



Italian American Heritage Club Of Hunterdon County

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

Program Notes for January, 2012: Annamarie Prinsloo – Manager at Livingston Farm



Annamarie Prinsloo was born in Ermelo, South Africa. She was raised and attended school in the beautiful town of Tzaneen in the Northern part of South Africa. "Tzaneen" means "A basket full of fruit" in one of the native languages, which is very fitting as fruits like citrus, bananas, avocados, mangos and litchis are grown in the area.

Thinking back, Annamarie cites her maternal grandmother as the person that had the biggest influence on her life. Mrs. Van Heerden had a great passion for life and learning and could do anything from cooking and sewing to fixing a car. Her words and actions and no-nonsense approach to getting things done still inspire Annamarie to this day. She graduated from Tzaneen Technical College with a Legal Assistant Diploma in 1988. In 2003 and 2008, she received a Diploma in PC Repairs and a Veterinarian Assistants Diploma respectively from the Penn Foster Career School in Scranton, PA.

Since childhood she was passionate about animals, and her parents fondly recall that she could ride a horse before she could walk. Annamarie spend most of her vacations on the family farm where she helped take care of all the animals, including cattle, horses, pigs, geese and dogs. Her animal friends were always an important part of her life, and she kept a wide variety of pets over the years. She once rescued a Mallard duckling at a mall, raised it and eventually set it free.

Since horses are Annamarie's favorite animals, she was thrilled when, at the age of 16, she got her own stallion, named Apple. He proved to be very fast and great at endurance racing. Together they participated in 50 and 100 mile endurance races. Annamarie is currently working as Barn Manager at Evergreen Miniature Horse and Rabbit Farm. In 1999, she received a chance of a lifetime when, at 4AM South Africa time, she received a call offering her a job on the miniature horse farm in Livingston, NJ. It was a shock and thrill at the same time and something she never thought would happen to her. Her family was at first concerned, but after thinking it over, they realized what a great opportunity it was. Her parents told her that she should go and remember that she has a return ticket: If things do not work out she can always come back home. Even her employers in South Africa were enthusiastic and encouraging, promising her employment if she should decide to return. With both her parent's and her previous employer's blessings, she set off with what was an initial two year contact and never looked back.

As Barn Manager on the farm, Annamarie is responsible for all aspects of taking care of the miniature horses and meat rabbits, including breeding and marketing.

