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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The tradition of the New Year's Resolutions goes all the way back to 153 B.C. Janus, a mythical king of early Rome was placed at the head of the calendar.

The celebration of the New Year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, Babylonians celebrated the beginning of a new year on what is now March 23, although they themselves had no written calendar.

With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future. Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions and many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and also exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year.

The New Year has not always begun on January 1, and it doesn't begin on that date everywhere today. It begins on that date only for cultures that use a 365-day solar calendar. January 1 became the beginning of the New Year in 46 B.C., when Julius Caesar developed a calendar that would more accurately reflect the seasons than previous calendars had.

The Romans named the first month of the year after Janus, the god of beginnings and the guardian of doors and entrances. He was always depicted with two faces, one on the front of his head and one on the back. Thus he could look backward and forward at the same time. At midnight on December 31, the Romans imagined Janus



looking back at the old year and forward to the new.

In the spirit of Janus, let us look backward to last show season and forward to the new. We can say unequivocally that the Summer Sizzler was a great success and yet look forward to offering even more to our exhibitors. The first Sizzler committee

meeting will be held on **January 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Champions Center. Please feel free to join us with your suggestions.

A modern day guardian of doors and entrances would necessarily be proficient in data. In 2009 you may look forward to learning more about our members by reading our **Guess Who** column.

Late March actually is a logical choice for the beginning of a new year. It is the time of year that spring begins, new crops are planted and the anticipation of new foals. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary. However, dates for club functions will not arbitrary. This year at the annual Christmas party, each board member drew a card. Board members responsible for scheduling the general meeting and board meeting, in sequential order, are: January – Marcia Doncaster; March – Linda Laufer; May – Tammy Hawkey; July – Louise Michels; September – Michael Sonntag; November – Krista Bowman. Please feel free to **contact a board member** with suggestions of special speakers and/or activities.

Just for fun, here's a list that's sure to be a tongue twister. See how Happy New Year is pronounced around the world.

Arabic: Kul 'aam u antum salimoun

Brazilian: Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo means "Good Parties and Happy New Year"

Chinese: Chu Shen Tan

Czechoslovakia: Scastny Novy Rok

Dutch: Gullukkig Niuw Jaar

Finnish: Onnellista Uutta Vuotta

French: Bonne Annee

German: Prosit Neujahr

Greek: Eftecheezmaenos o Kaenooryos hronos

Hebrew: L'Shannah Tovah Tikatevu

Hindi: Niya Saa Moobaarak

Irish (Gaelic): Bliain nua fe mhaise dhuit

Italian: Buon Capodanno

Khmer: Sua Sdei tfnam tmei

Laotian: Sabai dee pee mai

Polish: Szczesliwego Nowego Roku

Portuguese: Feliz Ano Novo

Russian: S Novim Godom

Serbo-Croatian: Scecna nova godina

Spanish: Feliz Ano Neuvo or Prospero Ano Nuevo

Turkish: Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun

Vietnamese: Cung-Chuc Tan-Xuan

The kiss shared at the stroke of midnight in the United States is derived from masked balls that have been common throughout history. As tradition has it, the masks symbolize evil spirits from the old year and the kiss is the purification into the new year. Please join me in **wishing our new slate of officers** luck in the new year: President: Sherri Lewis; Vice President: Mary Loden; Secretary: Sharon Hanks; Treasurer: Louise Michels; Board: Krista Bowman, Tammy Hawkey and Michael Sonntag. Remaining board members are: Amanda Brooks, Debbie Glasener, and Linda Laufer.



Name: ***GUESS WHO***

Date of Birth: ***07/17/1961***

Occupation: ***Senior Project Manager***

Family demographics: ***Married, 5 children, 4 boys and 1 girl, ages 25, 23, 21, 19, and 15, 2 birds, 2 dogs, 8 cats, 12 horses, (1 full Arab, 4 Half-Arab, 1 Saddlebred, 1 Part-Bred Saddlebred, 1 Standardbred, 1 Part-Freisian, 1 Quarter-Pony and 2 Appendix QH/THB). Born number 6 of 8 in Elizabethtown, Ky. and moved to Central Ohio in Feb. of 2000.***

Something no one in the Arabian horse industry would know about you: ***My life's ambition is to show on the Green Shavings in Freedom Hall with my mother watching from the stands.***

Favorite past time: ***Working with, showing and riding horses.***

Favorite division: ***Saddleseat Pleasure***

Favorite horse moment: ***Being in the barn and helping with the birth of our Half-Arabian Colt.***

What would you change about the Arabian horse industry: ***The only thing I can really think of is if they could rotate Nationals around again or at least try to centralize it to make it a little easier and more affordable for those in our area to attend or compete.***



Name: GUESS WHO

Date of Birth: October

Occupation: 1: Dog Groomer/ 1: Attorney at Law

Family demographics: Core unit of four

Something no one in the Arabian horse industry would know about you:

We never had any intention of having a stallion or breeding horses, we just like to pamper, ride, and train our own horses. We don't have cross ties, a tack room, a wash area, or arena. We ground tie for bathing, cover our stuff with shower curtains, do our training in a hay field or fenced corner of the pasture, YIKES! It can be really challenging. Yes, we do all of our own stunts.

Our favorite athlete is The Undertaker. (If you don't know, you shouldn't ask!)

Favorite past time:

Just pampering our horses and hanging out in the barn away from the rest of the world.

Favorite division: Western Pleasure, Ladies to Ride

Favorite horse moment:

Having our horse invited to a movie premier and attending with her in Columbus Ohio at the Imax Theater. The best horse moments are those spent sharing our horses with other people, especially people who have never touched a real horse in person. It is fun to answer questions like:

“What are her feet made of?”

“Can she run?”

“Can she lay down?”

“Is she the Black Stallion?”

“Why isn't she crazy?”

“Does she eat meat?”

What would you change about the Arabian horse industry:

The industry should continue to try to be more independent amateur friendly, like they are doing with the frequent rider programs, etc.. But they need to add more B rated or Community type shows. There has to be a way to have Independent Amateur, less competitive classes at the A shows; maybe combining B classes or Community Classes at those shows. There are a lot of people who will never be able to afford Regionals or Nationals, but love the A shows. The Championship classes at the A shows IS like Nationals to some of us, but the fees are too much for many people to even attempt to show at the A level. There is no point in paying so much if you aren't qualifying, so there should be some option; maybe show without points at reduced cost or something. I also personally think that getting rid of AI, like the thoroughbreds do, would keep stud fees up and make stallion owners more aware of what their stallion produces to be competitive as breeding stock.

It is also customary to make [New Year's resolutions](#), which individuals hope to fulfill in the coming year. I hope you enjoy the new guess who article and take time to get to know your fellow OVAHA members!

Remember, Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. I hope that 2009 provides you many memorable moments!