then Some!  
Cynthia Culbertson and Karen Kasper

We appreciate your attendance honoring these two special  
Egyptian Arabian International Ambassadors!

THE CURRENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PYRAMID SOCIETY FOUNDATION:

MAJID ALSAYEGH, ANNA BISHOP, DR. JOSEPH CRUZ, ROBERT J. FAULS, JUDITH FORBIS, MARTHA LUCAS, CHRISTIE METZ,  
HENRY METZ, BOB MIARS, SHERRY MOSELEY, REBECCA ROGERS, AND HOWELL F. WALLACE.

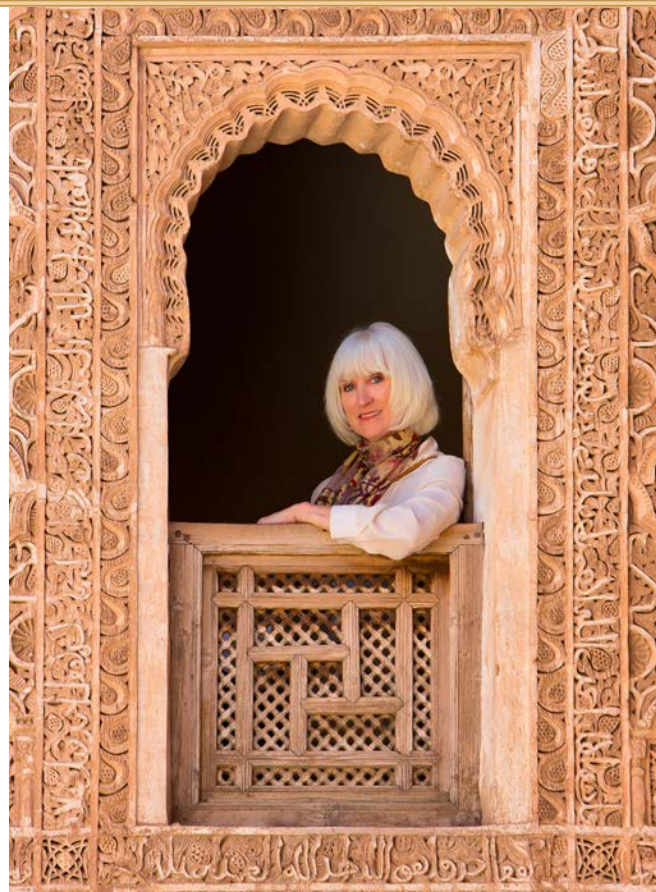
# Cynthia Culbertson

HISTORIAN, EDUCATOR,  
ARTISTIC VISIONARY

The gifts Cynthia Culbertson generously shares with the Straight Egyptian Arabian community impact three vital areas: art, history and education. While those are her fields of expertise, Cynthia has brought so much more to Arabian horses, and those who admire them, all around the world.

Some might say she didn't have a choice. "I was born with the horse gene," Cynthia said. "I was 5 when I got my first pony. I always just loved horses. I would read all the horse magazines, and it was in *Western Horseman* that I first saw a photo of an Arabian. That was it." She never considered another breed.

Cynthia was in high school when she acquired her first part Arabian. As a teenager, she started training and showing, and soon began to improve her eye for equine beauty and conformation, culminating in a U.S. National Arabian Horse Judging Team Championship. Already enamored of the Egyptian Arabians she had seen, Cynthia took a year off from college to work with Judi Forbis at the renowned Ansata Arabian Stud. From that point on, she focused solely on those bloodlines in her own breeding program, for example, crossing a \*Morafic son on mares of Ansata bloodlines. Once she returned to school, it only made sense to



complete her degree in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, with an emphasis on Arabic.

An ever-growing appreciation for Egypt and its foundation Arabian breeding program, her love of history, and an intense longing for the desert, led Cynthia to a deep appreciation of the Middle East. "I came from the cornfields of Indiana, but the desert called to me," she said. These experiences would coalesce to shape her destiny.

The 1980s found Cynthia working for Lockheed-Martin and running a horse business in the Deep South, where she was active on the board and as vice president of the Georgia Arabian Horse Association. During the 1990s, Cynthia was employed by the U.S. Government and lived for several years in Saudi Arabia. While there, relationships strengthened with international friends and colleagues – all based on admiration for the Arabian and its place in art, history and modern day breeding programs.

While impressive, these activities were only a few of the stepping stones in Cynthia's lifelong career. Her specialized expertise, honed over 40-plus years, combined with formidable management and media skills, has led to a long list of successful projects – including the first international museum exhibition devoted to Arabian horses. Cynthia has been a respected keynote speaker, a prominent writer and editor, a consultant for museum, film and television projects, and so much more.

Cynthia's contributions specifically to the Pyramid Society are boundless. Her donations of time and expertise on countless media and PR projects through the years have shaped its impressive public image. One extraordinary endeavor involved the organization and cataloging of the generous Marshall donation, which led to work on the resulting auctions, film tribute and book, *Gleannloch Farms, the Legend and the Legacy*. It was the largest fundraiser ever for the Pyramid Society. Another unforgettable endeavor was a multi-media arena finale and live

*action tableaux, presented at the Egyptian Event, for which Cynthia developed the concept, wrote the script, and oversaw a production that included live horses, music, and more.*

Her books and articles about Egyptian Arabians in particular include, but are not limited to, *Ansata Hejazi, Born to Rule; The Arabian Horse of Egypt; Pyramid Society Handbook 2010; A Gift from the Desert: the Art, Culture and History of the Arabian Horse; and the Desert Legacy series.*

Cynthia joined the Pyramid Foundation Board in 2000 and became a member of the Pyramid Society Board in 2012, eventually serving as Secretary and Member of the Executive Board. Cynthia then served as the group's Executive Director, and is currently Vice President of the Pyramid Society Foundation.

"I am truly grateful and honored to receive the Trustee Award, but also humbled to join the incredible people already on the list," Cynthia said. "And then to receive it at the same time as my good friend Karen Kasper is very special. She and I have done so many projects together over the years and all over the world. It's quite amazing."

*The Board of Trustees is honored to present the 2023 Trustees Award to Cynthia Culbertson for her steadfast support and generous contributions to the Pyramid Society and its members, and for her exceptional educational and creative promotional efforts to sustain and increase interest and appreciation for Straight Egyptian Arabians around the world.*

# Karen Kasper

## INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ARTIST & DEVOTEE OF EGYPTIAN ARABIANS

One might say Karen Kasper was born with an artist's brush in one hand and a toy horse in the other. By age 3 she was drawing horses, and progressed to painting them during her school years. From this providential beginning, Karen has gone on to dedicate her life to art that encompasses the ethereal beauty of the horse through painting and sculpting. Furthermore, her talents have been generously shared with the Pyramid Society through stunning imagery, relief and sculptures, embodying the timeless beauty and grace of the Egyptian Arabian.

Karen's first opportunity to see Arabians close up came during sixth grade when a vice principal invited Karen to visit her farm. "Once in the barn," Karen recalled, "my world changed forever. The way Arabians interact with humans, their intelligence and beauty, their gracefulness and harmony of form, elevated them above other breeds I had experienced." There, Karen saw pedigrees of part-Egyptians, and she knew somehow she would have them in her life.

After her marriage to Ray Kasper, the couple settled on a farm in Wisconsin and acquired several horses. Karen began painting more and, with Ray's full support and encouragement, Karen Kasper



Studio was established in 1981 – the same year Ray surprised Karen with a trip to the very first Egyptian Event in Kentucky.

Karen began sculpting in 1984 after recurring dreams in which she saw her hands using clay to form an Arabian horse head. She had read an article on the EAO's famous broodmare Moniet

El Nefous in an Arabian magazine and, in 1986, this mare became the subject of the first Egyptian Arabian portrait sculpture Karen created. Painting and sculpting filled her days at their equine art studio and her work garnered high praise. The Arabian community took note, leading to sculptures by Karen now found in public and private collections in 28 countries.

Karen's portraits of many of the world's most influential Straight Egyptians made her an international ambassador through her art. To date, Karen has created 101 Straight Egyptian portrait sculptures, including 78 from life studies and 23 from historical resources. A mere handful of examples include studies of the mare RDM Maar Hala and the mare Bint Magidaa with her filly at side, and the stallions \*Ansata Ibn Halima, \*Morafic (7 times!), Al Adeed Al Shaqab, and the late actor Patrick Swayze's Tammen.

When Karen starts a project her focus is extraordinary. "I erase from my mind all I know about horses, and zero in on what is unique about my subject's individuality. Once the basics are complete, I let go and allow the creation to come through me, as the work flows through my hands, forming the piece to its completion."

Ray and Karen's support of the Pyramid Society has known no bounds. As nearby Lexington residents, they have often stepped forward to assist the Society in innumerable ways, from helping with certain office tasks to the donation of original works to the annual Egyptian Event art auctions. Indeed, the Trustee Award

presented to so many other illustrious members was designed and created many years ago by Karen herself.

"Receiving this award means so much to me. I never imagined I would get it myself," Karen said. "When I found out I was surprised but happy; I'll display it with pride. To be included with others who have made enduring contributions to these horses is so meaningful. I'm truly grateful."

Karen is adamant about one thing. "This isn't my award alone," she added. "Few in life are blessed to have a partner like my husband. Ray is the Kasper in Karen Kasper; I'm just plain Karen without him. Together, we are Karen Kasper Studio."

Currently, Karen has a special exhibit "My Journey with the Arabian Horse" in the Al-Marah Arabian Horse Galleries in the International Museum of the Horse at the Kentucky Horse Park near Lexington. The story of the Kaspers' journey together through art and life is truly inspiring.

*The Board of Trustees is honored to present the 2023 Trustees Award to Karen Kasper for her awe-inspiring depictions of Egyptian Arabian horses and for her generous contributions to the Pyramid Society and its members. Her bronzes and paintings have brought attention to Egyptian Arabians in settings that encircle the globe, while helping to bring together, into a special community, people who admire these beautiful horses.*

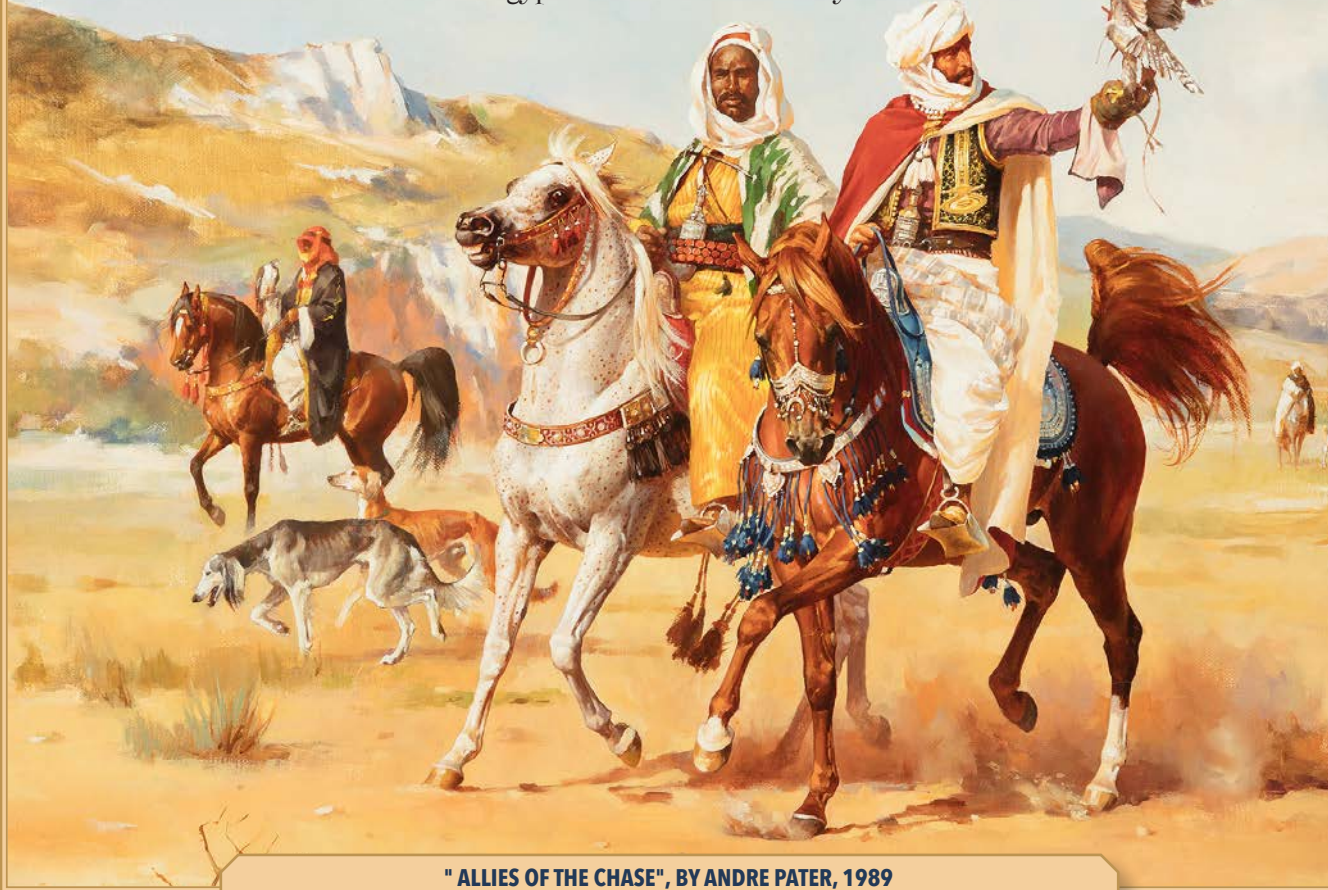


SOCIETY FOUNDATION

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## *Guardians of the Treasure*

The mission of The Pyramid Society Foundation is to enhance public recognition and appreciation of the Straight Egyptian Arabian horse. We strive to preserve the heritage of the Straight Egyptian Arabian by actively archiving history, to fund educational activities and publications, to support equine research that benefits the Egyptian Arabian, to promote art and artists featuring the Egyptian Arabian and to support the Egyptian Arabian Community.



**"ALLIES OF THE CHASE", BY ANDRE PATER, 1989**

COMMISSIONED BY THE PYRAMID SOCIETY. COLLECTION OF SHEIKHA SARAH FAHAD AL SABAH, KIWAIT.