

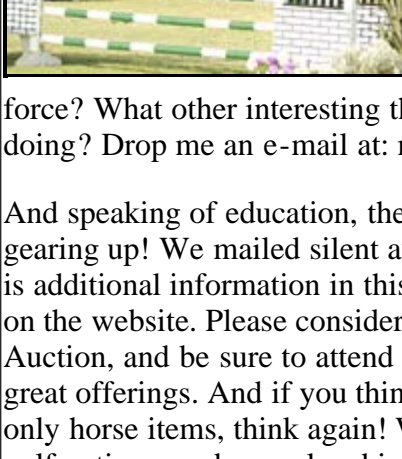
## E-News

May/June 2010

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Visit LAHJA on the web at [www.lahja.org](http://www.lahja.org).

Get extra exposure for your business by displaying your link here. [Contact Marnye](#) for information on sponsorship opportunities.



### President's Message

Congratulations to all our LAHJA junior members who graduated in the past few weeks. I would be interested in hearing from you and what your plans are for the coming year. Who is going to college? Are you on a riding team? Who is heading into the workforce? What other interesting things are our LAHJA junior graduates doing? Drop me an e-mail at: [marnyelanger@gmail.com](mailto:marnyelanger@gmail.com).

And speaking of education, the annual LAHJA Silent Auction is gearing up! We mailed silent auction information to all trainers, there is additional information in this e-news, and there are forms available on the website. Please consider making a donation to the Silent Auction, and be sure to attend Gold Coast 6 to bid on many of the great offerings. If you think you can't participate because there are only horse items, think again! With certificates to restaurants, spa days, golf outings, and a weekend in Santa Barbara, something will tickle your fancy. Proceeds from the silent auction go toward our education fund, and Langer Equestrian Group has issued a challenge to match up to \$5,000 of every dollar raised through our silent auction.

Please consider donating some great stuff to the silent auction. Grads, let me hear from you about your plans! I'll see you all at the shows!

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Horse Truth:

**A handsome horse that's badly behaved will become a lot less attractive in about 15 minutes.**

**Upcoming Dates:**

July 10 [Camelot Summer](#)  
July 16-18 [Las Amigas](#)  
July 18 [Elvenstar July](#)  
July 23-25 [Gold Coast 5](#)  
July 24-25 [Foxfield Summer](#)

### LAHJA Silent Auction

Once again, LAHJA will be holding a silent auction during this year's Gold Coast 6 show September 2-5. We need items donated to the auction to help raise funds for our educational programs, such as the \$5,000 in scholarships awarded to the Horsemastership winners. In the past, we have raised as much as \$10,000 through this auction.

We are seeking both horse-related and non horse-related items, such as gift certificates to tack stores or restaurants, gift baskets, tack or tickets to the movies. Feel free to be creative! As a non-profit organization (IRS 501 (c) 3), cash donations are tax deductible as provided for by the IRS code sections. If you would like to make a donation, please notify one of the contacts below by August 10th:

Lisa Winn – Auction Chairman [lisaswinn@yahoo.com](mailto:lisaswinn@yahoo.com)

Marnye Langer – LAHJA President [marnyelanger@gmail.com](mailto:marnyelanger@gmail.com)

Charlotte Skinner – LAHJA Executive Director [ceskinner@earthlink.net](mailto:ceskinner@earthlink.net)

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### Horsemastership Important Dates

#### Dates of the Program for 2010

Hands on and Written Phase will be held during Gold Coast 7 on Saturday, October, 23rd 2010.

#### Dates of the Test Review for 2010

Test Review/Clinic will be held during the Hansen Dam Fall Preview Horse Show on Saturday afternoon, October 30th at 3:00 P.M. (This is the day prior to the 1st IEL show.)

#### Summer Seminars

Summer Workshop for the Horsemastership Program will be held at D&D Stables at Hansen Dam Equestrian Center on Wednesday and Thursday August 18-19 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM.

Sandrine Seifert will be holding this workshop with some help from our graduated Horsemastership students. This workshop is free for LAHJA members. Please register with Sandrine by email: [ddstables@gmail.com](mailto:ddstables@gmail.com).

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### Perpetual Trophies

LAHJA is in the process of creating perpetual trophies for the year-end awards. A big thank you to the sponsors we have received so far! If you would like to sponsor a perpetual trophy or know someone who does, please [contact Marnye](#).

Sponsors and trophies we've received so far are:

Large Pony Hunter: [Everwood & Ginny Planke](#)

A Equitation 14 & Under: [Shadowbrook & Jeni Brown](#)

A Equitation 15-17: Shining Star Trophy

B Equitation 15-17: Jigsaw Farms

Children's & Adult Amateur Jumpers: [Langer Equestrian Group/ Larry & Marnye Langer](#)

Junior & Amateur/Owner Jumpers [Martin McAllister Training/ Jenni & Steve McAllister](#)

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### The Equestrian Minute

Written by: Sandrine Seifert and the LAHJA Education Committee

Welcome to The Equestrian Minute. The LAHJA strongly believes in educating members with horsemanship, horse care, knowledge of association and show rules, feed, and more. If you have any ideas or suggestions for a topic of the month for The Equestrian Minute, email Marnye at [marnyelanger@gmail.com](mailto:marnyelanger@gmail.com). Your topic may be chosen next!

Last E-News, we learned a little bit about rules in the jumper world. This month, we have a couple of different tips for you. While attending horse shows, we have been very surprised to see many accidents waiting to happen. We want to keep your showing fun and safe!

#### Safety Tips for Mounting and Dismounting

The first thing a rider should do before mounting or dismounting their horse is look around. Do not mount or dismount a horse if you are right next to or behind another horse. Make sure that you always have enough room so that it is safe and you do not startle another horse, rider, or person on the ground. I often see riders mounting or dismounting their horses too close to another person or horse, and someone gets hurt as a result. Horses can be unpredictable. Making sure there is adequate room when dismounting (or mounting) keeps everyone safer.

Always check the girth before mounting. If the girth is too loose and you put your weight in the stirrup to get on, your saddle may slip even if your horse is "girthy" or cold backed, make sure your girth is tight enough that your saddle won't slip.

Finally, always pull both stirrups down before mounting. Do not wait until you are on to pull down the off stirrup. You want to be able to get on your horse and put your feet in both stirrups right away. That way if a horse has a cold back, spooks, or bucks while you get on, you are a bit more secure than with the stirrup still pulled up on the off side. Having both feet in the stirrups keeps you more secure and safe.

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### Member Profile: Susan Azad

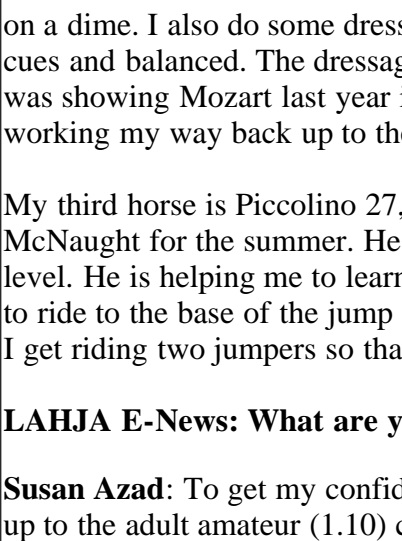


Photo: AC Custom Photo

This month we'll get to know a little about Susan Azad, who rides with Heidi Misrahy at Flintridge Riding Club. Do you know a LAHJA member you think we should profile? Contact Marnye at [marnyelanger@gmail.com](mailto:marnyelanger@gmail.com) and let her know.

#### LAHJA E-News: How long have you been riding, and how did you get started?

**Susan Azad:** I have loved horses all my life. When I was a kid in the 1970s, I pestered my parents until they finally bought me my first horse. In fact, when they took me to try the horse out- it took off with me in a small paddock. My Dad said "We'll take it!" I learned to ride on that horse. It took off with me a lot at first, and I fell off a lot, but I learned how to stay on and how to ride. I mostly rode bareback with my friends in the foothills of Boise, Idaho, where I lived. We would race our horses on trails that we would pretend were race courses, walk our horses down the street to the local drive-through burger place and order french fries and even gallop across the local golf course (got in trouble for that one!). I started riding English when I was about 13 and my neighbor gave me lessons twice a week.

When I went to college in 1980 I gave up riding, had a family, went to law school and became a lawyer, wife and mom. My life was so busy but I felt like a part of me was missing. I live near Flintridge Riding Club in La Canada, and in 2006 joined the club thinking I would introduce my daughter, Alix, to riding. I was the one who got hooked again! That was four years ago. I started showing again as a novice in 2007. I now have two horses (one hunter, one jumper) and am leasing a third horse (a jumper). I ride all three in the shows -- hunter, jumper, equitation and medals, and am having a blast.

#### LAHJA E-News: Tell us about the horse(s) you currently ride.

**Susan Azad:** Hemingway is a 14-year-old Swiss Warmblood gelding. I bought him three years ago, when I was just starting out riding again. He has been the most kind, patient and loving horse. I trust him completely and he trusts me. We have been through a lot. He has patiently put up with my novice mistakes-- gunning him before a jump, leaning, accidentally jerking him in the mouth on the back side, holding him too tightly or dumping the reins when I did not know the strides (but did know I wasn't right). I progressed from novice to adult amateur and then equitation and medal classes.

Last year we qualified for and rode in several medal finals. I had a serious fall in October 2009 at the Foxfield Medal finals. I broke my collar bone in four places, broke two ribs and punctured my lung. I had surgery and the doctor put a metal plate in to help my collarbone heal. The doctor told me not to ride for six months, so I started secretly riding bareback on Hemingway after four weeks. I began jumping and competing again in February of this year. It has been a journey recovering from my accident and gaining my confidence back, but Hemingway has been kind, patient, trusting and forgiving through it all. The other amazing thing about Hemingway is he has let me teach him to ride with no tack. I started with a simple stirrup leather around his neck and he learned quickly that I wanted him to do. I can drop the stirrup leather and ride him simply by voice command, weight shift, leg pressure and touching his neck and mane. We walk, trot canter and gallop this way and I can't even use the do this. I also jump him this way (but use a stirrup leather around his neck because I am not entirely crazy!).

Mozart Z is my jumper. He is a 10-year-old Danish Warmblood. I bought Mozart two years ago and he has re-introduced me to the fabulous world of jumpers. He is incredibly smart and can turn on a dime. I also do some dressage training with Mozart. He is supple, incredibly responsive to cues and balanced. The dressage and flat work I do on Mozart is key to our jumping success. I was showing Mozart last year in the meter jumpers and low adult amateur divisions, but have been working my way back up to the meter jumpers since my accident.

My third horse is Piccolino 27, a 15-year-old German Warmblood. I am leasing him from Helen McNaught for the summer. He is an old hand at jumpers, and has been shown at the Grand Prix level. He is helping me to learn the correct feel to the jump, how to allow without dumping, how to ride to the base of the jump and correct body position. My goal is to use the intense experience I get riding two jumpers so that I can move up in fence heights.

#### LAHJA E-News: What are your goals for this show year?

**Susan Azad:** To get my confidence back, to qualify for medal finals on Hemingway and to work up to the adult amateur (1.10) classes on Mozart. But more than that, it is to be a mentor and role model for the young riders at Flintridge Riding Club (including my daughter, Alix), to share with them the joy of riding, which most importantly means having fun (and sometimes being silly) - riding bareback, riding backwards (Alix does this well), getting out of the show ring and enjoying the special connection we can have with our horses -- whether it be on trail rides, grazing in the field or teaching them tricks or new skills.

#### LAHJA E-News: What are the accomplishments you are most proud of--in and out of the saddle?

**Susan Azad:** Out of the saddle-- my family (husband Cameron-- who lovingly tolerates my crazy riding) and my children Alix (who shares the love and joy of horses with me) and Brandon (who would never set foot in a barn if it were his choice). Also, I get tremendous joy from making videos for Flintridge and other riders.

There are two things that I am most proud of. First, I am proud of the fact that I have been privileged to get to know so many wonderful people in the horse world and especially at FRC. We are like a family, we support one another, and we care. I can't even begin to describe how touching the outpouring of love and support from my FRC family was after my accident. I am lucky to have found such a special place. The other thing that I am most proud of is the loving connection that I have with Hemingway and Mozart Z. I have learned from them that horsemanship is not about controlling your horse or forcing him (or her) to do what you want. Horsemanship is about understanding that your horse is a living, breathing, feeling being who wants to please you if you will allow it-- by communicating clearly (and firmly if need be) and treating him or her with respect, understanding and kindness.

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### From the Judge's Box

#### How much does picking up the wrong lead and then quickly fixing it count against you in hunters? Equitation?

"In hunters, it counts very little, especially in the Green Hunter divisions. In equitation it is a very big mistake. The rider should be able to demonstrate that they are in full control of the horse at every step. In equitation, it usually will place a rider in the 50s or 60s before they even jump their first jump." --Beth Nielsen

"A quick wrong lead in hunters to me will come down to a tie breaker. In the equitation I count it more." --John McQueen

"For me it is the same in either hunters or equitation; it is a tie breaker." --Katie Young

"This is a tough one. A wrong lead in equitation is a major fault for me. The riders should be able to prepare the horse correctly to pick up the correct lead. Basic horsemanship!" --Debbie Sands

"Picking up the wrong lead for a brief moment at the beginning of a hunter round is certainly not my favorite thing to see happen, but in the hunters it is a relatively minor error because I am judging the horse's overall performance over the course. It is certainly a tie breaker and could carry more or less weight depending on the performance of all the horses in that particular class.

"Picking up the wrong lead in an equitation class is a major error on my card. I am evaluating the rider's ability to achieve the best possible performance from his/equine partner. Picking up the wrong lead tells me that the rider wasn't focused and perhaps didn't give the horse the preparation it needed or perhaps the aid was inconsistent and not waiting for the aids. Either way, this tells me that the partnership at that moment is out of sync, and I am going to penalize them severely for the error. Of course how they end up in the final placing of the class depends on what type of problems arise in the other performances I am evaluating." --Shelby French

"Picking up the wrong lead would most likely lose a class but not necessarily a ribbon. The ride would need to wow me to get excused on this fault. How many strides that lapse before correction also is part of the evaluation. In the equitation it is even a bigger fault as the horse should be fully connected through every transition. The ride starts at the gate and ends at the gate." --DiAnn Langer

"In hunters I prefer to see them fix it by doing a flying change, not a simple change. It becomes a separator not an eliminator. In equitation it is a score of 55." --Skip Thornbury

"In hunters, changing leads through the trot before going on course is a major 'no-no' in the upper sections of the hunter division such as "beginning" working (1st Year Green, Jr. Hunters, A/O Hunters). However, I do give some leeway to "Regular" horses (1st Year Green, Pre-Green, Baby Green, etc.). In equitation, it also depends on the level. It shouldn't happen in medal classes, open equitation classes, etc., but at the lower levels it doesn't bother me that much. In fact, it's good that some of the lower level equitation riders know enough to change the lead. I would not penalize a flying change in hunters or equitation as severely, but anything that takes away from the rhythm of either a hunter or an equitation round must be noted and can be a separator or a downrader. Some judges consider trotting a change at the beginning of a course as a break of gait on course and will give a score of 55 (the normal break-of-gait score) to that horse or rider. Since a round begins when a horse and rider enters the ring, I can totally understand the judges who do score a couple of trot steps that way; they consider it to be the same as a trot on course. To me, it depends on the class, the level of the class, and compared to what the other competitors have done in their performances." --Penny Carpenter

"In Pre-Green, Baby Green or some similar section, a wrong lead can happen. In the Regular Working or other major rated section it should not happen. In the equitation I may choose to penalize it or use it as a tie-breaker if needed. Certainly riders should be paying strict attention to their aids, but again are we talking a 26" mini class or a USEF Talent Search class? There are variables to everything. If you still ride a ride you may tend to be more generous than some of the judges that do not ride or haven't ridden in years!" --Betty Beran

"I do not penalize a rider who picks up the wrong lead for one step in the hunters. It may be a tie breaker. In equitation I count it as a major fault." --Susie Schoelkopf

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### Board Member Profile: Karen Lucian

Let's learn a little about Karen Lucian, Treasurer for LAHJA.

#### LAHJA E-News: What is your function as board member of LAHJA?

**Karen Lucian:** I am the Treasurer for LAHJA. I am able to do this because of wonderful direction and assistance from Charlotte Skinner and unending encouragement from Marnye Langer.

#### LAHJA: What do you get out of being a board member? Why do you do it?

**Karen Lucian:** I have been able to expand my circle of horse friends, both on the board and with other members of LAHJA. I serve on the board because I want to give back something to the sport that I have been able to enjoy so much. I also learn so much from hearing the professionals' and show managers' points of view. I try to bring my background of being a former junior and current amateur to the board, so that non-professionals have representation also. I enjoy every aspect of the board, as it is made up of a very diverse and talented group of equine enthusiasts. I try to add a different point of view, and try to air comments that other exhibitors have shared with me. I try to be visible at the shows so exhibitors can use me as another conduit for conversations with the board. Lastly, the reason I do it is because there is nothing more fun than talking with other horse people about horse matters.

#### LAHJA E-News: How long have you been involved with LAHJA and with showing horses? How did you get started?

**Karen Lucian:** I joined LAHJA about five years ago. This is my first year to serve as treasurer, and I am very impressed by the excellent job of saving and budgeting that was done before I started analyzing the financials. As to showing, I was fortunate enough as a junior to ride with Jimmy and Mousie Williams, Anne Kursinski and Susie Hutchison at Flintridge Riding Club. I remember riding there after college and riding with them for many years as an amateur.

#### LAHJA E-News What are your goals/plans for this show year?

**Karen Lucian:** Last year my goal was to win the B/A Gold Coast Series, which my very temperate horse, King's Ransom, did. My other goal was to win a Region 1 Pacific Coast award, which the King and I did. This year my goal is to survive the ravages of this unprecedented global downturn, keep my horses in carrots, be able to continue to ride at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center, which I love very much, and to have time for my wonderful horse friends.

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The monthly LAHJA E-News is sponsored by LEG Up News. LEG Up News provides public relations and marketing services to the equestrian sport, especially show jumping and dressage. LEG Up News features stories about events, riders and associations from the West Coast, as well as coverage of key competitions that have national and international championships. For more information or to obtain photos, please contact LEG UP News at [marnyelanger@gmail.com](mailto:marnyelanger@gmail.com). Please contact us for additional stories from this and other shows, as well as additional quotes.

Contact: Marnye Langer | [marnyelanger@gmail.com](mailto:marnyelanger@gmail.com) | 818.563.3250 ext. 6

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