

## AMHA MASTER NOMINATION

Joan Ide Sackett  
 Age 65  
 CAJA Morgans  
 7358 Bear Swamp Road  
 Williamson, New York 14589

Joan's love of Morgans began in 1952 when she received a subscription to The Morgan Horse magazine. She was a horse crazy teenager in a non-horse family and the subscription was a birthday gift from her aunts. In 1956, Joan spotted a small ad in the magazine that offered an opportunity to come and stay on a Morgan farm. So, along with her brother, she headed for Woodstock, Vermont and Dana Wingate Kelley's Justine Morgan Horse Farm. They rode Dana's Morgans through beautiful trails and along the country roads. Dana loved to show off his stallions, most notably Ethan Eldon, and mares that included some of the old Darling mares and many Roylton Morgans. It was the vacation Joan had always dreamed of. Years later, she took her two young daughters to meet Dana who delighted them with a carriage ride through the village of Woodstock.

Joan's first horse was Tiger Hank, a retired Standardbred that her folks bought her when she was in high school. She rode and drove him around the Bergen, New York area and it was then that she met Bea Dunham of Andalea

Morgans. They enjoyed countless hours riding together and it was through her friendship with Bea that Joan's love for Morgans continued to grow. However, with marriage, five children, divorce, and a career as a program manager at Xerox, there was little time for Morgans until 1984 when her last child graduated from Syracuse Law School. Joan purchased a twenty-four acre farm with a nine stall horse barn in Williamson, New York (located about 30 miles east of Rochester on the shores of Lake Ontario) and CAJA Morgans was founded. Although it was a small breeding operation, CAJA Morgans produced some very nice foals and today is the home of three Morgans. Eloquent Lady and CAJA's Foxy Lady are daughters of Joan's first Morgan mare, Dunraven Eloquence, and Roy-El's Rainbow is her daughter Christine's retired dressage mount. Roy-El's Rainbow was purchased when

Joan and Christine were attending the AMHA Convention in New Mexico and took the opportunity to visit the Honstein's farm in Espanola. It was love at first sight and Rainbow made the long trip from warm New Mexico to the cold winds of Lake Ontario.

Along with Daughter Christine and Granddaughters Kristen and Erika, Joan and her Morgans competed at many shows throughout the Northeast. While Christine, Kristen and Erika did most of the riding, Joan acted as groom and

provided much needed support and encouragement.

Joan retired from Xerox in 1998 and, because riding was not an option due to an old injury (non-horse related), in 2000 she took CAJA Foxy Lady to Dale Vidler at Sunny Acres Farm in Honeoye Falls, New York for carriage driving training. This past spring, Joan and Foxy went to their first show. Foxy was wonderful and, although pilot error (those figure eights can be tricky!) kept the team out of first place, Joan's smile said it all when she received that first ribbon.

Today, the farm is a joint venture with her daughter Christine and both share an interest in dressage. Joan is the dressage coordinator for two shows sponsored by the New York State Morgan Horse Society. She is also the NYSMHS's Promotion Chairperson and Historian and is the editor/publisher of The Morgan Trader, the monthly newsletter. Joan served as NYSMHS President from 1994 - 1999 and currently is the Director at Large and AMHA Liaison.



CAJA's Foxy Lady and Joan at Northhampton Driving Show in June 2001. Passenger is Foxy and Joan's trainer Dale Vidler of Sunny Acres Farm.

Submitted by Christine A. Sackett