

# THOROFAN VOICE

Vol. X

Aug 15, 2008



## CHANGING FOCUS

By Marilyn Lane

Anais Nin once said, *"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage."* A shooter/editor for ABC 7's Eyewitness News Team once felt tinges of a shrinking life.

As a result the world of art gained a stride and images of horses will be carried outside normal boundaries.

Dennis Hogan wished to expand his life by shifting his camera from the tragic to the beautiful. He liked the races and was especially drawn to the beauty of horses and their environments. On an August day, walking through the grandstand at Saratoga Race Course, Dennis was drawn to a Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation poster. Many of you will remember the same poster, a simple piece calling attention to the needs of horses past their racing days. Wearied by years of delivering news-garnishing, tragic images into the homes of people, Dennis was inspired by this poster to find a way to do something to benefit the plight of retired horses. In time, he gave up his television job and turned his camera to elements around the track and beautiful images of horses. This Emmy award-winning editor applied his skills, added his passion and dedicated himself to compiling a portfolio of special equine images.

Dennis Hogan's collection is on display at the Springwater Bistro. His mission is to sell the photographs and donate the money to the TRF. The signature image for the exhibit, 'Clare Court' is in the foyer of the restaurant. Dennis describes this photograph as being metaphorical to the mission of the TRF. Look at the photograph for yourself, and you too will recognize the symbolism. The aged fence of Clare Court, a saddle horse and a mounted Thoroughbred, bathed in light, heading home after their exercise.

As you walk into the cocktail lounge, the first piece to catch your eye will be a racing shot titled, 'Turn'.



Ironically, it is Richard Migliore on the horse in the lead. This was not planned. Dennis had no idea where he might find space for this exhibit, but how nice that it happens that Richard is not only a regular customer of the Springwater, he also from time to time assists Chef, David Britton in the kitchen. Come to find out, David is also a big supporter of the TRF.

The exhibit fits the Springwater perfectly. The artist's attention to detail did not stop with the images, the framing is perfect and the display is well lighted. Every piece in the show tells a story. From one photograph to the next you feel the beauty of these exquisite athletes, fall in love with tradition, and find yourself filled with hope.

The photograph of Evening Attire reminded me of all the joys a successful racehorse brings into the lives of his connections. It's hard to find a better story than that of Evening Attire. He is especially beautiful, filled with interesting traits and additionally brings endurance, longevity and class to charismatic connections. I never had a horse of his caliber but I had lots of them who pleased smaller crowds in equally rich ways.

Aside from the icons of racing lie untold numbers of heroic horses whose stories are less traveled. Across the country, horses of all ages and every class touch lives in poignant ways every day. Dennis's 'Silhouette' piece is a perfect symbol for these horses. The image of this nameless horse caused names to roll through my mind like spinning a rolodex. Wonderful heart-rending stories of horses affecting the lives of people are endless, endlessly beautiful.

I spoke with Diana Pikulski, the executive director for the TRF. She is moved by the dedication to purpose which Dennis gave to this project. We agreed that this marvelous industry has done it again, lured special talent into its wondrous net. The only thing which overshadows the metaphorical strength of Dennis's work is the pure beauty of the photographs. Hopefully many of you will go there to see what vision, talent, and inspiration can create.

Horses enter our lives from all directions, but always we find, *"There is something about the outside of a horse which is good for the inside of man."*

--Sir Winston Churchill

Horses, through their natural beauty, elevate us.

