



## **Meet the Author**

### **Jerry Gladstone**

Author Jerry Gladstone is considered to be an expert in helping people overcome adversity, building self-worth and is described by some as “America’s Master Motivator.” Jerry has used his abilities as a business consultant, author, motivational speaker, and success coach (certified by the International Coach Federation) to enhance the lives of others. He is also the founder of The Common Thread Success Academy.

Jerry Gladstone was born in Brooklyn, New York, grew up in Massapequa Park, Long Island, and currently resides in Florida with his wife Brooke and 3 children. Like many, Jerry's beginnings were humble. "My parents were married for over 50 years, they did not have a lot as far as material things, but the one thing they said they knew how to do was love my two sisters and me - and that is exactly what they did," said Jerry. "They instilled great values, compassion, and a belief system that I still depend on today."

Despite this, as a youngster Jerry had very low self-esteem, was overweight, never did well in school, and like many teenagers, always seemed to be in trouble for one thing or another. If you were to ask Jerry, he would tell you he would most likely been voted “most likely not to succeed.”

However, sports taught Jerry that determination, dedication, and loving what you do can take you very far. As a young boy, Jerry played just about every sport, from football, to wrestling, to basketball. Over the years, Jerry earned a black belt from Sensei Anthony Arango from the Martial Arts Institute, nurtured a love of competition, and has very much enjoyed teaching karate, running marathons and triathlons, and played semi-pro football for the Brooklyn Mariners. Jerry continues to pursue martial arts, participating in MMA and still, at the age of 54, rolls around the mat with 20 year olds.

Jerry attended the University of Rhode Island on a football scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. Soon after college Jerry started his own business with a \$2000 investment. While Jerry grew his company, his strengths in leadership and marketing helped him to build an international business that specialized in the production, distribution and marketing of a wide variety of entertainment fine art. Jerry successfully negotiated a deal which led to the sale of his company to the multi-national powerhouse Getty Images. Years later, Jerry reacquired the company.

Like other executives, Jerry faced his fair share of obstacles and adversity during his career. Early on, Jerry was turned down by the Walt Disney Company for more than 3 years for the right to offer their artwork. As written about in the best-selling book by Jeff Keller, *Attitude is Everything*, Jerry stuck with it and was not only awarded a Disney agreement to offer their artwork, but Jerry and his company became the company's largest distributor for more than 15 years. Eventually Jerry was asked to serve on the Disney animation art advisory board.

During his 25-year career, Jerry has spent a significant amount of time interacting with and interviewing Academy Award and Grammy Winners, Super Bowl and World Series Champions, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Legends, Best-selling Authors, Olympians, Boxing, UFC World Champions and even Billionaires.

He has had signing agreements with Upper Deck's Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan, and has been honored to meet and work with Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Joe Namath, UFC Champions Chuck Liddell, Randy Couture, George St- Pierre and Anderson Silva, as well as Hollywood icons Seth MacFarlane, Sylvester Stallone and many singer-songwriters, as well as a host of very successful business people.

Jerry always felt it was a true privilege to be associated with these celebrities and was able to get to know some of these icons on a very personal level. Jerry wanted to share his experiences with everyone he knew so others could gain the same insight and wisdom he had learned.

Jerry was fortunate to get into detailed conversations on what makes these successful people tick, the reasons behind their reaching such a high level of success, and whether they were "special" or did things differently than the average person. "I was fairly amazed that just like you and I these celebrities - who many hold up on a pedestal - face the same struggles, trials, tribulations and adversities that we do," said Jerry.

He soon realized there was a common way, a common theme and a "Common Thread" that many of these individuals shared. Thus, he was inspired to take these interviews and insights from the people who were so willing to share their experiences with him and write *THE COMMON THREAD of Overcoming Adversity and Living Your Dreams*, hoping readers become inspired and ready to take on their biggest challenges and reach their fullest potential, whatever that may be.