

SUSANNE SPYROS

Susanne began her riding career at age six at Prospect Park Riding Academy in Brooklyn, New York. She also rode at Claremont Stables in Manhattan up until the time when she enrolled in college at Montclair State University. During those years she studied Hunt Seat Equitation at the Suburban Essex Equestrian Center and rode with Essex Troup. From 1967 to 1975 she rode with Hector Carmona, the first coach of the US Equestrian Team. "Hector taught me everything about self-discipline and attention to detail ... he was a true master".

"Upon graduation from college I purchased my first horse, Winds of Change, a high strung thoroughbred that no one could ride...for \$600.00...saddle, bridle and all." After that Susanne began a life-long career that would span over forty years that would include showing, riding, training, barn management and breeding. "I love all horses but I love thoroughbreds and Arabians the most and have bred some wonderful animals." Some have gone on to compete in driving, show jumping and dressage. One of the best was Gamil Nasira, who won Children's Hunter Zone 2 AHSA finals twice with a student that she had trained. Another was Mariah, a thoroughbred who won best yearling at the Meadowlands finals for best thoroughbred filly of the year.

Although Susanne has had a forty-four year career as a New Jersey teacher, winning the Governor's Award for Excellence twice, she loves teaching young and old how to ride horses equally as well. Over three decades of teaching the sport has helped me refine my skills as a teacher. "There are many great riders who teach, but only a chosen few trainers that can really convey how to respect, love and understand this wonderful animal by analyzing how best to strengthen each rider's personal relationship with it. Riding is really about balance and not strength. I try to simplify the skill sets and use understandable concepts. In order to do that you have to understand how people learn. I feel that this is my forte and what sets me apart."

"Many of my students have gone on to become trainers, riders and horse owners in their own right and some simply ride for enjoyment. I have given each and every one of them the same key and what doors they wish to unlock is up to them!"

