

offer a value to our customers. We will not be carrying the same merchandise as the discount stores. We want our customers to find items that they have not seen in other stores. For example, wood carvings done by a local artist and our artwork... we'll offer original art and prints framed and unframed. Prices on our artwork range from \$29.00 to \$1,000.00. Also, commissioned artwork is available."

Jackie and Mike live in Mound. "I have lived in Mound for the past 4 years. Mike and I have found Mound to be a very friendly community. We were not planning on moving from our home in Maple Grove, but we happened to find the perfect home for us. Lake living is an important part of our life. We enjoy boating, swimming, fishing and entertaining on Lake Minnetonka. I like the small town feeling of Mound and would love to see more boutique stores move into the downtown. I am hoping that our store will encourage the addition of more unique stores." She hopes that their store is successful and for the community of Mound. "If our concept works we plan on being open November thru January, close for 2 months and reopen for spring and summer Season April thru June... reopening again in September. Our Store



hours are Thursday and Friday 9am-7pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am-4pm." New merchandise will arrive each week, she says and she says that, "...the Holiday Season is all about Happiness, Joy, Peace and being with friends and family! Hopefully our store will offer our customers ideas for making their homes filled with joy, peace, happiness and fun with family and friends. We are so excited to bring SEASONS to the city of Mound!"

Stop by 2189 Commerce Boulevard next to Scotty B's in the Mound Marketplace and visit Seasons this holiday season. Meet Jackie and Mike Peters, Mound residents offering a new exciting shopping experience to lake people.



## The Magic of Suzanne How she became a full-time Magician

By David Keiski

I met Suzanne while dining at Gianni's Steakhouse on East Lake Street in Wayzata years ago. She is a captivating, and as well, charming magician who makes your dining experience extra special on a lake night out. We had a chance to catch up



recently. Here's our conversation... consider her for a Gianni's lake night out. She performs there most Wednesdays, Thursday and Fridays, unless you or someone else books her for a private party or corporate function!

### What's your history in business, and in general?

I went to college in Battle Creek, Michigan (where I grew up) to be a computer programmer. I worked at State Farm Insurance Company in Marshall, Michigan in the Data Processing Department during and after college. I followed my then boyfriend (now husband) to Minneapolis in the early 80's to pursue a career as a computer programmer.

### What got you into magic?

There isn't really one thing that got me into magic. I've always enjoyed puzzles and brain teasers and magic seemed like a logical next step. I played with magic a little before I moved to Minneapolis but I didn't really think of it as magic. I thought it was just little card tricks. Then I was chatting with some guy who was in Boston over a gaming network (this was before the World Wide Web) and he told me that he was a professional magician. I thought that sounded pretty cool and he suggested I check out the local magic club. He gave me the name of the president of the club and I went to the next meeting. There I met Al Schneider, the man who became my mentor. That was a very pivotal time in my life. I didn't know enough about magic to have picked up any bad habits so Al had pretty much a clean slate to work with. He is a very demanding and technically minded instructor. After studying intensely with him for 3 months, I started working at a couple of Ground Round Restaurants and

was really hooked on performing. A year after that I met Tobie Nidetz and he hired me to work at Ruperts/American Cafe'. I ended up getting so many private and corporate shows from that exposure that I could quit my job as a computer programmer and just do magic full time. What a dream!

### Where are the coolest places you've performed?

- The Magic Castle in Hollywood

great showcase for my magic. If people are interested in hiring me for a show, they can come and see me work at Gianni's first. It's a great win/win for the Gianni's/Suzanne team. They get new people to come into their restaurant and I have a great place to showcase my magic.

### What about your personal life, family, kids etc.?

I've been married to my sweet husband since 1986 and we have a very cool 17 year old son. My husband Louis is a software engineer for Minnetonka Audio Software and he's also a wonderful musician. Our son Ian is also a musician. Right now he plays upright bass for the Minnesota Youth Symphony (this is his second year) and he played for three years with the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony. He's a junior at Perpich Center for Arts Education in Golden Valley. We have a funny little mini dachshund named Killer and I have an amazing quarter horse named Onyx.

### What's in the future for your magic?

I feel very fortunate that I absolutely love my job and people enjoy playing with me. I see myself continuing in restaurant magic and discovering more and more corporate and private clients. I'm looking forward to finding more venues for the show I perform at the Magic Castle. I wouldn't turn down the Craig Furguson show, but I don't want to move to either one of the coasts.

- Ron MacMillian's International Day of Magic in London (it's an annual magic convention and they hired me to perform for it)

- I worked for a month on a cruise ship in the Bahamas (it was really cool but I don't think I would want to be away from home that long again)

- There are always really fun house parties around Lake Minnetonka! Too many to mention!

- I was hired by Jim Kleinsasser (from the MN Vikings). He was throwing a birthday party for his girlfriend. I didn't know who he was until the show because I don't watch football. haha I showed up like it was any other party and there were a bunch of really big guys there and I thought "Hmm this must be some sort of sports team!" - hee hee - That was a very fun party.

### Can you tell me about your Gianni's performances and how long you've been working there?

I started working at Gianni's in 1996 when they opened. I was brought in by Tobie Nidetz who started the menu for Gianni's. I worked with Tobie first at Ruperts/American Cafe' where he was the GM/head chef and then at his own place, Tobie's Tavern. When Tom Webster was opening Gianni's, Tobie thought magic would be a good fit so he called me and I've been there ever since. I love working at Gianni's. It's a fun atmosphere, I love the staff, we're like family! I love seeing the regulars and meeting new people who come in. Gianni's is a



### Is there anything else we can mention about private parties, booking you for home parties, company holiday parties, fundraisers???

I really enjoy performing magic in people's homes. There are two types of magic I can do for that setting. Strolling and Parlor. Strolling magic is when I mingle with the guests and do magic for small groups at a time. My favorite show is the Parlor show where

everyone watches all at once. It's the one I perform when I'm at the Magic Castle. If there are a lot of people at the party and you can't fit everyone in one room, it's really cool to have show times, and do more than one show in the evening. One room can be the dedicated theater. I sometimes do the show 2-4 times in the evening, depending on how many people are at the party. With corporate parties I tailor what I say to fit the business, especially if it's a sales and training meeting. Being able to mix in some of the industry buzz words really keeps the topic fresh.

To book Suzanne for a private or corporate party call 763-458-9591 or send her an email at [suzanne@suzmagic.com](mailto:suzanne@suzmagic.com) Don't forget to check her web page [www.suzmagic.com](http://www.suzmagic.com)! Gianni's is a great showcase for her magic. See her work at Gianni's first. It's a great win/win for the Gianni's/Suzanne team.