



# PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter  
*We ARE Pennsylvania Racing*

2017 Issue #1

## New PTHA Board Takes Office

### Election Results

#### President

Salvatore M. DeBunda 316

#### Trainer Directors

John C. Servis 317  
 Philip Aristone 316  
 Kathleen DeMasi 312  
 Ronald Glorioso 308  
 Robert E. Reid, Jr. 305

#### Owner Directors

Dr. Steven Appel 306  
 Michael P. Ballezzi 288  
 Nicholas J. Saponara 273  
 Lisa Allen 255  
 Charles Asensio 235  
 Wendy Mutnik Preciado 234

The new members of the PTHA Board were decided after an evening of counting ballots at the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce on January 6, 2017.

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq., will commence his third straight term as PTHA President. Also re-instated and holding the same positions are Executive Director Michael P. Ballezzi, Esq., who has served on the Board for 21 years, and owner Steven Appel, continuing as First Vice President. Trainer Phil Aristone is now Second Vice President, while owner Nicholas Saponara is the new Treasurer. Rounding out the veteran portion of the Board are longtime members Lisa Allen, Kathleen DeMasi, Ronald Glorioso, Robert "Butch" Reid, Jr., and John Servis.

New to the PTHA Board is owner Charles Asensio. Read his profile on page 5.

## 2016 Parx Racing Leaders



#### OWNER

Ten Strike Racing  
 100-33-17-17  
 \$905,254



#### TRAINER

Patricia Farro  
 652-97-112-96  
 \$3,385,948



#### JOCKEY

Frankie Pennington  
 640-103-127-97  
 \$4,587,554



#### APPRENTICE JOCKEY

Luis M. Ocasio  
 437-85-66-57  
 \$2,455,183



#### WINNINGEST HORSE

Broadway Bay  
 10-7-0-0  
 \$198,095

Photos: Nikki Sherman, Ana Cascio



## President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

I would like to congratulate our returning Board members, as well as welcome new Owner/Director Charles Asensio. I am especially grateful for re-election by our PTHA Members as President for a third term. I am looking forward to working together over the next three years.

One particular issue of importance is the state budget for fiscal year 2016-2017. This spring, Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and I will be spending much of our efforts dedicated to the continual challenge that exists in order for us to safely protect the funding of our industry in Pennsylvania.

Now that we have moved on to a new year, it allows us to remember the outstanding individuals of last year. Please join us for the annual Horsemen's Awards banquet on March 29. This year marks a

return to a perennial favorite location, Celebrations. Ticket prices have also been reduced to \$20 each and the time has been moved to 5:30 pm. With these small changes, we are gearing up for a full house and plenty of fun! Purchase your tickets early at the PTHA office or send a check made out to the PTHA with your ticket requests.

We also experienced two impressive milestones since our last PTHA News. Turning for Home has now assisted with the safe retirement of more than 2,000 horses - in less than ten years of existence. What an incredible feat, and to know that these horses are protected through stellar contracts is truly fantastic. And of course, perhaps the most exciting news of all - the Pennsylvania Derby is now a deserved Grade 1. Congratulations to everyone who made this upgrade possible!

*Salvatore M. DeBunda*



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# Around the Parx Oval



Photos: Nikki Sherman

**Do you have any photos for Around the Parx Oval?**

Send them over via email to [nsherman@patha.org](mailto:nsherman@patha.org) or share on our Facebook page!



## News from the THA:

### The New Out-of-Competition Rule - What Every Owner, Trainer and Veterinarian Needs to Know

The THA is the parent organization of the PTHA. The THA brings together the PTHA with other member organizations from DE, IL, MD, NJ and NY.

One Corporate Center, 10451 Mill Run Circle, Suite 400, Owings Mills, MD 21117

410-356-8866 • [www.tharacing.com](http://www.tharacing.com)

During the coming months, racing jurisdictions throughout the country will be modifying or adopting the new out-of-competition testing rule that was adopted by the Association of Racing Commissioners International on Dec. 9, 2016. The new rule was the product of an extensive collaborative effort by industry organizations, regulators, regulatory attorneys and the scientific community to identify the substances that need to be prohibited or regulated for horses in training and to implement comprehensive procedures to ensure that the rule is effective and legally enforceable.

Under the current model rule, the only substances prohibited in out-of-competition testing are blood- and gene-doping agents such as EPO, and protein and peptide-based drugs. The new rule expands the list of prohibited substances in training to mirror the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List—including anabolic steroids—and gives horsemen and veterinarians a comprehensive list of prohibited substances.

For a limited number of prohibited substances that have some identified therapeutic purpose, strict reporting and racing restrictions are provided. Additionally, the new rule provides clear procedures for the uniform regulation and enforcement of the rule.

The THA has been a strong proponent of the new expanded rule. We believe it should become the fifth prong of the National Uniform Medication Program and intend to support its swift enactment in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern regions.

Here is important information about the new rule that you need to know:

A racing commission can collect an out-of-competition sample for cause or within the discretion of a commission, at any reasonable time and without advance notice, and where the horse from whom the sample is sought is located, whether on or off racetrack property.

Owners and trainers, as a condition of licensing, shall be deemed to have consented to access to the premises

where the horse is located for purposes of an out-of-competition test. Consent is granted solely for purposes of collecting the out-of-competition samples from the horse, and no other search is permitted.

A horse is eligible to be out-of-competition tested if:

- It is on the grounds of a racetrack or training center;
- It is under the care of a licensed trainer and owned by a licensed owner;
- It is entered or nominated to race;
- It has raced within the previous 12 months;
- It is nominated to a state breeders' fund or sire stakes program

A racing commission can permit the trainer or owner of a horse not located on racetrack property to present the horse for testing at a time and location agreed to by the commission.

A racing commission can request and arrange for the testing of an out-of-state horse by the racing commission in the jurisdiction where the horse is located. The same rules and procedures apply.

An owner and trainer, and their personnel and agents, must fully cooperate in the collection of the samples. Refusal to cooperate or willfully deceptive acts or interference in sampling will result in a minimum license suspension of one year and placement of the horse on the stewards' list for six months.

If an owner or trainer assert that the horse is no longer in training and the horse is therefore not sampled, the horse will be placed on the stewards' list for six months, unless the owner or trainer voluntarily submit the horse for sampling when requested.

The samples will be screened for the presence of substances on the out-of-competition testing Prohibited List. The presence and confirmation of a substance on the Prohibited List is a rules violation and subjects the offending trainer and owner to the penalties prescribed for racing medication violations and the points under the



## Multiple Medication Violation Penalty System.

The collection of samples will be performed by a commission designee and according to strict regulatory protocols. Chain-of-custody procedures apply. Split and referee sample rules will apply.

### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBSTANCES ON THE PROHIBITED LIST:

If the selected horse has been treated with furosemide (also called Lasix or Salix) a veterinarian's prescription and treatment plan must be provided.

If a horse subject to out-of-competition testing needs to be treated with the anabolic steroids **boldenone**, **nandrolone**, **stanozolol** and **testosterone**, such treatment must be reported to the commission, prescribed by a veterinarian, a treatment plan must be provided at the time of sampling, and the horse must be placed on the vet's list for six months.

If the selected horse has been treated with **albuterol**, a veterinarian's prescription must be provided.

If the selected horse has been treated with **clenbuterol**, a veterinarian's prescription and treatment plan must be provided.

If the selected horse has been treated with **Autologous Conditioned Plasma (IRAP)** or **Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)**, the treatment must be reported at the time of sampling and a veterinarian's prescription must be provided.

If the selected horse has been treated with an **Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone (ACTH)**, a veterinarian's prescription and treatment plan must be provided.

If the selected horse has been treated with a **Luteinizing Hormone**, such treatment must be reported to the commission, a veterinarian's prescription and treatment plan must be provided, the trainer must receive written approval from the commission, and the horse must be placed on the vet's list for 60 days.

If the selected horse has been treated with **Chorionic Gonadotropin**, such treatment must be reported to the commission, a veterinarian's prescription and treatment plan must be provided, the trainer must receive written approval from the commission, and the horse must be

placed on the vet's list for 60 days.

If the selected horse has been treated with **Mesenchymal Stem Cells**, such treatment must be reported to the commission, must be reported at the time of sampling, and a veterinarian's prescription must be provided.

If a horse (fillies and mares) has been treated with **Altrenogest**, a veterinarian's prescription must be provided at the time of sampling.

If a horse has been treated with **blood replacements**, an Emergency Use Report must be filed with the commission, the treatment must be reported at the time of sampling, and a veterinarian's prescription must be provided.

If a horse has been treated with **Nucleic Polymer Transfers**, such treatment must be reported to the commission, a veterinarian's prescription and treatment plan must be provided, and the trainer must receive written approval from the commission.

If a horse has been treated with **thyroxine**, such treatment must be reported to the commission, a veterinarian's prescription and treatment plan must be provided, and the trainer must receive written approval from the commission.

If a horse has been treated with **SO (not FDA-approved)** the treatment must be prescribed by a veterinarian and approved in writing by the commission.

If a horse has been treated with **trichlormethiazide**, the treatment must be prescribed by a veterinarian and reported at the time of sampling.

If a horse has been treated with any **diuretic** other than furosemide, the treatment must be prescribed by a veterinarian, reported at the time of sampling, and an Emergency Use Report filed with the commission.

The complete out-of-competition testing rule as well as the Prohibited List and Required Conditions for Restricted Therapeutic Use chart are available on the THA website, <http://www.tharacing.com>.

If you have any questions about the new rule or compliance with the Prohibited List, contact your racing commission or equine medical director. You can also call Racing Medication and Testing Consortium Executive Director Dr. Dionne Benson at (859) 224 2844.

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# Parx Racing Roundup



Photo: Barbara Weidl | EQUI-PHOTO

## MILESTONE

Longtime Parx horseman Richard Vega captured his 1,000th career victory as a trainer on December 11, 2016 when Masio held off a late surge by Girls and Guns to win a \$40,000 claiming race at Parx Racing. Vega also had to survive an objection regarding interference at the start before the milestone became official. Carlota Stable and Spyradon Karagiannis's Masio is a daughter of Put It Back and was ridden by J.D. Acosta. Vega came to the

United States from his native Cuba in 1980 and moved his way up the ranks, eventually taking out his trainer's license in Florida. He moved north in 1984 and quickly became a staple in Philadelphia.

## PA DERBY NOW A GRADE 1

The American Graded Stakes Committee unanimously voted to upgrade the \$1 million Pennsylvania Derby, making it the second Grade 1 stakes in the state along with the Cotillion Stakes. The PA Derby has attracted some of the nation's top sophomores in recent years, including California Chrome, Nyquist, Bayern, Frosted and Will Take Charge.

"We're very gratified that the Committee has now recognized the race as being one of the premier races in the country," said Joe Wilson, COO of Parx Racing. "It's the culmination of a lot of hard work, persistence and dedication of a lot of people here at Parx. Sam Elliott and his team continue to do a tremendous job with this race as well as all of our races. We'd also like to thank the PTHA for their continued contribution and support of our races. We're obviously thrilled."



Photo: Nikki Sherman



Photo: Nikki Sherman

## PA NURSERY

Buttonwood Farm's Downhill Racer surged past a game Heat Dome to remain undefeated with a victory in the \$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes on December 3, 2016 at Parx Racing. Under an excellent ride by Andrew Wolfson, the two-year-old son of Jump Start overcame adversity while caught behind horses at the quarter pole, squeezing through a late-opening hole on the rail to win by a neck. Downhill Racer is out of the stakes-placed Consolidator mare Encore Saritta and was bred in Pennsylvania by Mr. & Mrs. Rodman Moorhead III. Jonathan Sheppard has trained the colt to two straight victories for lifetime earnings of \$94,980.

## ATTENTION TRAINERS

Please make sure to submit your 2017 badge list to both Chris Forbes for validation **AND** PTHA Benefits Coordinator Amanda-Kate Lenzi at the PTHA. Stable employees will not be eligible for health, dental or eyecare benefits until all paperwork has been properly filed. Take care of it early so that your employees can be ready for medical care at any time.

# Horseman's Profile: Charles Asensio



Photo: Nikki Sherman

**Charles Asensio** speaks during the Meet the Candidates session on November 26, 2016.

*Carlos "Charles" Asensio joins the PTHA Board in 2017 as an Owner/Director. He has been involved in the horse racing industry for decades as a fan, and has now been an owner for five years. He races under the name Alexandria Stable. He brings a wealth of experience as a lobbyist during a career that has allowed him to meet such influential people as former United States presidents George W. Bush and Ronald Reagan, as well as "the coolest, most relaxed, yet confident man, the Dalai Lama". On February 3, 2017, Charles Asensio sat down with PTHA Marketing Director Nikki Sherman for an interview.*

## **Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

A: I was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, and went to Boston when I was very young, five and a half years old. Then we moved to Northeast Philadelphia when I was about nine years old. I was raised most of my life in the Philadelphia area, except when my wife and I got married and we decided to move to the thriving Atlanta, Georgia. I got involved with politics and I, along with Anna Cablik, created the model that went nationwide for recruiting Hispanic voters; that resulted in George W. Bush ended up getting the highest number of Hispanics voting for a Republican. I didn't want to work in D.C. but worked close enough with the administration that I could experience the interaction and understand it more. I've always believed that you have to work hard and never take anything for granted. It's not given away. Which gives me the opportunity to own horses. It's interesting, it's so soothing, so relaxing, so refreshing - as soon as you walk into that barn and they look at you - they're happy.

## **Q: When did you become interested in horse racing?**

A: When I was a kid, my dad would take us to Keystone Racetrack. I enjoyed it. I met John (Servis) years and years ago, way before Smarty. I'm talking when (John's son) Tyler and my daughter were about four years old. And then we started following him, listening to his stories, and going back to the barn periodically. Certainly we would go to the track, whether it was here in Pennsylvania or in Florida where my residence is, and found it interesting. I was

intrigued by the handicapping and learning to read those programs. I've been to Kentucky for the auction there. Going to auctions with John - you'd better have roller skates because he walks so fast! I've never seen a man walk so fast; cover so much ground - and he's not a six-footer! So halfway through the auction I said, I'm sitting down. I'm not going any more!

## **Q: And when did you make the jump to horse ownership?**

A: I had expressed interest for a long time, so five years ago John sent me a text and said he might have a horse for us. I came to see Bellamy Beach, which was a Bellamy Road colt. He had raced but hadn't broken his maiden yet. Long story short, John put him in a race. So it's the first horse I've ever owned, the first race, and I said to my wife, I've got to watch this. Lo and behold, he breaks his maiden and wins the race. I got calls by everyone - 'How does it feel?! You are batting 1000%!'

We've also certainly experienced the ups and downs of horse ownership. I've worked with Turning for Home and given them one horse (Arecibo). Not enough publicity is given to Leslie Molinari too - she found a great home for Bellamy Beach.

## **Q: Who would you say your best horse is?**

A: I own Someday Jones with Will and Lou from Main Line Stables. When I saw Someday in South Carolina, when he had just turned two, I was really impressed with him. He just was bigger than Smarty but just looked impressive - bigger neck, bigger chest -



he just walked with a certain level of confidence, even as a two-year-old! Unfortunately we ran into some snags but now he's doing really well. In fact, he just won. We were in Florida, and I think between my wife and Sherry (Servis), we woke up the neighborhood!

**Q: What made you want to run for the PTHA Board?**

A: A few months ago John approached me and asked if I wanted to run for the Board. He said 'I thought you could help us', knowing that I'm a lobbyist, primarily in Washington, D.C. I said sure, if you think I could help. He said based on our conversations - not just at the barn - but based on conversations we've had while out to dinner. He did say to me, I know you've been wanting to go to Saratoga. He goes, for what it's worth, if you get elected, you will definitely go to Saratoga! Luckily, I knew enough people to vote for me, and some of John's owners that know me were gracious enough to support me. It was a VERY close race. I'm looking forward to

being on the Board. I think certainly the organization is at a point that the monetary numbers here warrant close scrutiny and working closely with legislators. I believe that Parx has an enormous opportunity to become one of the leading - if not already - racetracks in the country. Glad to hear about the improvements to the barns, the paving. I went to visit some of the quarters where some of the folks actually stay and was very impressed. Glad to hear that they're looking to improve the administration building. There should be more than enough money to build something that everyone can be proud of.

**Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?**

A: If there is a handicap that I have, it's that my wife ends up falling in love with these guys. I have a filly who's three years old named Lucy in Disguise; I named her after my wife who is Lucille. It's become a passion, that not only comes from me but also my family enjoys it too, which makes it that much more worthwhile.



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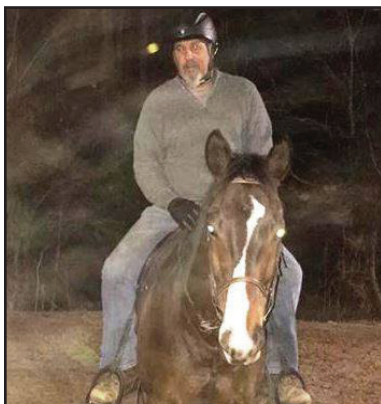


## 2016 Year in Review

### Thoughts from Program Administrator Danielle Montgomery

Turning for Home, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to find homes for Parx Racing's retiring thoroughbreds.

P.O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020 • 267-223-3418 • [www.turningforhome.org](http://www.turningforhome.org)



Don & Nicole of **Jumping H Farm** fell in love with **Curve Ball** during his rehab at their farm and decided to keep him as their own



**Gealousdina** rehabbed at **Black Oak Farm** and is now a pleasure horse



**Smirk** became a beloved school horse at Essex Technical High School

As we head into our tenth year leading the industry in on-track racehorse retirement, we want to again thank our horsemen for their continued support. Through January of 2017, 2,008 horses have been awarded safe retirement, with 226 new retirees going through our program in 2016.

The PTHA's Turning for Home, Inc., led by the genius of Executive Director Michael Ballezzi, opened its (stall) doors in May of 2008 in response to the appalling horse slaughter situation in America. In 2007, U.S. slaughterhouses were closed, and to this day roughly 130,000 young, healthy horses each year are hauled to Canada and Mexico to be killed, butchered and exported to Russia, Europe or Asia for human consumption. The controversial issue regarding the disposal of unwanted horses is America remains locked in the legislature, as no one will vote for the re-opening of slaughterhouses in America, and no one will vote against it. Still, these iconic animals are forced to make long trips piled inside trucks to pens where they are examined by foreign veterinarians before they cross the borders.

Parx Racing has led the way with measures to hold owners accountable for dumping horses at auctions frequented by kill buyers. Turning for Home's policy to take in all eligible Parx horses in order to evaluate, rehabilitate, retrain and rehome them gives our horsemen a safe alternative to slaughter.

Integral to the success of our program are our Partner Farms. By design, we do not own or operate our own farm, thus incurring those expenses and liability, but we do send our horses out to approved, monitored Partner Farms along with a set stipend to give the horses a fresh start. Long-time Partner Farms such as Black Oak Farm, Castle Rock Farm, After the Races, Jumping H Farm, Full Gallop Farm, Maui Meadow Farm and Safe Haven Equine are all thriving and handle the bulk of our incoming horses. Whether a Partner Farm takes two horses a year or two horses a month, they are just as important for keeping our waiting lists short and handling the special cases. We have added new Partner Farms closer to the track in Pottstown, PA and Furlong, PA, and we are excited to soon be expanding our reach into New England again in April with the addition of Cardinal Ridge Equestrian Center, run by a daughter of our own Grade 1-winning trainer Ned Allard.

Total horse care costs for such rehabilitation, retraining and rehomeing, shipping, relocation and veterinary costs for our program in 2016 were \$342,697.83, which averages \$1,500 per horse and reflects savings of \$74,548.08 from the previous year. Fundraising was up by \$30,000, which helped us to be able to take care of every horse sent our way, and is partly due to the success of our Turning for Home Day in June, which has become our biggest Fundraiser, bringing in \$24,000 in just its 3rd year.



We ask for your continued support for the event, which generates a lot of positive publicity for racing. It is a great day for all of us to come together and celebrate the many second careers we have helped provide, as well as give everyone an opportunity to meet our Partner Farms and adopters.

Parx Racing's Owners and Jockeys were the first in the nation to jump up and support a track-wide retirement program for their horses. A decade later, our horsemen have been rewarded by their confidence in our program, which, in our opinion, is the preeminent racehorse retirement program of any racetrack. Continued funding helps us keep our pledge not to turn any eligible horse away.

In January of 2017, Turning for Home



**Smarty Never Quits** is our 2,000th horse

passed a huge milestone when Leading Trainer Patricia Farro submitted a daughter of our own Smarty Jones as our 2,000th horse! Smarty Never Quits is recovering from the most common career-ending injury, a sesamoid fracture. Sesamoids are almond-shaped bones that work similar to our kneecap, but they are located behind a horse's ankle and at high speeds they can actually make impact with the ground. They work intricately with the suspension mechanism of a horse and various ligaments and tendons can be involved in such a fracture. Before Turning for Home, many horses with sesamoid fractures were euthanized due to the need for possible surgery and the extended recovery time needed for such injuries. As you can see by looking at the pictures in this spread and the many success stories on our office walls and online, she is not the first to embark on this road to recovery. Our veterinarians are confident that she will have a successful second career as well, and we look forward to following her story.

Our Turning for Home program is solid, well respected, and leading the way for other racetracks around the country to support racehorse retirement. We hope that all our horsemen share in the success that their former racehorses do, and continue to raise the bar in safe retirement.



**Bashful Bandit** is now an eventer after surgery and a stay at **Maui Meadow Farm**



The small but versatile **Impossible Rittle** rehabbed at **After the Races**



**Proud Skip** retired due to injury, but that didn't stop him from reaching new heights



**Seeking Harmony** retired in 2015 and was just adopted in December of 2016



**Louisville Bound** is rehabbed from his injury & is now available for adoption



**Intrinsic Worth** became a therapy horse following his injury in 2008



**Nashway** is now a barn favorite at a hunter/jumper show barn



# **PTHA'S Turning For Home**

RACEHORSE RETIREMENT PROGRAM

**Over 200 horses were  
adopted in 2016... here  
are some of our favorites!**







Thank you to all of our supporters for making our 200+ adoptions possible!



# 2016 ADOPTED HORSES

A Little Extra  
Against All Odds  
Agent Van Alden  
Ain'tnothinbutakiss  
Air Alaska  
Allotrope  
Andy Boy's Rabe  
Anhourofthonor  
Aprilonthemoney  
Arecibo  
Aunt Glee  
Beer Goggles  
Bemois  
Berlusconi  
Berry Berry Bueno  
Blanchfleur  
Blazeinblairsden  
Blonde Dude  
Blushing Brat  
Bold Gabby  
Bright Skies  
C Lady's Fancy Cat  
Capt. Marshmallow  
Captain Nightcap  
Captain Sheldon  
Castle Black  
Chasing Kim  
Childhood Dream  
Chop Chop Pee Wee  
Circadia  
Close to Addie  
Cojo's Loco  
Cold Hard Blast  
Collecting Beauty  
Combat Diver  
Copley Square  
Cotton Valley  
Creswell Bay  
D J Manlove

Dalkeith Ridge  
Dandy Ketch  
Danny Darlinz  
Deputy Dillon  
Devil's Pool  
Double Check  
Dr. Wesley  
Dr. Wiz  
Dreaming of Pete  
Dress N Drink  
Dubaiyou  
Ducks Dock  
E Z Led  
Easter Glory  
El Gangster  
El Posole  
England  
Enzed  
Estaticator  
Euro Mon  
Excessive Drama  
Fairest of All  
Fearless Cowboy  
Feverish Loot  
Fiery Gizzard  
Five Guns West  
Fivefourthreetwone  
Forest Meadow  
Fort Rosalie  
Four and Five Red  
Four Carot Round  
Free Will  
Frosty Lover  
Galaxy Kat  
Gealoudsina  
Get Creative  
Ghostly Dreams  
Giant Lady  
Gift of the Crown

Glich  
Golden Jason  
Good Chemistry  
Gracie Lynne  
Greek Gold  
Hazelnut Espresso  
Hello Zealous  
Here Comes Adri  
Hibernia Mystery  
Hold Me  
Hundacareo  
Imaginaryweekend  
Indian Jones  
Interest Rate Swap  
It's Charlie Again  
It's in the Safe  
Jacey's Revenge  
Jackie's Garden  
Jai Alai  
Jersey Babe  
Jungle Run  
Just Don  
Katy's Charm  
Kayudy Flyer  
Kelly's Reward  
Klondike Kid  
La Reine's Wager  
Lady Bath Sheba  
Lady Dove Hunt  
Lady Heat  
Lady of Cork  
Launch Code  
Lawmaker  
Layers  
Lead Me Lord  
Leading the Trix's  
Leet  
Legomyborrego  
Lil Red Caboose  
Linda's Last  
Lockport  
Lover's Dream  
Lucky Prospector  
Luckyneva  
Luigina  
Lyrical Colors  
Madbobandshan  
Majority Decision  
Make Me a Prophet  
Make Mo Money  
Mandevilla  
Manipulation  
Mighty Valentino

Miss Katie  
Moonlight Splitter  
Moonluck  
Muresan  
Muzzled Mousse  
My Blue Ribbon  
My Material Girl  
Mysterious  
Summer  
Myth Master  
Nose Job  
One Thousand  
Watts  
P. A. Thunder  
Packer Jack  
Pandancer  
Periwinkle  
Petersburg Road  
Phantom Flight  
Phil Dancer  
Philly Freedom  
Picadilly Gal  
Piper's Hope  
Pirate's Pleasure  
Princess Fernanda  
Purple Pegasus  
Quality Hey  
Que Facil  
Racino Royale  
Raven's Tale  
Read the Mirage  
Red Bully  
Rice and Beans  
Risque's Venom  
Riverness  
Run Like Millie  
Rustler Hustler  
Rye Wit  
S S Lucky Cat  
Saba's Boy  
Salisbury Knight  
Samaritana  
Samurai Sam  
Sandiwill  
Santa Elf  
Scat Daddy's Dream  
Scattered  
Seeking Harmony  
Seven Time Cy  
Seventeenohsix  
Seventhfleethumor  
Sewanee  
Sharp Chestnut



**Golden Jason**

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Silver Legend  
Slippery Slewp  
Smokey's Honor  
Smokin Pulpit  
Speed Zone  
Star Academy  
Stealing Saratoga  
Stock Fraud Billy  
Streakin Easy  
Stunning Stella  
Stylish Wink  
Successfuldaydream  
Summer Break  
Sunshine Always  
Surprise Her  
Suruj Devi  
Swing Fa the Stars  
The Toddfather  
There Goes Vinny  
Thorin  
Time Walker  
Toomuchinformation  
Trinidad Lady  
Union Square  
Uptown Boy  
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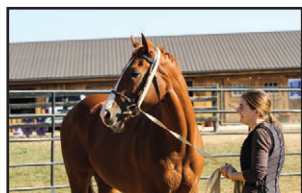


# SPOTLIGHT ON TFH PARTNER FARMS

Turning for Home has assembled a talented network of Partner Farms who have accepted the challenge of providing racehorse aftercare to the horses of Parx Racing. *Spotlight On TFH Partner Farms* allows the racing world to meet some of these selfless horsemen and horsewomen.



**After the Races**  
*Nottingham, Pennsylvania*  
 Partner Since: 2010  
 Total Horses: 210



After the Races is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that rehabilitates and rehomes retiring Thoroughbred racehorses. Under the leadership of Director Bonnie McRae, it has quickly grown to a quality retraining facility for off-track Thoroughbreds. Bonnie spent many years in her home state of North Carolina competing in hunters and then eventing prior to college. Having worked with racehorses in varying capacities over the years (working with foals and weanlings, breaking yearlings, exercising flat & steeplechase horses, etc.), she grew to love the breed. In 2014, Bonnie challenged herself to compete in the most grueling race in the world, the 1,000 km Mongol Derby (*bottom left*). Despite suffering a serious spiral finger fracture that occurred when she was thrown from one of her mounts, Bonnie finished in fifth place of the forty competitors.

## Here are some ways that you can help your horses of Turning for Home!

### Donate

One of the easiest ways to support Turning for Home's retiring racehorses is to donate just \$100 each time you win a race at Parx! Call the **Horsemen's Bookkeeper** to get set started.

Each year we partner with the Granny Fund to present a basket raffle, silent auction & 50/50 at the annual **Horsemen's Awards Banquet**. You can help by making a tax deductible donation of items or services. Also be sure to attend the banquet this spring - you could be one of the lucky winners!

Did you know that we can receive **10-35¢** from participating feed companies for each **proof of purchase** that is donated? If you use 40 bags of feed a week, that's \$200-700 per year!

### Sponsor

We are now **seeking sponsors** for our 4th Annual **Turning for Home Day** in June. We'll be celebrating our milestone of **2,000 horses** being awarded a safe retirement!

### Purchase

We always have great **merchandise** available for purchase, including hats, hoodies, plush ponies and more. New to our selection is this **limited edition** pink blanket, available for just **\$125**.



# Luis Ocasio Captures Eclipse Award



**Luis Ocasio** (right) with agent **Gersom Rodriguez** at the **Eclipse Awards** in Florida.

Parx Racing has become as a stepping stone for young riders looking to make their name in the world of North American horse racing. Nineteen-year-old Luis Ocasio came to Parx last March after graduating from the Escuela Vocacional Hipica, a jockey academy in Puerto Rico that has produced such top riders as John Velazquez and the Ortiz brothers, Irad Jr. and Jose.

Ocasio did briefly ride at Camarero in Puerto Rico, where he caught the eye of Gersom Rodriguez, Sr., who alerted his son Gersom Rodriguez, Jr., of the great potential he saw in the rider. The younger Rodriguez persuaded Ocasio to move north, and he quickly made a big splash in the Mid-Atlantic region upon his arrival at Parx, leading the nation in apprentice wins (110), as well as mount earnings

for an apprentice (\$2,867,098). He also finished second in the overall jockey standings by number of wins (85) at Parx Racing, behind only Parx Hall of Fame rider Frankie Pennington.

On January 21, 2017 at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach, Florida, Ocasio received the highest honor for an apprentice jockey, the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Apprentice Jockey. Despite his limited knowledge of English (though he is learning quickly thanks to the assistance of a tutor), Ocasio gave an excellent speech in front of the very best horsemen in the country, which can be seen below:

*"Good evening and congratulations to all the nominees. It is very special to be part of tonight's Eclipse Awards. I want to thank God for blessing me with this honor and keeping me safe out there. I want to thank the NTRA, the Daily Racing Form and the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters for their vote. I want to thank my family for their sacrifices and trust and for letting me choose this path to become a rider and be part of this sport. I want to thank all of my fellow riders, valet and racing officials and I would like to take a moment to respect all of the jockeys that helped me. My condolences to the families of the ones we have lost. I want to thank the Escuela Vocacional Hipico in Puerto Rico and all of the trainers and owners that have given me a chance to represent their stables on the racetrack across the Mid-Atlantic. I want to thank my agent Gersom Rodriguez as we look forward to continue working hard for our outfit and welcome new business in this new year. And finally, I want to congratulate Lane Luzzi and Kevin Gomez on a good year. My best wishes to you and every horseman in 2017."*



**Luis Ocasio** aboard **Cotillion Stakes (G1)** contender **Queena Esther** in September at Parx Racing.

Photo: Nikki Sherman



*Returning to Celebrations!*

# 2016 HORSEMEN'S AWARDS BANQUET

*Honor the Best of **Parx** Racing*



## Make Your Voice Heard!

2016 Horse Award suggestion forms are available in the PTHA & Racing offices for the following categories:

- 2yo Male •    • 3yo Male •    • Older Male •
- 2yo Female •    • 3yo Female •    • Older Female •
- Claiming Horse of the Year •
- Outstanding Claim of the Year •
- Horse of the Year •

**\*\* Deadline is March 1, 2017. \*\***

**Sponsored by the Pennsylvania  
Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association**

*When:* **Wednesday, March 29, 2017** *Where:* **Celebrations**  
from 5:30 to 9:30 PM  
2201 Galloway Road  
Bensalem, PA 19020

*Cost:* **\$20 per person**

To purchase tickets, visit the PTHA office or send a check to  
P. O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020 no later than March 21.



# These Women Are Here for You



Photo: Nikki Sherman

Did you know that every Tuesday and Saturday, nursing students from La Salle University's School of Nursing & Health Sciences visit the Parx Racing Recreational Hall, donating their time to help backstretch workers in need? From 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, nurses are available to provide preventative health-care, such as blood sugar and glucose tests as well as vaccinations for influenza and tetanus. They can also assist with referring patients to primary health physicians.

Another fantastic resource specifically for women is available thanks to St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, PA. Several times each year, Debbie

Jankowski, Coordinator for St. Mary Medical Center's Breast Health Initiative, joins the La Salle nurses in the Recreational Hall to discuss breast health and other community resources. The Breast Health Initiative offers free mammograms to women forty years and older who do not have health insurance. Any backstretch worker can stop in when Debbie is on-site or can contact her at any time at (215) 933-8395.

An off-site resource for Bucks County residents is the Bucks County Health Improvement Partnership (BCHIP), a community partnership of the six hospitals in Bucks County, the Bucks County Department of Health, and the Bucks County Medical Society. BCHIP aims to improve the health of Bucks County residents through a free clinic for low-income, uninsured adults in Bensalem, a dental program for uninsured children in Upper and Lower Bucks Counties, countywide smoking cessation programs and other healthcare initiatives. To check eligibility, call the Lower Bucks Clinic at (215) 633-8397.

## Advertise in the PTHA News

Reach an Audience of YOUR Peers

The PTHA News is a four-color newsletter sponsored by the PTHA. Published six times a year, it is mailed to approximately 3,000 owners, trainers and breeders, and includes informative articles on industry news, important legislative changes affecting the racing industry, local features, the latest on Turning for Home, and much more.

Advertising rates listed below, with a 20% discount offered when space is reserved for two or more consecutive issues, or a 30% discount for a full year reserved in advance (6 consecutive issues)\*.

Full Page: \$500  
8.5 x 11"

Half Page: \$300  
8.5 x 5.5"

Quarter Page: \$200  
4.25 x 2.75"

\*Ads must be submitted in high-resolution PDF files. Additional fee for design work is available at a minimum of one hour at \$65/hour.

To reserve space, contact Marketing & Publicity Director Nikki Sherman at 215-638-3444 or email at [nsherman@patha.org](mailto:nsherman@patha.org).



# Parx Horsemen Around the Nation

## Dec. 17 - **LIGHTNING CITY S.**

Tampa Bay Downs, 5 furlongs (T)

3rd - **EVERYTHING LOVELY**

O: Pewter Stable

& Armand A. Delaperriere

T: Kathleen DeMasi

J: Jose Ferrer

## Dec. 18 - **NEW YORK STALLION SERIES S.**

Aqueduct, 6 furlongs

3rd - **FILIBUSTIN**

O: Alan R. Cook

T: Gregory D. Sacco

J: Jose Lezcano

## Dec. 30 - **EAST VIEW S.**

Aqueduct, 1 mile 70 yards

3rd - **BREE'S GOT HEART**

O: Glenn Bennett

T: Robert Reid, Jr.

J: Frankie Pennington

## Dec. 31 - **DAVE'S FRIEND S.**

Laurel Park, 6 furlongs

3rd - **SIR ROCKPORT**

O: Amenta Racing Stables, LLC

T: Guadalupe Preciado

J: Trevor McCarthy

## Jan. 14 - **WHAT A SUMMER S.**

Laurel Park, 6 furlongs

2nd - **DISCO CHICK**

O: Freedom Acres, Inc.

T: Mario Serey, Jr.

J: Trevor McCarthy

## Jan. 21 - **NELLIE MORSE S.**

Laurel Park, 1 1/16 miles

2nd - **ADDIBEL LIGHTNING**

O: Albert R. Lupcho, Jr.

T: Marcos Zulueta

J: Anthony Salgado

## Jan. 21 - **NATIVE DANCER S.**

Laurel Park, 1 1/16 miles

3rd - **COSMIC DESTINY**

O: Peter A. Double Deuce Stables

LLC & Martin E. Ciresa

T: Martin Ciresa

J: Feargal Lynch

## Jan. 22 - **INTERBOROUGH S.**

Aqueduct, 6 furlongs

2nd - **DISCO CHICK**

O: Yarislaw J. Kolybabiuk

T: Mario Serey, Jr.

J: Rajiv Maragh

## Jan. 28 - **LADIES' TURF SPRINT S.**

Gulfstream Park, 5 furlongs (T)

2nd - **EVERYTHING LOVELY**

O: Pewter Stable

& Armand A. Delaperriere

T: Kathleen DeMasi

J: Javier Castellano

## Jan. 29 - **MADDIE MAY S.**

Aqueduct, 1 mile 70 yards

3rd - **BREE'S GOT HEART**

O: LC Racing

T: Robert Reid, Jr.

J: Frankie Pennington

## SPECIALIZED INSURANCE PROGRAMS

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# Backstretch Views

## *Our Condolences . . .*



**Edward C. Auwarter**, 73, passed away suddenly on January 20, 2017. A longtime horseman, he was a racehorse trainer at Philadelphia Park/Parx Racing, the Meadowlands Racetrack and Garden State Racetrack, and owner of Little Timber Ranch in Tansboro, NJ. In recent years, Ed donated his time to ship Turning for Home retirees to their new homes. He was married to Leslie (nee Cutler), and son of Carl and Ruth Auwarter. His extended family includes siblings Carl Auwarter and Caroline Sleeter. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be sent to the American Disabled Veterans Foundation, 1020 19th St., Suite 475, Washington, D.C. 20036.

**Ralph Kissoon**, a longtime trainer at Philadelphia Park/Parx Racing passed away earlier this year. He had recently moved his string of horses to Florida. Kissoon captured the Leading "B" Trainer title at Philadelphia Park in 2004 and in 2009, a gelding he both owned and trained, Polka At Night, was crowned Claiming Horse of the Year.



**Clyde Rice**, 79, passed away in January. He was a high school teacher before deciding to pursue a career in the horse industry. Several times leading trainer at Penn National in the 1970s and 80s, he became a pioneer in the pinhooking market, raising horses at his Indian Prairie Ranch in Anthony, Florida. A well-respected horseman on a national level, he grew up with Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the American Diabetes Association, 2451 Crystal Drive, Ste. 900, Arlington, VA 22202.

## *Out & About . . .*



Trainer **Dee Curry** captured this great shot of HPA employee **Jonas Williams** walking alongside one of the cats that live by the shavings trailers. Affectionately named "Two Cans", this cute kitty will happily eat two cans of cat food every day!



## ***Congratulations!***



**Jeanne Vuyosevich, Dr. Cathy Ball,  
Maggie Romano, Dr. Karyn Malinowski**

Longtime trainer, breeder and farm owner **Jeanne Vuyosevich** won the **2017 Spirit of the Horse Award** through Rutgers Equine Science Center. She was recognized for her tireless efforts over the past several decades to never give up on finding every horse a good home. She owns **Sunset Meadow Horse Farm** in Farmingdale, NJ, which is a sanctuary for horses in need of care, treatment or a good home. Jeanne was nominated by Dr. Cathy Ball.

Jockey **Edwin Rivera** and **Yaii Ortiz** were married at the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico in San Juan, Puerto Rico on December 16, 2016. What a dashing groom and stunning bride - and wow, look at that beautiful dress!



## ***Babies . . . Babies . . . Babies . . . !***



PTHA Benefits Coordinator **Stephanie Smith** and boyfriend **Boris Borovikov** had their first child on January 18th. **Gregory Dominic Borovikov** was born at 5:14 am and weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. Congratulations Stephanie and Boris!

## **Do you have any news for Backstretch Views?**

We're always on the lookout for backstretch news. Contact **Nikki Sherman**, Marketing & Publicity Director, in the Turning for Home office or send over an email to [nsherman@patha.org](mailto:nsherman@patha.org).





## Chaplain's Corner

**Chaplain Rick Bunker**

**"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."**

**- Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)**

The teaching of this proverb is based in the truth that God is the Source of refreshment and life itself. As we share that which refreshes us with others, we allow ourselves to be conduits of God's blessing. We will certainly be blessed by allowing ourselves to be channels of blessing. If we try to stop the outflow of blessing and keep it wholly to ourselves it will become stagnant. Fresh blessing and greater blessing will not be able to come to us.

We have certainly enjoyed greater blessing in 2016 than I had ever imagined. Below are some examples of blessings that were shared with the racetrack community in 2016. Some of the benevolences are many times greater than even just one year earlier. I share them with you so you can know what has been done with your donations, be proud of the generosity of our community, and know that we are here to help you, your friends, and workers who find themselves in need.

A need that we have right now is funds for our Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund. In the past few years we have given out about \$50,000 in scholarships. Now there is only about \$2,000 in the fund. That would be a great place for some of your charitable giving in 2017 and it is tax deductible. Donations can be dropped off at the horsemen's or chaplain's office, or mailed to us, and checks can be made out to this fund.

### **Some Benevolences of 2016 from the Office of the Chaplain:**

- 41 full beds (mattress, frame, box spring), 19 high quality air mattresses & over 300 blankets, sheets & pillows
- Over 5,000 bags of non-perishable food items, fresh produce & fresh/frozen meat
- 189 holiday food boxes & 194 turkeys w/ all the 'fixins'
- 61 gift certificates for groceries at local markets totaling over \$2,700
- 246 jackets (many new winter coats for children) & countless other items of clothing
- 49 pairs of new work boots
- 281 Bibles
- 37 microwaves, 10 refrigerators & a few other appliances (most new)
- 57 bicycles (20 new)
- 247 book bags filled w/ school supplies
- Over 800 pairs of socks, countless hats, scarves, gloves, towels, wash cloths, toiletries, loaves of bread & more
- 61 Chapel n' Chows and all of these provided extra food, most with many meals of leftovers
- In coordination with the PTHA & the Racing Office over 3,500 meals provided through the meal ticket & meal card program at Ron's Backstretch Café
- Over 1,100 gifts collected for Christmas & birthdays for over 300 children related to employees of the Racetrack Community
- Several holiday/seasonal parties throughout the year for children & families
- Transportation to doctor visits, pharmacies & many other transportation needs
- \$13,000 in Scholarships for Colleges & Technical Schools through the Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund
- AND MUCH MORE . . .

I look forward to 2017 with optimism, being part of such a good community of horsemen. It is a joyful privilege to be your chaplain. In the spirit of St. Valentine's Day I share with you and close with this Scripture passage: **"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God....because God is love."** - 1 John 4:7-8



## Quality Products and Discount Prices

### *First Day of Spring Customer Appreciation Day*

**10% OFF**  
**March 20, 2017**

Valid on all products currently in stock (excluding feed, shavings, helmets & vests) at the HPA store on the First Day of Spring - March 20, 2017. Coupon not required for purchase. Minimum \$50 order. Available only at the HPA store, while supplies last.



**Whether you're stabled right here at Parx Racing, or down for the day to saddle a horse, visit the HPA Store for all of your equine supplies!**

#### **Hours** (every day except Wed.)

Tack Shop: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Feed/Shavings Trailers: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Ice House: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

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Vicky Mangini, HPA Manager

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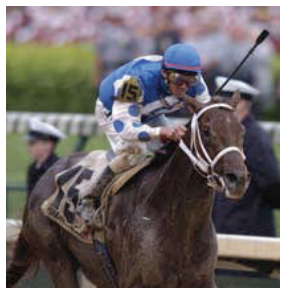
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