

# Northeast/Mid-Atlantic

CONNECTICUT DELAWARE MAINE MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS NEW HAMPSHIRE  
NEW JERSEY NEW YORK PENNSYLVANIA RHODE ISLAND VERMONT VIRGINIA WEST VIRGINIA



## *In the Purple*

**Wanda Polisseni**  
helps horses through  
Purple Haze Center

BY KAREN M. JOHNSON | PHOTOS BY SPENCER TULIS

**THERE IS NO SLOWING** down breeder and owner Wanda Polisseni, either in her pursuit to purchase more horses or in her philanthropic endeavors to provide aftercare for retired Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds.

Polisseni, who recently turned 80, estimates she has at least 100 horses in training, a number that includes both breeds.

On a morning in early November, Polisseni said she wasn't able to talk because she was watching the livestream of a Standardbred auction in Pennsylvania.

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# McMahon Stallions

## The Best *NY* Breeding options for 2020

### CENTRAL BANKER

by Speightstown | \$7,500 LF

**Top 6** Second Crop Sire in NA,  
**3rd** leading 2YO Sire and General  
Sire in the Northeast, lifetime  
**3 SWrs, 4 SPI, 49** winners,  
**53%** from starters, **40%** repeat  
winners in 2019



### REDESDALE

by Speightstown | \$5,000 LF

**New to McMahon for 2020.** Bred **81** mares  
in NY in first year at stud. Brilliantly bred  
son of a champion out of a **Danzig** full sister to  
**DANEHILL**. Won first 3 starts in Graded stakes  
company with **increasing Beyer numbers**  
**with each win, 86, 91, and 95**. Injured in final  
start, Graded stakes at Keeneland, he earned a  
**91 Beyer** and beat **FISH TRAPPE ROAD**, GSW  
over \$627,000, **Tale of S'avall**, MGSPI \$364,000,  
**YOCKEY'S WARRIOR**, MSW \$360,000, etc.

### TEUFLESBERG

by Johannesburg | \$3,000 LF

Sire of a **champion sprinter** in first crop.  
2019 juvenile standout **TURBO DRIVE**  
won an Aqueduct maiden special weight  
by 2 on Nov. 2 after selling earlier this year  
at the OBS March sale for **\$80,000**.



# 2019 LEADING SIRES IN NEW YORK



For daily updated sire lists visit [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com)

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands                              | 2019 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | BT SWnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)        | 2019 Earnings      | Foals | Cumulative |           |            |
|------|--|---------------|------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|
|      |  |               |            |               |                  |                                 |                    |       | Stks Wnrs  | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | <b>FREUD</b> (98, Storm Cat), Sequel Stallions New York                          | \$6,500       | 130/56     | 3/3           | 2/3              | (Dot Matrix, \$178,436)         | <b>\$3,603,341</b> | *1309 | 51         | 1.51      | 1.23       |
| 2    | <b>BIG BROWN</b> (05, Boundary), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions           | \$5,000       | 147/66     | 5/7           | 3/5              | (Funny Guy, \$352,925)          | <b>\$3,541,648</b> | *785  | 26         | 1.05      | 1.47       |
| 3    | <b>CENTRAL BANKER</b> (10, Speightstown), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds      | \$7,500       | 87/45      | 2/4           | 2/2              | (Newly Minted, \$362,100)       | <b>\$2,878,983</b> | 131   | 3          | 1.32      | 1.22       |
| 4    | <b>BELLAMY ROAD</b> (02, Concerto), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions        | \$5,000       | 146/73     | 2/2           | 0/2              | (Hell N Wild, \$125,289)        | <b>\$2,665,165</b> | *667  | 32         | 1.17      | 1.25       |
| 5    | <b>BUSTIN STONES</b> (04, City Zip), Waldorf Farm                                | \$5,000       | 66/44      | 2/2           | 2/2              | (Fair Regis, \$247,279)         | <b>\$2,326,689</b> | 207   | 9          | 1.33      | 1.32       |
| 6    | <b>FROST GIANT</b> (03, Giant's Causeway), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions | \$2,500       | 102/45     | 4/5           | 4/4              | (Kid Is Frosty, \$327,570)      | <b>\$2,314,417</b> | *427  | 15         | 1.15      | 1.15       |
| 7    | <b>MISSION IMPAZIBLE</b> (07, Unbridled's Song), Sequel Stallions New York       | \$5,000       | 105/47     | 2/3           | 1/2              | (Dream Bigger, \$205,828)       | <b>\$2,246,734</b> | 206   | 6          | 1.16      | 1.10       |
| 8    | <b>COURAGEOUS CAT</b> (06, Storm Cat), Questroyal North                          | \$2,500       | 97/44      | 2/2           | 2/2              | (Carrera Cat, \$222,140)        | <b>\$1,871,186</b> | 212   | 7          | 0.94      | 1.09       |
| 9    | <b>DESERT PARTY</b> (06, Street Cry), Irish Hill Century Farm                    | \$3,000       | 68/39      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Desert Poem, \$91,462)         | <b>\$1,567,433</b> | 240   | 6          | 0.95      | 1.33       |
| 10   | <b>HONORABLE DILLON</b> (10, Tapit), Rockridge Stud                              | \$4,000       | 56/23      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Honorable Hero, \$116,157)     | <b>\$852,773</b>   | 93    | 0          | 0.59      | 1.11       |
| 11   | <b>TEUFLESBERG</b> (04, Johannesburg), McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds         | \$3,000       | 44/18      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Turbo Drive, \$87,010)         | <b>\$700,320</b>   | 150   | 4          | 1.21      | 1.07       |
| 12   | <b>DISCO RICO</b> (97, Citidancer)   | Died          | 18/8       | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Playthatfunnymusic, \$155,147) | <b>\$651,693</b>   | 268   | 12         | 1.41      | 1.19       |
| 13   | <b>SOARING EMPIRE</b> (07, Empire Maker)   | Died, 2018    | 29/13      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Ten Twenty Nine, \$91,021)     | <b>\$559,357</b>   | 63    | 0          | 0.90      | 1.09       |
| 14   | <b>GIANT SURPRISE</b> (09, Giant's Causeway), Rockridge Stud                     | \$4,000       | 33/14      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Jersey Fresh, \$53,532)        | <b>\$514,301</b>   | 100   | 2          | 1.43      | 1.22       |
| 15   | <b>COSMONAUT</b> (02, Lemon Drop Kid)  | Pnsd          | 22/11      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Kreesie, \$137,811)            | <b>\$467,182</b>   | 101   | 4          | 1.00      | 1.05       |

When asked how the sale treated her a day later, Polisseni with a hearty laugh said, 'Great, but I'm not going to tell you how many I bought.'

Acquiring horses is Polisseni's passion, but making sure her horses, as well as those owned by others, find good homes after leaving the racetrack is of greater importance to her. To that end, Polisseni, among other generous benefactors, donated a significant amount of money to build a barn for retired racehorses awaiting adoption at the Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program. Located on the grounds of Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack in Farmington, N.Y., FLTAP is the only adoption facility in the United States that is situated on a racetrack. Opened in 2007, the 10,000-square-foot barn, which has 16

stalls, is named The Purple Haze Center after Polisseni's racing stable.

Polisseni also funded another adoption facility, The Purple Haze Standardbred Adoption Program, near Oxford, N.Y., which opened this year.

Polisseni said when she first became involved in the ownership of horses, she was naive in many ways, but what shook her the most as a newbie was her lack of knowledge on the subject of aftercare.

"When I first bought my horses, I looked through rose-colored glasses. I figured, 'Well, when they are done racing and can't race anymore, they go off to a beautiful life, living the life of Riley,'" she said. "I didn't know about the avenues of horse slaughter until I saw a documentary about it. I forced myself to watch it. That's how I became

very involved in aftercare. I cried all the way through that documentary, but I had to watch it. How could you allow something like that to happen? Yes, there are times when the humane thing is to euthanize, but that's humane, rather than trying to get the last buck through horse slaughter.

"Owning horses isn't about the money for me, at all," she continued. "My horses don't have to win to make me happy. All they have to do is race to their best ability and cross the finish line, healthy and happy. If they can't beat a horse, that's OK, and that's telling me that racing is not their game and maybe they need to go on to a second career. I probably spend as much money bailing horses out as I have won in purses."

Polisseni's obsession for horses developed during her childhood while growing up on her family's dairy farm, not far from Batavia Downs in western New York. A friend of hers had a brother who owned Standardbreds. During the off-season at Batavia, the horses came for R&R at her family's farm.

Polisseni said money was tight when she was growing up, but those Standardbreds gave her immeasurable joy.

"My brother and I used to play in the field with those horses," Polisseni recalled. "Oh, the fun we had."

Polisseni bought her first horses in 2004, three years after the death of her husband, Gene Polisseni, a senior vice-president of Paychex, one of the country's largest payroll services companies.

Her first acquisitions were six Standardbreds, purchased through trainer Clint Galbraith, who was the conditioner of the legendary pacer Niatross.



Finding good homes for her horses when they leave the track is an utmost priority to Polisseni, who has funded aftercare centers for both Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds

# 2020 STALLIONS



NEW FOR 2020

## Multiple GSW and WORLD RECORD HOLDER **DISCO PARTNER**

*Disco Rico – Lulu's Number, by Numerous*

- 11 Wins, 14 Placings, Earning \$1,487,560
- Won 2017 Jaipur Inv. S.-G3 – World Record, 6f Turf in 1:05.67
- Won Stakes From 5 1/2 furlongs to One Mile
- Placed in 2017 & 2018 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1
- **\$5,000 LFSN**



NEW FOR 2020

## Grade 1 SW by CANDY RIDE **LEOFRIC**

*Candy Ride (ARG) - Lady Godiva, by Unbridled's Song*

- 8 Wins, 4 Placings, From 14 Starts
- Career Earnings of \$951,040
- Won Churchill's G1 Clark H., Fayette S.-G2, etc.
- 3rd Woodward S.-G1, Only Beaten 2 Lengths
- **\$7,500 LFSN**



## Grade 1 SW by FOREST WILDCAT **A SHIN FORWARD**

3rd All-Time Leading NY-Bred  
**\$3,500 LFSN**



## Multiple GSW by QUALITY ROAD **FRANK CONVERSATION**

Multiple Graded SW/G1-Placed  
**\$5,000 LFSN**



## Leading Sire by GIANT'S CAUSEWAY **GIANT SURPRISE**

Leading New York Sire by 2YO Winners  
**\$4,000 LFSN**



## GSW/G1P by MEDAGLIA D'ORO **MICROMANAGE**

2nd Leading New York Freshman Sire  
**\$4,000 LFSN**



Erin Robinson 859.421.7531 Lere Visagie 518.851.6616  
5384 Route 9H-23 Hudson, New York 12534  
www.rockridgestud.com

# 2019 LEADING SIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA



For daily updated sire lists visit [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com)

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands                      | 2019 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | BT SWnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)       | 2019 Earnings      | Foals | Cumulative |           |            |
|------|---|---------------|------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|
|      |   |               |            |               |                  |                                |                    |       | Stks Wnrs  | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | <b>JUMP START</b> (99, A.P. Indy)   | Died          | 157/83     | 6/6           | 3/6              | (Hey Mamaluke, \$196,819)      | <b>\$5,004,188</b> | *1413 | 51         | 1.41      | 1.28       |
| 2    | <b>WARRIOR'S REWARD</b> (06, Medaglia d'Oro), WynOaks Farm                | \$5,000       | 212/104    | 2/3           | 1/2              | (Night Ops, \$249,921)         | <b>\$4,060,150</b> | *542  | 17         | 1.04      | 1.34       |
| 3    | <b>FLASHBACK</b> (10, Tapit), Diamond B Farm                              | \$3,500       | 88/36      | 1/2           | 0/1              | (British Idiom, \$1,381,250)   | <b>\$2,598,688</b> | 164   | 1          | 1.12      | 1.26       |
| 4    | <b>EL PADRINO</b> (09, Pulpit)  | Died, 2017    | 80/44      | 2/2           | 2/2              | (Taco Supream, \$196,627)      | <b>\$2,574,336</b> | 155   | 3          | 1.35      | 1.29       |
| 5    | <b>DUBLIN</b> (07, Afleet Alex)   | N/A           | 60/36      | 2/2           | 1/2              | (Shamrock, \$179,393)          | <b>\$1,889,782</b> | 176   | 3          | 1.10      | 1.16       |
| 6    | <b>WEIGELIA</b> (01, Safely's Mark), WynOaks Farm                         | Private       | 52/31      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Chasing My Halo, \$115,872)   | <b>\$1,534,920</b> | *131  | 7          | 1.45      | 1.02       |
| 7    | <b>SMARTY JONES</b> (01, Elusive Quality), Equistar Training and Breeding | \$3,500       | 70/27      | 2/2           | 1/2              | (Someday Jones, \$170,850)     | <b>\$1,274,448</b> | *750  | 27         | 1.39      | 1.73       |
| 8    | <b>TALENT SEARCH</b> (03, Catienus), Diamond B Farm                       | \$2,500       | 41/26      | 1/1           | 1/1              | (I'm the Talent, \$135,190)    | <b>\$1,186,265</b> | *159  | 3          | 1.04      | 1.19       |
| 9    | <b>UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN</b> (07, Limehouse), Diamond B Farm                  | \$7,500       | 19/11      | 2/3           | 1/2              | (Midnightcharly, \$267,888)    | <b>\$937,581</b>   | 38    | 3          | 2.12      | 0.77       |
| 10   | <b>MAD FLATTER</b> (05, Flatter)  | Died, 2016    | 22/18      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Glowing Star, \$78,604)       | <b>\$689,378</b>   | 48    | 0          | 0.96      | 1.30       |
| 11   | <b>CAL NATION</b> (08, Distorted Humor)                                   | N/A           | 28/16      | 1/1           | 1/1              | (Ournationonparade, \$65,920)  | <b>\$609,418</b>   | 49    | 1          | 0.99      | 1.17       |
| 12   | <b>MEDALLIST</b> (01, Touch Gold), Northview PA                           | \$2,000       | 15/10      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Winning the Medal, \$109,908) | <b>\$592,968</b>   | 204   | 7          | 1.28      | 1.33       |
| 13   | <b>CROWN OF THORNS</b> (05, Repent), Equistar Training and Breeding       | \$2,000       | 27/12      | 1/1           | 1/1              | (Crown and Sugar, \$116,490)   | <b>\$580,969</b>   | 55    | 2          | 0.85      | 1.06       |
| 14   | <b>BULLSBAY</b> (04, Tiznow), Northview PA                                | \$3,000       | 36/12      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Dancing Bull, \$85,660)       | <b>\$561,985</b>   | 86    | 3          | 1.15      | 1.22       |
| 15   | <b>ALBERT THE GREAT</b> (97, Go for Gin)                                  | Pnsd          | 28/15      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Screen Saver, \$55,610)       | <b>\$496,784</b>   | *412  | 9          | 1.10      | 1.10       |

Polisseni's knowledge of the Thoroughbred industry was not as robust as her familiarity with Standardbreds, so she took to the Internet and searched for horses for sale in Florida—she was wintering at the time in Naples—and got several hits. After making phone calls to many of those people on her list, just one called her back, Barry Berkelhammer of AbraCadabra Farms near Ocala.

"We talked for about an hour and a half, and I knew I had found my agent," Polisseni said "To this day Barry breaks and trains any of the horses I breed and buy. I trust everything Barry says and does."

One of the five Thoroughbreds that Polisseni purchased in 2004, with Berkelhammer as her agent, was Seattle Maestro, a son of Chief Seattle. The colt was purchased for \$230,000 as a 2-year-old out of the Ocala Breeders' Sales' March auction. The horse raced only once before retirement due to injury.

That experience established a precedent for Polisseni's future purchases.

"I'm not going to the Thoroughbred sales and spending \$250,000 or \$300,000 anymore," she noted. "I am not in this game because of the money, but you have to look at (money) when you have a stable the size of mine; you can't rule it with your heart," she said. "You also have to rule it with your head. Sometimes you will fall in love with a horse

and want it at whatever cost, but it will come back to bite you (financially). That's why I do quite a bit of claiming because the horse is already racing, and you haven't spent all that money on breaking and training to find out that they can't race."

One of the easiest tasks for Polisseni when she launched My Purple Haze Stables was coming up with a name for it.

"My youngest son, Greg, said, 'That's a no-brainer, Mom. You got to name it for Kimmy,'" Polisseni said. "My daughter



**Polisseni has a special bond with all her animals, especially horses, which have always given her joy**

Kim was killed in a (car) accident when she was 18 years old. Her favorite color was purple. Kim had purple streaks in her hair and loved Jimi Hendrix. Her nickname was 'Purple Haze.'

"When I go to the racetrack to watch my horses race, I wear purple and they call me the 'Purple Lady.'"

Polisseni employs two trainers for her Thoroughbred stable, Chris Englehart, who manages her Northeast presence, primarily at Finger Lakes and New York Racing Association tracks; and Terri Pompay, who oversees her South Florida division at Gulfstream Park.

Trond Smedshammer is currently her Standardbred trainer, and he provided Polisseni with her most significant win as an owner in this year's \$655,000 (Canadian) Breeders Crown at Woodbine Mohawk Park with Winndevie.

"Winndevie is a funny story," Polisseni said. "I was at the sale with Trond, and he wanted to go home early because he had finished his buying. I was alone at the sale the second night and looked at what I had bought and I realized that I didn't have a filly by Credit Winner. I've had great success with that sire. I started searching and I found my Winndevie late in the sale on the third day. She only cost me \$35,000."

She hasn't yet enjoyed that type of success in the Thoroughbred industry. But

**Special Note For Sire Lists:**

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased) in the states featured in this section (stallions that are dead or exported prior to 2015 are excluded), and have runners in North America. Listed below are all available statistics for the Northern Hemisphere through November 24, 2019. As supplied to BloodHorse by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc., include adjusted money from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Adjusted earnings are put on par with average North American earnings from the previous year. For example, the average North American purse in 2015 is \$21,782 or 50% of the 2015 average purse in Japan. To put earnings on par, all Japanese progeny earnings are multiplied by 50% before being credited to a sire's progeny earnings. Hong Kong earnings are adjusted by 17%; Singapore by 57%. Current year stakes winners include all N.H.-foaled stakes winners worldwide and any S.H.-foaled horses that won a N.H. stakes. \*Foal counts include Southern Hemisphere. Cumulative stakes winners includes all countries. (A † indicates a sire represented by his first crop to race).

\*AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX and COMPARABLE INDEX: Lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00; COMPARABLE INDEX indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Only 32% of all sires have a lifetime AVERAGE-EARNINGS INDEX higher than their mares' COMPARABLE INDEX.

CRUSHING THE NUMBERS IN THE MID-ATLANTIC

# Uptowncharlybrown!

Average Earnings Per Start: \$9,446 - 3rd Best In The Nation

Trailing Only WAR FRONT \$9,807 & TAPIT \$9,751

27% STAKES HORSES - 244 STARTS: 50 Wins (21%).

**27% Stakes Horses/Starters**

Bred to 122 Mares in 2018-2019. Now Booking for 2020.

**\$7,500 LFSN/ \$5,000 to PA-Foaling Mares**

## See and Compare

**Average Earnings Per Start AEI/CI & dwarfs all other MidAtlantic Stallions!**

| Stallion                 | 2020 Stud Fee                       | #crops    | wins/starts | AE/starter      | AE/start       | 2019 AE/runner  | AE/CI            |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Uptowncharlybrown</b> | <b>\$7,500<br/>\$5,000 PA mares</b> | <b>6</b>  | <b>20%</b>  | <b>\$87,459</b> | <b>\$9,522</b> | <b>\$46,365</b> | <b>2.13/0.76</b> |
| <i>Jump Start</i>        | <i>\$10,000 deceased</i>            | <i>16</i> | <i>16%</i>  | <i>\$87,562</i> | <i>\$4,526</i> | <i>\$30,847</i> | <i>1.40/1.28</i> |
| Great Notion             | \$7,500                             | 14        | 17%         | \$81,214        | \$5,283        | \$32,204        | 1.13/1.21        |
| Warrior's Reward         | \$5,000                             | 8         | 14%         | \$51,875        | \$3,726        | \$18,760        | 1.04/1.34        |
| Friesan Fire             | \$4,000                             | 7         | 13%         | \$64,242        | \$4,103        | \$26,469        | 1.20/1.25        |

Sire of MSW **MIDTOWNCHARLYBROWN** \$489,048; GSW **DIXIE SERENADE** \$296,750; SW **MIDNIGHTCHARLY** \$349,808; SP **Wait for It** \$265,918; SP **Charlybrown's Rose** \$152,168; SP **Lula's Roadrunner** \$81,560.



**Diamond B Farm**

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# 2019 LEADING SIRES IN MARYLAND



For daily updated sire lists visit [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com)

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands                                   | 2019 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | BT SWnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)       | 2019 Earnings      | Cumulative |           |           |            |
|------|--|---------------|------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|      |  |               |            |               |                  |                                |                    | Foals      | Stks Wnrs | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | <b>GREAT NOTION</b> (00, Elusive Quality), Northview Stallion Station                  | \$7,500       | 89/49      | 3/7           | 3/3              | (Anna's Bandit, \$356,830)     | <b>\$2,924,941</b> | 335        | 22        | 1.51      | 1.21       |
| 2    | <b>FRIESAN FIRE</b> (06, A.P. Indy), Country Life Farm                                 | \$4,000       | 98/50      | 3/5           | 1/3              | (Call Paul, \$294,220)         | <b>\$2,604,807</b> | 227        | 6         | 1.19      | 1.25       |
| 3    | <b>NOT FOR LOVE</b> (90, Mr. Prospector)   | Died          | 47/34      | 1/2           | 0/1              | (Clubman, \$228,707)           | <b>\$1,905,886</b> | 975        | 82        | 1.65      | 1.43       |
| 4    | <b>STREET MAGICIAN</b> (04, Street Cry), Legacy Farm Stallions Standing at Roland Farm | \$2,000       | 58/26      | 1/1           | 0/1              | (So Street, \$158,933)         | <b>\$1,440,583</b> | 137        | 4         | 1.11      | 1.27       |
| 5    | <b>ORIENTATE</b> (98, Mt. Livermore)   | Pnsd          | 59/36      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (The Great Provider, \$99,604) | <b>\$1,393,450</b> | *845       | 32        | 1.23      | 1.56       |
| 6    | <b>SUPER NINETY NINE</b> (10, Pulpit), Country Life Farm                               | \$3,000       | 41/24      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Tommy Shelby, \$96,877)       | <b>\$1,088,295</b> | 63         | 0         | 0.95      | 1.36       |
| 7    | <b>SEVILLE (GER)</b> (08, Gailileo)  | Died          | 50/19      | 2/4           | 1/2              | (Las Setas, \$224,640)         | <b>\$1,041,639</b> | *147       | 2         | 0.55      | 1.26       |
| 8    | <b>REDEEMED</b> (08, Include), Northview Stallion Station                              | \$3,000       | 40/20      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Redeem My Heart, \$99,220)    | <b>\$922,402</b>   | 93         | 0         | 1.02      | 1.06       |
| 9    | <b>DESPITE THE ODDS</b> (06, Speightstown)   | N/A           | 38/23      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Port Louis, \$75,312)         | <b>\$909,090</b>   | 66         | 0         | 0.97      | 1.23       |
| 10   | <b>BANDBOX</b> (08, Tapit), Northview Stallion Station                                 | \$2,500       | 32/19      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Bunting, \$99,985)            | <b>\$873,543</b>   | 57         | 1         | 1.12      | 1.24       |

Berkelhammer believes it's only a matter of time that one of Polisseni's several mares, who are boarded at Becky Thomas' Sequel New York, will throw her a graded stakes winner.

"Wanda had a mare by the name of All Bridled who had a few foals who sniffed at being able to get her on the big stage," Berkelhammer said. "All Bridled has since died, but Wanda has a daughter out of her, Bridled Heiress, who also came close to some great things, but ended up getting hurt and was retired to be a broodmare. Bridled Heiress' babies are looking like they will carry on. That line, one of these days, is going to break through for Wanda."

All Bridled, a \$140,000 purchase by Polisseni at the 2005 Keeneland September yearling sale, was a daughter of Unbridled's Song produced by the Storm Cat mare Stormin' Home. She raced nine times, winning once for Polisseni while in the care of Todd Pletcher. Before she died, All Bridled had produced seven foals, including one of Polisseni's current runners,

the stakes-placed Heiressall, a 4-year-old daughter of Wildcat Heir. A four-time winner with \$172,653 in earnings, the Pompay-trained Heiressall finished second Nov. 9. in the Millions Distaff Stakes at Gulfstream Park West.

Horses are just one bond that Pompay and Polisseni share. Pompay's passion for exotic animals intrigued Polisseni, who has since acquired a diverse group of animals with her trainer's assistance. On the property of her Fairport, N.Y., home, Polisseni has an aviary filled with 60 exotic birds. Also part of her menagerie is a wallaby, a dwarf horse, and prairie dogs.

Pompay said Polisseni's approach to life is best described as indefatigable.

"Wanda is one of a kind, let me tell you. She never stops," Pompay said. "She's like a bird. She goes a 100 miles a day. You will be driving in the car with her and you will look over and she's taking a 10-minute cat nap, and then she wakes up and is back to going a hundred miles an hour."

Kim Delong, the president of the FLTAP,

said she always enjoys her encounters with Polisseni, whom she describes as a "really astute businesswoman. But she will also sit down and have chicken wings with you and just gab. She's very down to earth."

Polisseni, who has three children and five grandchildren, said her late husband would definitely have had something to say about her owning horses.

"He would kill me," she said with a chuckle. "He was so (careful about money). I know he's up in heaven, swearing at me all the time because I spend the money on the horses, even though he liked horses."

Polisseni is not just an advocate for horses. The family's Polisseni Foundation provides grants to renovate, enlarge, and update medical technologies at hospitals in western New York. The foundation also provided the funding for the construction of a 4,000-seat ice hockey arena—named the Gene Polisseni Center—at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

This holiday season Polisseni will continue her longtime tradition of decorating the outside of her home in spectacular fashion. The free event attracts thousands of visitors each year.

"I don't do things to be recognized," she said. "I want to be under the radar. Growing up, we had nothing, and I mean, nothing. So I empathize with everybody in the world. When I was growing up, you couldn't get healthcare; you couldn't get to the hospital. We just didn't have the amenities. I feel for all the people who have less than even adequate. Nobody knows how good I feel when I've done something for somebody. And they don't even have to know about it." **BH**

*Karen Johnson is a freelance writer based in New York.*



Polisseni's philanthropic endeavors extend beyond the equine world, providing grants for such things as upgrading medical facilities in western New York