



# PTHA NEWS

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

Volume 6 2013

## Parx Vaulting to Prominence with Breeders' Cup Preps

Parx Racing is quickly becoming an important spot to launch a successful run at the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships.

According to Director of Racing Sal Sinatra, "We have shown time and time again that our races have great timing leading up to the Breeders' Cup. In addition, three-year-olds who compete in our signature events, the Grade 2 Pennsylvania Derby and the Grade 1 Cotillion Stakes, are more likely to compete as four-year-olds."

For example, this year Golden Ticket, who ran second in the 2012 PA Derby, has a victory in the Prairie Meadows Handicap and runner-up finishes in two Grade 1 races on opposite sides of the country, including the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile.

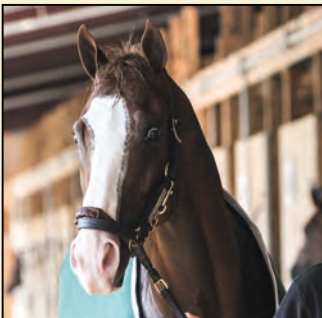
The Racing Office and the PTHA are proud to provide this recap of Parx horses at the 2013 Breeders' Cup.



Kathy Ritvo leads Mucho Macho Man into the winner's circle.

Photo: Nikki Sherman/DRF

### BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC



Will Take Charge.  
Photo: Nikki Sherman

- The one-two finishers in this year's PA Derby matched up in the Classic, following up their identical finish in the Travers (G1). **Moreno** set the early pace in the \$5 million race, setting it up for **Will Take Charge** to close six-wide around the final turn, finishing within a nose of winner Mucho Macho Man. Classic hero **Mucho Macho Man** is trained

by Kathy Ritvo, whose family is heavily involved in Mid-Atlantic racing.

### BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE

- Over the past few years, a quartet of horses have passed through Parx on their way to the 2013 Dirt Mile. **Golden Ticket** rallied to finish second behind scintillating winner Goldencents, after Golden Ticket had run second in the 2012 PA Derby. Also from last year's PA Derby was **Alpha**, who had picked up a victory in the 2013 Woodward Stakes (G1) at Saratoga.

(cont'd on page 4)

## 2013 Candidates for the PTHA Board

### PRESIDENT

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

### OWNER DIRECTOR

Lisa Allen  
Steven Appel, DDS  
Michael P. Ballezzi, Esq.  
Mary A. Kernan  
Nicholas J. Saponara

### TRAINER DIRECTOR

Phil Aristone  
Kathleen DeMasi  
Ronald Glorioso  
Scott A. Lake  
Robert E. Reid, Jr.  
John C. Servis

**Ballots were mailed  
to all PTHA members  
on Nov. 22, and must  
be returned and  
postmarked no later  
than December 31.**

## President's Message

**Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esquire**



What a year it's been here at Parx Racing! We have accomplished a lot over the past twelve months, but there is still a long road ahead of us. Last year we succeeded in preventing millions of dollars from being diverted from the Racehorse Development Fund, but we have an even bigger battle to fight this upcoming spring.

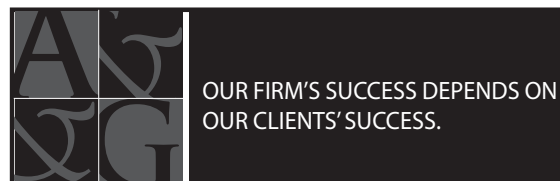
Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and I have been working fiercely with the Pennsylvania Racing Coalition to fund and settle a \$5 million shortfall this upcoming fiscal year so that we can continue to offer competitive purses to our horsemen.

In addition, we are working alongside the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association to ensure that the shortfall in the breeders' funds is met, which is especially important for PA-bred horses, the economy, and even conserving greenspace by giving Pennsylvania farms the incentive to continue operating in our state.

We realize that the past month has been extremely difficult for horsemen as we deal with an EHV-1 quarantine here at Parx Racing. Fortunately, due to prompt action by the PA Department of Agriculture and track management, we have been able to contain the virus within our facility. We are hopeful that we will be able to open our Galloway Road gates in early December. In the meantime, we are very grateful that we have been able to maintain racing programs despite the quarantine.

Also, we ask that you vote in the current PTHA election, and consider who will best match *your* needs, so that we can continue our fight in Harrisburg for you, the horsemen.

And finally, as 2013 comes to a close, we wish you happy holidays and a hope that you have a great new year!



Archer & Greiner is a full-service, regional law firm of more than 175 attorneys with a network of seven offices and a well-earned reputation for providing high-quality, results-driven legal services in a broad range of disciplines and industries. Archer & Greiner attorneys have been meeting the needs of Fortune 100 companies, small to medium-sized businesses and individuals throughout the Delaware Valley and beyond for more than 80 years.

For more information on our firm contact us at (215) 963-3300 or email [info@archerlaw.com](mailto:info@archerlaw.com).

ARCHER & GREINER  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW **A&G**

HADDONFIELD, NJ PHILADELPHIA, PA PRINCETON, NJ FLEMINGTON, NJ  
WILMINGTON, DE GEORGETOWN, DE NEW YORK, NY [www.archerlaw.com](http://www.archerlaw.com)

## Donate Your Feed Bag Proofs of Purchase

Turning for Home will gladly accept any proofs of purchase from your feed bags. All donations will benefit our horses!



## Free Public Wi-Fi Now Available

Check entries, read your email, or surf the web on your own devices!





## From the Desk of Executive Director Michael P. Ballezzi

### Integrity, Safety, Fairness:



I have always believed and have continually acted on the fundamental principal that as the Executive Director of the PTHA, I and President Sal DeBunda, along with the PTHA Board of Directors, are responsible for protecting horsemen. The word “protective” is in the title of the largest and original Horsemen’s Association; the National Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association.

The mission of all Horsemen’s Associations is to protect horsemen. It is the opinion of this Executive Director that this mission is best accomplished by guaranteeing that the Equine Industry is grounded on the principles of: Integrity, Safety and Fairness.

To guarantee the Integrity of our Industry, Horsemen’s Associations must be ever vigilant and tireless in their efforts to rid the industry of those unscrupulous individuals who misuse and abuse drugs to gain an illegal, immoral and unethical advantage. To those individuals there must be zero tolerance. This rightful effort to protect horsemen by maintaining the highest standard of Integrity in our Industry is best achieved by the joining of the major stakeholders of our industry. Horsemen, operators, regulators and legislators must join together in establishing laws, rules, regulations and guidelines that are strictly enforced and which guarantee to all participants in our industry a level playing field.

To guarantee the Safety of our Industry, Horsemen’s Associations must ensure that our Industry provides our horses the best training and racing facilities available, state of the art drug testing and monitoring which protects and ensures the health and safety of our horses, and well-trained racing officials and regulators who develop fair and equitable standards to oversee the operation of our industry.

The three most important safety measures are:

1. Strict compliance and enforcement of medication rules.
2. Maintenance of a safe racing surface.
3. Competent and dedicated racing regulators and officials.

To guarantee the Fairness of our Industry, Horsemen’s Associations must ensure that our Industry continues to strictly apply and enforce the rules of racing and establish new rules and regulations. Rules which prohibit the use of illegal drugs. Rules that demand strict safety standards for the protection our horses. Rules that expel “cheaters”. Rules that protect the betting public. Rules that protect honest horsemen.

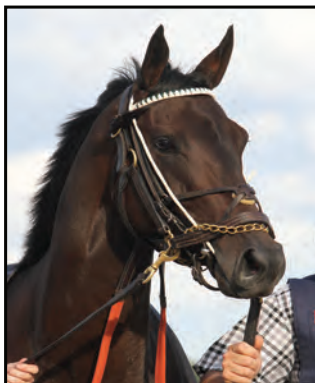
Clearly, it is my opinion, that in order to deliver on my responsibility to protect horsemen I must strive to maintain and develop an Industry based on Integrity, Safety and Fairness. The Industry as a whole and the individual horsemen are one and the same. Each is tied to the other by their duty and responsibility to the other. By protecting the horsemen I must strive to guarantee the Integrity, Safety and Fairness of the Industry and by guaranteeing the Integrity, Safety and Fairness of the Industry, I and President Sal DeBunda, along with the PTHA Board of Directors, are achieving our responsibility of protecting the horsemen.



Golden Ticket.  
Photo: Nikki Sherman/EQUI-PHOTO

Third-place finisher **Brujo de Olleros (BRZ)** ran second in the Donald LeVine Memorial Handicap as his 2013 season debut. And finally, **Pants On Fire** started out his career here with a second place finish in a maiden special weight.

## BREEDERS' CUP DISTAFF



Close Hatches.  
Photo: Nikki Sherman

• The Cotillion continued its tradition of being a vaulting block for future female stars. This year's heroine, **Close Hatches**, finished second in the \$2 million Distaff, ahead of two-time Eclipse Award champion Royal Delta as well as multiple G1 winner Princess of Sylmar. Also competing in the race was Cotillion third-place finisher **Street Girl**, who sold a few days after the race for \$550,000 at the Keeneland November Sale.

## BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT



Trinniberg.  
Photo: Nikki Sherman/EQUI-PHOTO

Gallant Bob events: 2012 competitors **Trinniberg** - also winner of that year's Xpressbet Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) - and **Private Zone**, as well as 2011 runner **Wine Police**.

• Another excellent prep for the Breeders' Cup is the Gallant Bob Handicap, which has showcased the top sophomore sprinters in the country over the past few years. This year's \$1.5 million Sprint included three runners from prior

## BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE SPRINT

• In addition to this year's Distaff entrants, the '13 Cotillion featured second-place finisher **Sweet Lulu**, who shortened up in the Filly & Mare Sprint, and which better fit her blazing speed. Also competing in the Filly & Mare Sprint was fan favorite **Dance to Bristol**, who ran second in the 2012 Trevoise here at Parx Racing.



Sweet Lulu.  
Photo: Nikki Sherman

## BREEDERS' CUP MARATHON

• A trio of routers used this year's G3 Greenwood Cup as a prep for the 1 3/4-mile Marathon, including Greenwood Cup runner-up **Indian Jones** and prior G1 winner **Pool Play**, who ran third. **Suns Out Guns Out** followed up his fourth-place finish in the Greenwood Cup with a victory in an allowance race on the PA Derby undercard, en route to a fourth-place finish in the Marathon. It is also worth noting that the 2013 Greenwood Cup was won by 2010 Marathon victor **Eldaafer**, and in fact it was the second time the eight-year-old gelding had competed in the Greenwood Cup.



Suns Out Guns Out.  
Photo: Nikki Sherman

## BREEDERS' CUP TURF SPRINT

• The Jason Servis-trained **Tightend Touchdown** put a cap on an outstanding year when he finished second in the \$1 million Turf Sprint, behind defending champion filly Mizdirection. Tightend Touchdown ran second in both of our G3 turf sprint races this summer - the Turf Monster and Parx Dash. Also competing in the Turf Sprint was last year's PA Derby winner, **Handsome Mike**.



Tightend Touchdown.  
Photo: Nikki Sherman



# Christmas Fellowship Meal

Sponsored by the PTHA, Dec. 25, 11-2:00 PM, Ron's Backstretch Cafe





# Parx-Based Indian Jones Runs in Breeders' Cup

On November 1st, Gold Starr Racing LLC's six-year-old Indian Jones returned to the location where his career started - Santa Anita Park. The son of champion Smarty Jones began his racing career in Southern California, and after a heartbreaking nose loss to 2010 Breeders' Cup Marathon winner Eldaafer in the Sept. 2nd Greenwood Cup Stakes (G3) here at Parx, the connections of Indian Jones decided to give their gelding a chance in this year's race.

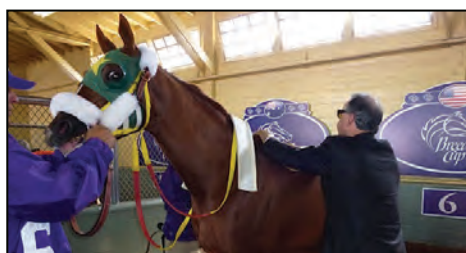
Indian Jones shipped out to Arcadia a week early, and was soon followed by trainer Phil Aristone, who is a board member and Treasurer of the PTHA. Also joining the group were his owners and Parx-based jockey Angel Castillo.

The chestnut gelding ran a gallant race but experienced a string of bad luck, including an awkward start that resulted in him being shuffled back to last by well over ten lengths. Despite the early trouble, Indian Jones closed ground valiantly down the stretch and finished fifth by just three lengths.

According to Aristone, "Indian Jones came out of the race in great shape. However, due to the quarantine, we are now looking at other options from our original plans, including the December 31st Auld Lang Syne Stakes here at Parx."

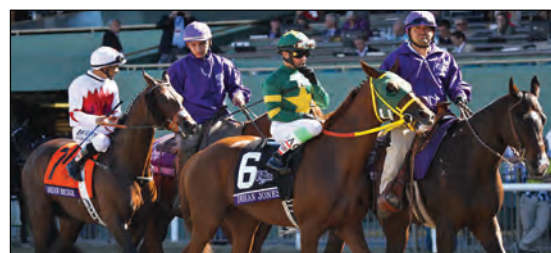


Indian Jones gallops at Santa Anita.  
Photo: Sandra Aristone



Phil Aristone saddles Indian Jones before the race.

Photo: Sandra Aristone



Indian Jones in the post parade ahead of eventual winner London Bridge.

Photo: Nikki Sherman

## Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes Parx Racetrack • Two-Year-Olds • 7 Furlongs



Photo: Barbara Weidl/EQUI-PHOTO

### 2012 Winner: Officer Alex

**Breeder:** The Elkstone Group LLC  
**Owner:** Winning Horses Stable  
& Choctaw Racing Stable  
**Trainer:** Lynn Whiting  
**Jockey:** Stewart Elliot



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
HORSE BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Suite E  
Kennett Square, PA 19348  
610-444-1050 • [www.pabred.com](http://www.pabred.com)

# EHV-1 Brings Quarantine at Parx Racing

The Parx Racing backside was hit with an outbreak of equine herpes virus (EHV-1) this November, resulting in a shutdown of the stable gate exit to all horses. The quarantine began on November 13th, and will continue until at least December 10th. Racetrack management and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture have teamed up in order to combat the spread of EHV-1, and are confident that the virus has been contained quickly and efficiently.

The state's required quarantine period has been in place since 2007, and is based on the recommendations of the University of Kentucky's Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center. All exposed horses must be quarantined for a minimum of 21 days, and the "clock" is started when the infected horse first shows signs of illness. If a new horse shows signs of the virus, the timetable is reset to the day of the latest diagnosis.

Thus far, two horses have tested positive for the neurological disease, and if any additional horses spike a fever without a negative test, or are positively diagnosed with the virus, the required three weeks of quarantine will be reset.



Dr. Alize Simeone, VMD, is the regional veterinarian for the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services in Southeastern Pennsylvania, and has been on the grounds here in Bensalem since the outbreak first occurred. Her goal from the beginning was to keep the virus contained within the larger facility, and in turn to keep it from spreading within itself. This

is why multiple barns are quarantined separately from the decision by track management to shut down the traffic of horses leaving the grounds.

The reason for such restrictions is that the virus is extremely infectious. According to Dr. Simeone, "all it takes to spread

the disease is close contact with another horse shedding the virus". Since horses can sneeze as far as 35 feet, and snotty noses are a symptom of EHV-1, keeping the exposed horses under close wraps is a huge help in containing the disease. In addition, humans can carry the virus on clothing or equipment when moving between horses.

The quarantine has resulted in smaller fields hitting the entry box, but Director of Racing Sal Sinatra was pleased with the response from horsemen who are able to run out of their own barns here at Parx. "We have to thank our horsemen for helping to fill races through the quarantine, which has allowed us to continue our scheduled racing programs."

In addition to the most obvious form of biosecurity - keeping horses from leaving - many other precautions have been taken in an effort to keep the virus from spreading. Not only are the assistant starters at the gate and the horse identifier wearing disposable gloves, but the gate crew is also disinfecting the starting gate after each race, as well as after morning training. Maintenance has moved the manure cans of the quarantined barns, so that they are a safe distance away from unaffected horses. Large signs warning of the dangers have been placed at all entrances to the closed barns.

There are also a number of suggested precautions that Dr. Simeone has urged horsemen to follow, including taking a horse's temperature often, remembering to wash off all organic material *before* sanitizing equipment, wearing disposable gloves, and not entering the affected barns if at all possible. If you must enter one of these barns, make sure to bring a full change of clothes, including footwear, and also conduct your business there *after* visiting other barns.

Dr. Craig Shultz, DVM, Director of the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services, closed out a meeting with concerned horsemen by stating how positive his opinion is of how the track has handled the outbreak. "We support the decision not to allow the gates to be open by track management. Racetracks have actually done very well with this (virus); better than other equine industries."



Above: Dr. Alize Simeone, VMD | Below: One of the quarantined barns.  
Photos: Nikki Sherman





## Quality Products and Discount Prices



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, including:

- Bedding
- Equipment
- Feed
- Supplies
- Supplements
- ...and more!

## Winter Specials

**December 21, 2013  
through  
March 19, 2014**

Hemo Cease (2.25 lb.) - \$45.00

3M Patches (case of 50) - \$110.00



### **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

### **Horsemen's Purchasing Association**

Vicky Mangini, HPA Manager

215.638.2012 | 2786 Galloway Road (shipping)

P.O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020 (mailing)



# Happy Holidays

from all of us at  
Turning for Home



Turning for Home, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, is a 501c3 non-profit group that has provided over 1,000 Parx racehorses with a safe retirement since opening in May 2008.

Now, for just \$150, you can treat your equine friend to a warm paddock blanket made from soft velour and terry cloth, and embroidered with our Turning for Home logo.

Proceeds directly benefit the horses of Turning for Home.

Call 267-223-3418 for details.





# 2013 Accomplishments at the PTHA

**We are very proud of what we have accomplished in 2013. Here are just a few of the many things we have achieved here at the PTHA in the past twelve months:**

## LEGISLATION

- **Representation in Harrisburg** by legal professionals who are fighting for the rights and monetary benefits of horsemen
- Saved millions of dollars from being diverted away from the **Racehorse Development Fund**

## MEDIA

- **“Spirit and Speed”** documentary to promote Thoroughbred racing industry in PA
- Became sponsor and distributor of track handicapper **Craig Donnelly’s Parx Racing Analysis**
- Continued sponsorship of **It’s Post Time**, a live internet radio show hosted by JJ and Samm Graci
- **PTHA Website** updated regularly and includes biographies of all board members, calendar of events, news, HPA store specials & Turning for Home news
- Bi-monthly newsletter, **PTHA News**, sent to over 3,000 members
- Inducted 3rd class of **Hall of Fame** members of 3 horses, 2 trainers, 1 jockey & 1 special achievement

## BACKSTRETCH

Many services available in the **PTHA Office**:

- **Benefit Trust** and new **supplemental insurance** through Aetna
- **Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund**, including four 2013 recipients
- **Sponsored** soccer and softball leagues
- **Fax, copy, and notary**
- Continuation of **new barn construction**

## MEDICATION

- **Lasix ban rescinded** for two-year-olds in Pennsylvania
- Established **uniform medication guidelines and penalties** for the East Coast and Illinois that will take effect on January 1, 2014

## HORSEMEN’S PURCHASING ASSOCIATION

- **Feed, shavings** and more offered to horsemen at **affordable prices**
- Weekly **featured products** at reduced rates
- Regular **holiday sales**

## TURNING FOR HOME

- Taken in well **over 1,000 retired racehorses** who have gone on to successful second careers with new owners/adopters
- Now a **model program** for other racetracks
- **Videos** on Comcast SportsNet and 6abc, including a feature on one of the TFH horses where he was ridden by *Action News* anchor Matt O’Donnell
- Facebook page surpassed **1,000 total “likes”**





Turning for Home, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, has safely retired over 1,000 horses from Parx Racing since May 2008, and is considered a model program for the racing industry.



Two horses leave Parx for their new lives as retired racehorses.

## Success Stories



Pal Petey, now named "Excalibur", and new owner Christine Wilson compete in their first event, the St. Augustine PC Horse Trials.

Photo Courtesy: Erika Nesler/Ralph Conner



Lake Friends is already successful in the show ring, and this is only his third show! He was adopted by Jessica Adkins of Rutherfordton, NC.

Photo Courtesy: Jessica Adkins



Say Not So was adopted by Miranda Rose after receiving rehab for a bowed tendon at After the Races.

Photo Courtesy: After the Races



Gold Bitten Tiger, now named "Fraser", went through the program quickly! He entered TFH on Oct. 12 and was adopted a month later by the Kichline family of Magnolia, NJ!

Photo Courtesy: Stacy Kichline



# Thank You for Your Support

## FARMS

After the Races  
Castle Rock Farm  
Hill Haven Farm  
Ivy Hill Farm  
Maui Meadow Farm  
Lisa Molloy Training  
Stables  
Nuzzle Me Safe Ottb's  
Peoples Farm  
South Jersey Thoroughbred  
Rescue  
Thoroughfair  
Thoroughbreds  
War Horses at Rose Bower

## VETERINARIANS

Dr. Peter Blauner  
Dr. Nate Clager  
Dr. Wendy Finney  
Dr. Yanick Gasiorowski  
Dr. Dan Hanf  
Dr. Patricia Hogan  
Dr. Thomas Lurito  
Dr. Steve McBride  
Dr. Scott Palmer  
Dr. Al Reed  
Dr. Jen Smith  
Dr. Art Stitzer

## SHIPPERS

Ed Auwater  
David Nunn  
Mary Pattershall  
Ron Taylor  
Clarke Whitaker

Joan Wolf

## VOLUNTEERS

Christine Benedetto  
Jean Fritz  
Joi Hollinger  
Jan Palmer  
Ginny Suevo  
Debbie Ulmer-Phillips

## MEDIA

Action News  
Bruce Casella  
Comcast SportsNet  
Sheena Parveen

## DONATIONS

B-C Stables  
Katie Barnett  
Brian Bavousett  
Cheryl Bayus  
Raymond & Robin Beier  
Elaine & Vincent Bell  
John D. Benson  
Nicholas & Theresa  
Berardo  
Michael Brienza  
Jeffrey B. Bowen  
Lynda Boyd  
Daniel Cardella  
Wesley E. Carver, Jr.  
Cash Is King Racing Stable  
Damian Cioni  
Rosamund S. Clark Fund  
Coastal Consulting LLC  
Gene & Jill Crozier

The Cuomo Family  
D & E Stable  
Vincent & Arlene  
D'Agostino  
Fran Delli Santi  
Joseph DiGeronimo  
Michael DiMenna  
Janice Dimichele  
Dutrow Racing Stable  
Robert & Nancy Elfant  
Lisa & Fred Elmy  
Fantasy Lane Stable  
Steven Faulks  
Ronald F. Finley  
David L. Foster  
Charles & Deborah Fox  
The Galinas Family  
Charles B. Gilbert  
Foundation  
Dr. Dan Hanf  
Brooke Hano  
Laurie Harris  
Hill Haven Farm  
Idlewood Farm  
Institutional Investor  
Lynn F. Johnson  
Eileen Jumikis  
Darla Kalman  
Kasey K Racing Stable  
William A. Kirkland  
Gregory & Cheryl Knepper  
Stanley Konopka  
Steve Krebs  
Robert & Kathryn Lamont  
Judy Latta  
John Lloyd

Ramon Martin  
Peter & Gloria Massucci  
Bradley & Barbara Massam  
Amanda McCleery  
Joseph & Catherine  
McErlean  
Haldis "Hallie" McEvoy  
Clinton & Suzanne Miller  
Victor Molina  
John C. Moore III  
Michael Moriarty  
Mid Atlantic Equine Clinic  
Nickel Dime Stable  
David & Jaime Nunn  
Robert Oliver  
Janice Palmer  
Parx Racing  
Parx Racing Jockeys  
Parx Racing Owners  
Pennsylvania Horse  
Breeder's Association  
Pennsylvania Thoroughbred  
Horsemen's Association  
Ruthann Perry  
Pewter Stable  
The Philadelphia School  
Sally B. Ponchak  
James Riccio  
Marcya Roberts  
John Rodriguez  
Susan Rothwell  
Colleen M. Rowe  
Raymond & Diana Roy  
Brian Schartz  
Bradley Schild  
Regina Schneller

M. Jane Schwartz  
Jay Sellers  
Barry Sepowitz  
Frank Serravalli  
David & Linda Sherman  
Kimberly Joan Shurtleff  
Diane Sladek  
Michael Stache  
Stony Brook Stable  
Virginia Suevo  
Michael & Denise Swartz  
Frank & Barbara Tanki  
Deborah J. Ulmer-Phillips  
Jimmy Walford  
Andrew & Dorothy Ward  
Don White  
Barry & Joan Winograd  
David W. Wright  
Jack Yang  
Susan Zaleski

There are so many people who contribute their time to our organization that we know we are missing many from this list. We couldn't find forever homes for these horses without the help of these wonderful people. Thank you to everyone, from the bottom of our hearts!

# 2013 Adopted Horses

African Knight  
All Around Fantasy  
Awyn's Forte  
Belushi  
Benny Stay Home  
Bushwacker Joe  
Cactus Flowers  
Celtic Country  
Champagne Blues  
Colorado Guy Wins  
Come Home Running  
Concerto's Thunder  
Cousin Dot  
Crevette  
Dani's Sis  
Debutante's Dude  
Deputyville  
Derwin's Wildcat  
Devil of an argument  
Dudamel  
E Street Shuffle  
Ease Away

Easy Summer  
Favourite Channel  
Fiftytwo weekhigh  
Flashita  
Forest Machi  
Gates  
Genie's Speed  
Go Glory Go  
Gold Bitten Tiger  
Gold Score  
Goodtime Boy  
Granardi  
Grandstander  
Great Thor  
Hailtothevictors  
Half Blood Prince  
He's So Dreamy  
Impossible Riddle  
Inscrutable  
Jab N Punch  
Jackpot P J  
Jaimiegoestooxford

James Wilfred  
Jersey Brother  
Keechi Bullet  
Lasky in Love  
Lionel Is Lucky  
Littlebitwicked  
Lock the Door  
Longing for Lori  
Major Dixie  
Making Tracks  
Marianne's Star  
Maroon and Gray  
Michaela's Candi  
Mischievous Maybry  
Mountain Climber  
Mr. Midnight  
Musicaldefinition  
Observer  
Ocean Lady  
OK Pancho  
One Bad Texter  
Pal Petey

Papa Floyd  
Platinum Sandy  
Please Be Quiet  
Rapala  
Ready to Play  
Rebel Raider  
Red Zone Flyer  
Reign Belle  
Renaissance Girl  
Rockisland Express  
Rule the Day  
Run for Fun  
Sallee Starr  
Sally's Contender  
Say Not So  
Seattle Louie  
Seeking the Lilies  
Shoe Shine Man  
SKR's Spartan  
South Fleet  
Spirit of Cochise  
Stolen Glance

Sunday Supper  
Sweet Dispute  
Talk for Sate  
Tatum Creek  
Taylor Island  
Terminal Velocity  
This Saturday  
Thrill Factor  
Tickling Tori  
Timmy Funshine  
Top Position  
Tough All Day  
Towzee  
Val's Honor  
Vaulted Honor  
Wicked Disco  
Wide Right  
Wild Memories  
Wild Wild Dream  
Written Rule

# Halloween at Parx Racing



Photos courtesy Kim Pratt, Nikki Sherman & Chaplain Rick Bunker



# Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

**“In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”**  
**- Acts 20:35 (NASB)**

Well I have been looking forward to writing this column for, at least, many months – maybe since last year’s (or longer). I am writing this final draft only a few hours before it is ‘due’. There were so many ‘reasons’. I wanted to be as relevant as possible and there were so many ‘developments’. The holidays, the quarantine, the hospitalizations, the emergencies of individuals of all sorts, but the printer waits for no one (whoever that is these days) so we put pen to page with prayers that these thoughts and outlines of the past few months will speak relevantly to readers in the days ahead.

It is only a week away from Thanksgiving, as I write this; my barber and so many others tell me that Thanksgiving is their favorite holiday. They say that it is a holiday that brings at least as many people in their families and as many of their friends together as any other holiday, but there is not the stress of gift buying and giving, decorations, and all that comes with Christmas and Hanukkah. Thanksgiving, I am told, is simpler, less stressful, and more sententious (sorry got carried away with the consonance).

But, speaking of sententiousness, thanksgiving is about as pithy as a word can get. Of course more than the word is the virtue which this English word seeks to express. Words, of course, are powerful things – someone said a word is worth a thousand pictures (that’s right – I know the reverse is the more popular saying). Of course Aristotle told us that virtues are strengths and the English word comes from the Latin word for strength. What a rich and noble heritage this American holiday is built upon!

I have written about the 1620 Plymouth Pilgrims before and would gladly again. We all would do well to remember them and honor them regularly, as we do publically with declarations, and I believe with the holiday of Thanksgiving itself. They will inspire many for centuries to come as well they should as we read in their

own records of their profound gratitude in the midst of difficulties unknown to most of their descendants.

Thankfulness or gratitude is the most important quality in human life. If I could wish that people had one quality or virtue, more than any other, more than brilliance, or attractiveness, or anything, it would be gratitude. Gratitude is the basis of the two most important things in life: happiness and goodness. You can be neither good nor happy if you are not grateful. Gratitude is the most important single thing a human being can have; everything good, that humans do, flow from gratitude and everything bad flows from ingratitude.

If one is not grateful he or she will almost surely think they are a victim; and a sense of victimhood is the single biggest reason people commit evil. If someone thinks that he or she is a victim, they think that they are not morally bound to the same rules that others are obliged to follow. I have visited far too many people in prisons and interacted with others there as a result and even there I find prisoners who overwhelmingly consider themselves victims. No matter how much they have hurt people.

In addition to evil, ingratitude is also the source of unhappiness; if you walk around ungrateful, you cannot be happy. It is impossible to be happy unless you also have gratitude. Gratitude is the indispensable element to happiness. I do not believe that there is, or ever has been, a single person, who is happy, unless they are also grateful or thankful.

So, looking ahead, to Christmas – all I want for Christmas, if I could only ask for one thing, for you and for me, it is gratitude. Then we will be happy, good and kind. And, grateful we can and should be for as the Scriptures repeat, over and over, more than anything else, “give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”

## Extra Special Upcoming Events

Children’s Christmas Party: Dec. 21, 1-3:30 PM, Recreation Hall

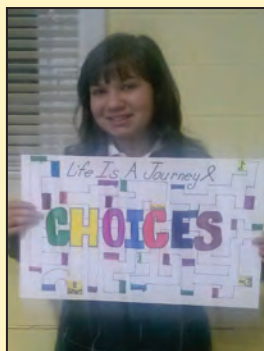
Christmas Fellowship Meal (opening with prayer): Dec. 25, 11-2:00 PM, Ron’s Backstretch Cafe



# Backstreet

## Congratulations...

**Richard John Vermeeren**, 7 lb. 7 oz., was born on August 22, and is the son of blacksmith **Richie Vermeeren** and **Christina Nunn**. Who can't help but smile at the photo to the right?



## Congratulations...

**Nicole Jimenez** won the "Life is a Journey" contest for a poster that she created by hand. She was chosen over many other submissions in the state of New Jersey! Nicole is a daughter of former jockey **Fabrizio Jimenez** and trainer **Lauren Sherman Jimenez**.

## Congratulations...

**Liam Peter Meehan**, 7 lb. 5 oz., was born on November 15 at 2:00 am, and is the son of racing office employee **Peter Meehan** and **Stefanie Meehan**, who is the daughter of trainer **Lou Linder, Jr.** Liam is a sibling to two-year-old Emma.



## Congratulations...

Trainer **Mario Serey, Jr.** won four races on Saturday, November 9th! He saddled the winners of the 1st (Y to Kat), 2nd (In Free), 4th (Mississippi Man) and the 6th (Atthispointintime). (Photo courtesy Bill Denver/EQUI-PHOTO)

## Athletics...

On October 17, our softball team that was led by **Ron Taylor, Jr.** and **Steve Clarkson** played against Paddy's Irish Pub in Mercer, NJ. The PTHA sponsored the league while Ron's Backstretch Cafe provided the t-shirts for the team.





# ch Views



## Condolences...

**Donald Brooks** of B-C Stable and Stony Brook Stables, passed away on November 12, 2013 after a battle with leukemia. He was 62. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Gina, as well as three sons: Gregory, Steven and David. Donald was an avid supporter of thoroughbred aftercare, and regularly donated to the PTHA's Turning for Home program, to which donations may be made in his memory in lieu of flowers.

## Condolences...

**Regina "Jean" DiStasio** passed away at age 94 on October 24, 2013. She was well-known here at Parx as the mother of Barbara DiStasio, who worked in the Racing Commission office for years. In addition, she leaves behind three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions in her name may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 111 South Independence Mall East, #411, Philadelphia, PA 19106.



## Condolences...

Trainer and owner **John J. Maria, Sr.**, passed away on October 4, 2013 at the age of 75, joining his late wife, Diane, and son, Dean. John had become a fixture at Parx after having spent nearly half a century around racehorses. He leaves behind his children, John J. Jr., Lisa (Bouchard), and Nancy, as well as multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Condolences...

Jockey **Antonio "Tony" Vega**, 52, passed away on November 11, 2013 following a brief illness. He was hugely successful in the early '80s, including a runner-up finish in the 1983 Eclipse Award voting for leading apprentice. Tony is survived by his wife Wanda and multiple children and grandchildren.



## Condolences...

**Anita Nikki Yager** passed away suddenly on October 22, 2013 at the age of 57. Nikki was well-known and loved by many on the backstretch, as she grew up on the backstretch at Monmouth Park, and even spent nearly a decade in our HPA store. She was married to former trainer and current jockey agent Gary Yager.

**Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association**  
**P.O. Box 300**  
**Bensalem, PA 19020**

**215-638-2012: Fax 215-638-2919**  
**www.patha.org**



FIRST CLASS  
PRESORT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #113  
LANGHORNE, PA

**President**  
Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

**Executive Director**  
Michael P. Ballezzi, Esq.

**1st Vice President**  
Steven A. Appel, DDS

**2nd Vice President**  
Mary A. Kernan

**Treasurer**  
Philip Aristone

**Director/Owners**  
Lisa Allen  
Steve Appel, DDS  
Michael P. Ballezzi, Esq.  
Mary A. Kernan  
Randall Swisher

**Director/Trainers**  
Philip Aristone  
Kathleen DeMasi  
Ron Glorioso  
Robert Reid  
John Servis

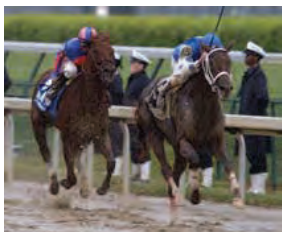
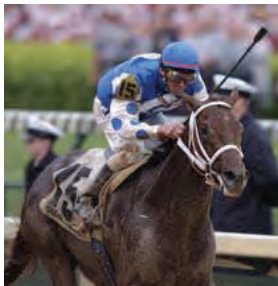
**Secretary**  
Connie Youmans

**Controller**  
Michael A. Colucci, CPA

**Attorneys**  
Archer & Greiner, P.C.

**Marketing & Publicity Director**  
Nikki Sherman

**Turning For Home, Inc.**  
Danielle Montgomery, Program Administrator



Photos by Skip Dickstein.

# LET'S GO RACING TV SHOW

Presented by the PTHA

**Saturdays 10 AM on Comcast SportsNet**



Check out our website at  
**[www.parxracing.com](http://www.parxracing.com)**



Coverage of American racing's top stories.  
Handicapping, analysis, interviews and  
human interest features highlight weekly  
shows, hosted by Parx track announcer  
Keith Jones and handicapper Dick Jerardi.

