



Who is Pittsburgh Zoo Retail Operations Manager Jamie Malta?

Many say that if you look at the magazines a person reads on a regular basis, you can get a good idea of what type of person she is.

Pittsburgh Zoo Retail Operations Manager Jamie Malta reads everything from *Time* to *National Geographic* as well as *Women's Health*, *Glamour*, *Cosmopolitan* and even *Rolling Stones*.

Now what does that tell you about Jamie?

1. She has an interest in the world around her, such as politics and world news as well as other cultures and the environment. Jamie loves to travel. She has traveled all over the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe. A favorite country is Italy where she has visited several times and from where her father immigrated to this country. One day Jamie wants to go to Egypt and visit many of the 138 pyramids discovered. "It's just mind blowing how the pyramids were built," she said. Another country on her list to visit is the beautiful island of Japan where she wants to experience its fascinating diversity and beauty.

2. She believes in being healthy both physically and emotionally. Jamie likes spinning classes, not a surprise as her favorite toy as a child was her bike. She and her cousins would ride to local parks to play. She also enjoys reading. Favorite activities include going out to dinner with friends who make her laugh and spending time with her family.

3. She likes to keep current on what's happening in fashion and beauty as well as what's happening in pop culture. Her favorite entertainer is one of America's most successful singer-songwriters, Neil Diamond. She has seen him perform three times, and her mother loved Neil so much Jamie's name was supposed to be "Caroline." Jamie also enjoys other entertainers, such as Motown artists, 80s hair bands, the "Rat Pack," featuring Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. as well as the most current pop and rock tunes.

With her eclectic taste in magazines, it's not surprising when Jamie watches TV, it's turned to the Bravo channel with its original programming from hot cuisine to haute couture delivering the best in food, fashion, beauty, design and pop culture.

Jamie's background

Jamie was born and raised in Pittsburgh. She left the second largest city in Pennsylvania to attend John Carroll, a private Catholic and Jesuit university in Cleveland. After graduating with a degree in English and Political Science, Jamie promptly returned to the city of her birth and took a job in the industry favored by her parents, brother and several other relatives - a bank. She lasted one year before she went back working in the service industry. Jamie



Jamie, pictured with her brother and a cousin, spent a lot of time with their Nanna and Nanno - providing lifetime memories.

said, "I'm definitely a people person. I like to help people and be out in the mix of things." As a result, she returned to where she worked during college, the Hard Rock Café, and became a serving manager. The job was fun, high energy and definitely a unique experience where she met an array of celebrities and musicians.



Jamie believes in working hard, then playing hard.

Her first paid job was as a nanny. She took care of the every day needs of six, sometimes even 10 youngsters. The group had two sets of twins. Four of her younger cousins lived next door and would usually join their neighbors to play. As it takes a sense of humor and a lot of patience to be a nanny, Jamie used her happy "go with the flow" personality to entertain and supervise the gang. Jamie credits her nanny experiences in developing her work ethic, management skills and multitasking ability.

During high school and college, Jamie worked in retail. She said the smartest thing she has ever done was to take the job with Service Systems Associates at the Pittsburgh Zoo in 2006. And her parents agree. After accepting the job, Jamie and her parents were taken on a behind-the-scenes VIP tour of the zoo. After a close encounter with the polar bears, her dad told her she had the coolest job ever! However, she shared she would trade her job for one as a concert promoter.

As the only girl among several boy cousins and her brother, Jamie quickly learned to stand up for herself and be the voice of reason by telling her playmates not to do something silly. However, within a few minutes she usually caved in and joined in the fun antics, which when looking back turned out to be great memories and stories. She shared that friends and family would describe her as an outgoing, loving and energetic person who is funny.

Three things that may surprise you about Jamie

1. She played violin for 12 years. She was a member of the Golden Strolling Strings, and they were the first string ensemble to play at Walt Disney World.
2. She played lacrosse in college, much to her mother's dismay. Mom worried about the potential injuries to Jamie's teeth after thousands of dollars were spent on orthodontics.
3. She got red and pink cherry blossoms tattooed on the top of her left foot when she was at the Dallas Zoo to help train the new retail staff. This decorative process usually takes two to three sessions, and she did it in one. This feat resulted in a sore foot and a limp for several days.

