



***Italian American Heritage Club***  
***Of Hunterdon County***

KEEPING OUR *Pride*, CELEBRATING OUR *Culture*, REMEMBERING OUR *Past*

**Program Notes for January 2013:**

***Donna Arold***



I was born April 16, 1958 to two of the most wonderful people ever born. I was blessed from birth. My mom is Italian, born and raised in Newark and as an interesting side-note...her Dad...my Grandfather, an Italian immigrant, began the first privately owned bus company in the City of Newark in the 1920's. My Dad is second generation Polish-German descent.

I am an only child and was raised fairly strict with firm beliefs in family and a serious work ethic. I began work at the age of 15 and always wanted a job where I could be creative. None of my early jobs were that at all...but I found my calling when I began Beauty School in 1973 and landed a job at a small

hair salon...oddly enough, owned by an Italian man! I varied between shampooer and nail technician...but when my boss wanted to keep me in the 'same-old' job, even after I passed my test and became licensed, I knew it was time for me to go. I worked for the next 8 years at two notable Salons (back in the day) ...Saks Fifth Avenue in Short Hills and an exclusive salon (in that day) called Hair Salon in Summit, NJ. Those two jobs really helped me hone my people-skills! I quickly found out that dealing with people with money is not easy. You learn to be a great listener and always give them a little more than what they are expecting. This helped me to survive in the oftentimes difficult world of the 'entitled and wealthy'.

Hard times came to Hair Salon in 1979 and they cut my hours-big time. It was my past life and we had just bought a house, and cutting hours was just not going to work. I needed to find something, and fast. Looking in the paper, I found a salon, looking for a part-time person, nearby our new address. I answered the ad, and was hired on the spot for Mondays & Tuesdays... This was great! I could work here Mon & Tues and then work my Hair Salon hours on Thursday through Saturday. That made full-time again! EXCEPT that in week 2, I was offered a FULL TIME position at my new job with a \$10.00 a day raise! Back in those days, that was a lot of cash... so I could not say no! PLUS I loved my new boss...and yes; you guessed it, ANOTHER Italian! Well, the rest as they 'IS HISTORY'! Long story short, I worked for this company for 25 years until I left to begin my own business! I had the best boss in the entire world, and although we did not always agree, he had faith in me and allowed me the opportunity to help him begin a new business (the day spa) plus manage the business and the staff. For someone who began as a nail technician in 1979, this was huge. When the salon expanded from a hair and nail salon to a Day Spa, I became the Director of Sales and Customer Service. At that time, the business had 45 employees...11 of who were 'my' department, the receptionists of the customer service staff.

It may seem that my bio is consisting of mostly my work related life, but that is really what brings me to where we are today...and why I am writing this bio. I could not do what I do today...own and operate a successful Bed & Breakfast Inn (which has received several awards, most recently Trip Advisor's Award of Excellence for 2011 & 2012 and Wedding Wire's Bride's Choice Award for 2011 & 2012) if it were not for all my past work experiences. Innkeeping is something that many people 'dream' of doing...and many say "I want to do this when I retire!"...But let me tell you, there is nothing retiring about it! You have to love people...and ALL KINDS of people...you have to be committed to service and excellence and consistency. We are committed to all of this and take great pride in our place and what we have created. Being your own boss allows you to 'create' the kind of business you want to have. So we go full circle...in the beginning, I was unfulfilled without a creative outlet in my early jobs, but now I can and DO - totally create 'the experience' for our guests. And I love doing it...over and over again!

