



The Mane Event

PHOTO PROVIDED

For the past eight years, Mount Airy resident **Shari Glickman** has been involved in the Potomac Valley Dressage Association Ride for Life to benefit the Johns Hopkins Avon Foundation Breast Center. The event — held this year June 24 and 25 at the Prince George's Equestrian Center, 14900 Pennsylvania Ave. in Upper Marlboro — has become one of the premier equestrian events on the East Coast. A number of former Olympians join other top riders in this two-day affair, featuring a U.S. Dressage Foundation-recognized dressage and dancing horse competition. Glickman, owner of GoodNess Ridge Farm, which breeds sports horses and provides training, is the PVDA's Ride for Life auction chair.

— Rochelle Eisenberg

Dressage?

Dressage is the French word for training. It's one of the Olympic disciplines. It looks like the horse is dancing. The horse is doing movements independently of the rider. It is judged like figure skating on a scale of one to 10.

Dancin' horse competition?

Horses do freestyle routines set to music. It's also judged on a scale of one to 10. Judges go through many years of schooling to learn how to judge. We also are allowing the audience, through monetary bids, to pick which act is their favorite.

Olympians?

Former Olympians Courtney King-Dye and Debbie McDonald will be there. Also, Shannon Dueck, who has a strong chance to compete in the upcoming Olympics in London, will be there.

When did you begin riding?

I started riding as an adult. My parents thought it was way too expensive and encouraged me to get a good job and pay for it myself.

This event has special meaning for you this year?

When I started with it in 2004, I didn't have anyone in my life affected by breast cancer. Then, my closest friend was diagnosed and treated successfully. I felt good about being involved in a group that raised money for it. The silent auction raises between \$12,000 and \$15,000. In November, my sister, who I am very, very close with, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She lives in Virginia and is being treated at a Hopkins-affiliated [institution]. The point of the show is that everybody is affected at some time.

What's it like to be Jewish in a small community?

It's funny. I am Jewish, live in Mount Airy in Frederick County and live on a farm. I doubt I have a lot of Jewish neighbors. It's a different experience for me. I grew up in Northbrook, Ill., where there were a lot of Jews, and I came from Montgomery County. To afford a horse farm, I had to move out of my ethnic comfort zone. Now I'm a farm girl. □

For information on the Ride for Life, go to pvdarideforlife.org.