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The Television Issue

Features



View From The Point

East Hampton & Mon-"talk"

TV Land

Television is not only my passion but also a part of my professional life. Just in case you didn't know, I have been hosting the American Dream® Show for about 8 years now and I'd like to share my insight and perspective on TV land.

It started on local access, LTV, just like Oprah and many others. It took a couple of dollars and my American Dream. On access television, they have to take you so long as you are not tasteless. So I visited Frazier Daugherty, who was then running LTV studios in Wainscot, and explained to him what my intention was. It didn't matter to him that I had an accent, nor did it matter that I was pretty. The bottom line: you've just gotta have guts. And, did I!

I wanted a voice and the most powerful institution to get one in the press. For five years I went into the studio every couple of weeks interviewing people from the local and Long Island scene. Before long, people began to recognize me on the street, in the post office, and at King Kullen.

Then I met the Schimizzi brothers who had started WVVH Hamptons Television, in September 1994. WVVH was the last licensed TV station on Long Island, and can be seen on Channel 78 and East End Cablevision Channel 78. The programming schedule is a freewheeling mix of quality family movies, news and sports. WVVH-TV's signature programming is local events. They offered me the opportunity to tape the shows at Gurneys, my home away from home, and my viewership tripled.

Greg is Chairman and Founder of WVVH-TV, and Ernie currently holds the position of president. In addition to working together to run the station, the brothers have also written a book together, established a television and motion picture production company, and hold a patent on a device for automobiles. Greg's wife, Francine, is an award-winning video editor at WVVH-TV, providing local programming to the station's 600,000 viewers on Long Island.

To add to their accomplishments, Hamptons TV is now offering streaming video—Hamptons TV 24/7. All it takes is a 56k modem and my sister Hildegard in Germany is able to watch me in a show celebrating the people's heritage, hopes, dreams and realities on Long Island. Guests like Professor Rodger Rosenblatt, Percy Heath, Tina S. Frederic, Dr. Herodotus "Dan" Damianos, Dr. Sinatra, Denise Kasel O'Reilly and Doris Roberts have appeared and will be appearing.

the show; we at Gurney's Inn Resort, Spa & Conference Center ourselves as the only resort with its own talk show. The show is filmed live, once a month at the inn, with the mighty Atlantic Ocean as our backdrop. A live audience is welcome and encouraged to participate, and they do—houseguests and day-trippers alike show up to watch the show's tapings regularly.

On the set, "The American Dream Chairs" change every week, giving furniture designers the chance to be exposed to 60 Hampton's households. Sometimes, as in the case of the president's Montauk Sofa Tim Zyto, a designer is featured sitting on his own creations. Now people recognize me in the post office, on 40th Street in New London, on Shelter Island...

Ingrid Lemme is the Host of The American Dream Show, Managing Director of Gurney's Inn, and IHM's Improper voice covering Manhattan and East Hampton.