



March 2007

Jennie Giguere

July 12, 1933 to November 8, 2006



Jennie always made time to stop in the barn to see Bugsie, her favorite horse, to tell him how special he was.

It is with a sad heart that we tell you of the loss of one of our SPUR family, Jennie Giguere, on November 8, 2006.

Jennie began riding with the SPUR program in the spring of 1993 after suffering a severe brain aneurysm the year before. She brought with her a great sense of humor and an obvious love of horses. She quickly became a regular morning rider and befriended many staff and volunteers. She brought laughs and smiles to all who had the pleasure to work with her, as well as apples to all her horse and human friends. After lessons, Jennie would often be seen walking through the barn with her husband, greeting staff, volunteers and horses.

Her husband, Winfield Giguere, whom we all know as Gigs, brought Jennie to her lessons in his zippy classic sports car each week. He watched fondly as she rode, taking pictures, and sharing stories

of their adventures and family. One story he shared was of Jennie's first ride on a horse many years ago. He related that she wanted nothing to do with getting on a horse for a short trail ride while they were vacationing in Canada. Eventually Jennie gave in, mounted up and they began riding off towards their destination. With a laugh, Gigs shared that Jennie had a great ride that day and rode regularly thereafter.

Jennie attended her last lesson of the fall session on Monday, November 6th. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday, November 8th. She will be missed.

*A celebration of
Jennie's life will be held
in the summer of 2007*

Salt Creek Grille Fundraising Event

If you drive by the Salt Creek Grille, located at 4 Bingham Avenue in Rumson, take a second to look up. The SPUR flag is flying proudly on the flagpole to announce SPUR as the designated aid organization for Salt Creek Grille's 2007 charity campaign.

Each year the Salt Creek Grille celebrates its anniversary by recognizing a local organization and honoring them for their commitment to the community. This year Salt Creek Grille is pleased to announce that SPUR has been carefully chosen for its efforts in helping those with disabilities in Monmouth County.

This year's celebrations begin with a family fun day on Saturday, March 24, 2007 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. The event will take place at the Salt Creek Grille and will include light refreshments courtesy of Salt Creek Grille, complimentary horse drawn carriage rides, door prizes and fun activities for all. No reservations or tickets are required for this kick-off event.

The main event of the 2007 charity campaign will be the Anniversary Wine and Martini Tasting Fundraiser on April 19, 2007. This affair will include premium wines, sensational martinis, delicious

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OTHER EVENTS in 2007!

Thur., July 26th — Barrel Racing Fundraiser, Monmouth County Fair, East Freehold Park, Freehold

Sun., Aug 26th — Annual Polo Match, Bucks Mill Park, Colt Neck

Please check our website for details
www.spuronline.org



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Salt Creek Grille



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Salt Creek Grille fare, live entertainment, door prizes and exciting live auction items. 100% of this event's proceeds will be donated to SPUR.

You can even support the charity campaign when you dine out. When you visit the Salt Creek Grille and are perusing the menu, consider ordering the Herb Roasted Chicken entrée. From January 1st to December 31st, 2007, \$1 will be donated to SPUR each time this entrée is ordered.

For the most up-to-date news on the drive, sponsorship, or Anniversary fundraiser — please visit www.spuronline.org. The Salt Creek Grille's website is www.saltcreekgrille.com

A Message from the President

It is very exciting and an honor to be the President of SPUR in the year when all our "Dreams Come True". Phase II of Sunnyside Equestrian Center will be a reality in 2007. Parents and guests will have an observation area, staff will have offices, students will have a classroom and a therapy room, and everyone will have a bathroom.



To make 2007 even more special, Steve Bidgood (Biddy) the managing partner of Salt Creek Grille in Rumson chose SPUR as his charity of the year. He will have one item on his menu highlighted for the year and each time someone orders that item he donates a dollar to Special People United to Ride. To celebrate the Salt Creek Grille's anniversary on Thursday, April 19, 2007 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm, Steve will host a Wine and Martini Tasting Fundraiser to benefit SPUR. Tickets for the event will be \$125.00 per person. There will be a live auction and raffle door prizes. Every cent raised will go to SPUR. To kick-off the event, on Saturday, March 24, 2007 from 9:00 – 11:00 am, Steve will again host a free family celebration at Salt Creek Grille. There will be horse drawn carriage rides, light refreshments, children's activities and door prizes. The SPUR flag will be officially raised at the Salt Creek Grille.

With the funds raised this year, the SPUR Board of Directors will continue our commitment to provide scholarships to students, enabling them to participate in our therapeutic riding programs. We will also provide funds to support horses in their retirement years and for equipment for the horses and program development. Your Board will also continue to seek out grants, sponsor a Barrel Racing event in July, sponsor a Polo Fundraising event on Sunday, August 26, 2007 and new this year, we will host an Annual Membership Breakfast and Volunteer Recognition Meeting in October 2007.

We have so much to be thankful for. I look forward to serving you in this exceptional year.

Donna L. Singer, *SPUR President 2007*

SPUR Supporters — Due to publication deadline, the following members and supporters were not included in the Dec 2006 issue.

Laura A. Bach

Pete Brady

Mr. & Mrs. B. William Bryant

Computer Resources of America

Peter & Jennifer Francis

The Gyory Family

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Alice Wiebalk

The 2007 membership drive is currently underway. We thank you for all incoming and future contributions and your continued support

A Spotlight on the Sunnyside Barn Staff

If you were to stop by Sunnyside Equestrian Center on any weekday morning you would most likely encounter Tom Mullens and Karen Kucin; two of our dedicated Animal Attendants. They are the first ones here each morning to greet the horses and begin the day's routine. Recently, we asked Tom and Karen to share some insight into their work with the equestrian program.



Years of Service

After a career in breeding and training race horses, Tom began working with us 8 years ago when the program was at Huber Woods Equestrian Center.

Karen was a Computer Skills Instructor for a Special Education School prior to joining our staff. Her first day of work coincided with the grand opening of Sunnyside 4 years ago in October 2002. She recalls the excitement in the air, and the many visitors. She was able to see right away how the volunteers loved the SPUR program.

Favorite Horse

Tom started with Lucky, Bugsie, Mimi, Kandy, Aries, Barnegat, Snowflake, and Berry, but said they were all his favorites.

Karen said, "I can never pick one. From Mimosa's playful sparkle to Lucky's heartwarming wisdom, and Snowflakes'

spunky attitude, they each have their own gift to offer."

What brought them to our program?

Tom shared simply that God sent him.

Karen's journey started when she read about the healing power of horses. After researching the field of therapeutic riding through the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA), she called Sunnyside. It just so happened that we were in search of Animal Attendant.

Shared Special Memory

Sunnyside has twice been the host site for performances by The Herrman's Royal Lipizzan Stallions to benefit SPUR. Traveling with this family was Guido – a special person who captured the hearts of both Tom and Karen with his morning visits and enthusiasm while helping them with their daily tasks.

Life Away from the Barn

Tom is working on renovating his horse farm and participates in his son's training for cross country. He is also a numismatist, a person who collects and studies coins, tokens, and paper money.

Karen has enjoyed clog dancing for 10 years.

As integral members of the equestrian center staff who work quietly "behind the scenes" to assure the well-being of our horses, Tom and Karen deserve to be in the spotlight.

Thank you Tom and Karen for all that you do!



Everyone pitches in at Sunnyside!



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