



PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter
We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

2016 Issue #5

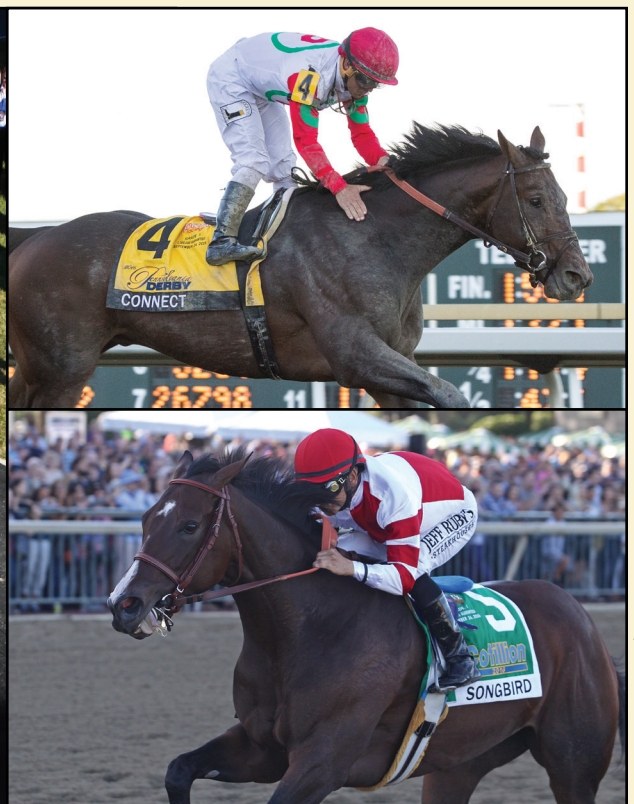
Crowds Flock to See Songbird Score in Cotillion Connect Upsets PA Derby

Any true horse racing fan's jaw would have dropped when the overnight was released for September 24, 2016. Five stakes races totaling more than \$3 million attracted some of the top horses in the country, including Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands winner Nyquist, Preakness Stakes victor Exaggerator, Kentucky Oaks heroine Cathryn Sophia, and the undefeated Songbird.

The bar was set high in the first stakes event on the card, the \$100,000 Alphabet Soup Handicap for Pennsylvania-Bred turf horses, which drew multiple stakes winner Edge of Reality as well as defending champion Uncle Dave. However, it was Ken and Sarah Ramsey's Granny's Kitten who outlasted a grueling stretch battle with fellow New York invader I'll Call. Jockey Florent Geroux rode Granny's Kitten for trainer Mike Maker.

Last year's Bayern Stakes was rechristened the PA Derby "Frosted" Champion Stakes, becoming an homage to the prior year's winner. A solid field vied for their share of the \$150,000 purse, with five of the seven entrants already boasting stakes scores. Without question, the most well-bred horse in the field was Cyrus Alexander, a half-brother to Kentucky Derby (G1) winner Super Saver. The handsome colt sold for \$1.7 million as a yearling to Spendthrift Farm & Stonestreet Stables. Cyrus Alexander finally burst through in the PA Derby Champion Stakes, grinding it out alongside graded stakes winner Mr. Jordan down the stretch before pulling away in the final strides to capture his second career stakes victory. Cyrus Alexander is trained by Jerry Hollendorfer and was ridden by Rafael Bejarano.

(cont'd on page 10)



Photos: Nikki Sherman | Bill Denver/EQUI-PHOTO



President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

This year's September stakes schedule, culminating with Pennsylvania Derby and Cotillion Day, was something truly spectacular. I would have

liked to see some of the other Grade 1 winners in the Cotillion give Songbird a run for her money, but Songbird emphatically proved that she is a special kind of horse with her powerful victory. It was also great to see a Hall of Fame jockey like Mike Smith ride right here at Parx aboard Songbird.

Speaking of impressive horses, I am proud that our signature race, the Pennsylvania Derby, has become such a premiere fall race, drawing horses like Nyquist and Exaggerator. It would have been icing on the cake if one of those two had capitalized with a win; however, the Derby was perfectly set up for the winner. Javier Castellano did an incredible job to place Connect in an ideal position early and moved the colt at precisely the right time - truly a masterpiece!

In other news, we hope that sometime this month, there will be a definitive end to the problem with the

breeders' awards. This has been a frustrating issue but the end is finally within sight.

As we approach the end of my first year as a member of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission, I feel fortunate to have been chosen as the one to represent our horsemen and our sport. It has become clear that there is a tremendous amount of teaching in order to properly educate the other members of the PSHRC as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. It is a difficult job that will take a good amount of time, but I know that I am well-prepared for the task at hand.

Please keep an eye out for this year's PTHA General Election ballot and make sure to cast your vote before the end of the year. Remember, we represent you, the horsemen of Parx Racing.

And finally, as we conclude the Fall Festival this month, I would like to wish all of you a great autumn and a happy Thanksgiving!

2016 PTHA GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

On 10/11/2016, a PTHA general membership nomination meeting was held in the Recreation Hall of Parx Racing with the purpose to hold nominations for the upcoming three-year term. Up for consideration are President, Trainer/Directors and Owner/Directors. Ballots will be mailed out approximately 11/21/2016 and must be returned via USPS no later than 12/31/2016.

President

- Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

Trainer/Director

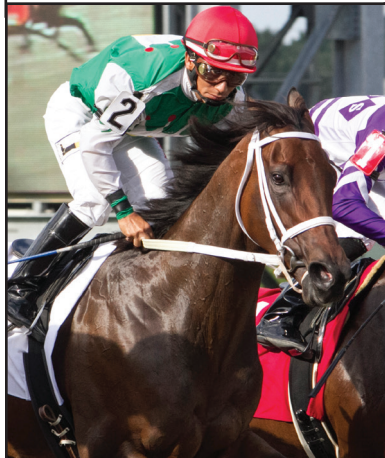
- Philip Aristone
- Kathleen DeMasi
- Ronald Glorioso
- Robert Reid, Jr.
- John Servis

Owner/Director

- Lisa Allen
- Dr. Steven Appel, DDS
- Charles Asensio
- Michael P. Ballezzi, Esq.
- Wendy Preciado
- Nicholas Saponara
- Mary Zanone

Princess of Sylmar S.

Hometown heroine Cathryn Sophia made her return to the races a successful one while capturing the \$150,000 Princess of Sylmar Stakes on Sept. 3. The new prep for the G1 Cotillion Stakes was contested on PA's Day at the Races, and fans came out of the woodwork to watch her sensational athletic display before cheering loudly as rider Paco Lopez trotted back to the winner's circle. She is owned by Cash Is King LLC and trained by John Servis.



HALL OF FAME S.

The \$100,000 Hall of Fame S. on Sept. 17 turned into a real thriller. Highlighting the field was G2 winner Delta Bluesman, who was forced to change his frontrunning tactics when Pomeroy's Package gunned to the early lead. Also competing was G3 winner Always Sunshine (7), trained by Ned Allard. However, Delta Bluesman was just too good, winning by a length under Emisael Jaramillo for Monster Racing Stables and trainer Jorge Navarro.



Photos: Nikki Sherman

SMARTY JONES STAKES

Fourteen three-year-olds burst out of the starting gate for the 2016 edition of the \$300,000 Smarty Jones Stakes (G3), all hoping to justify an entry in the \$1 million Pennsylvania Derby at the end of the month. Live Oak Plantation's homebred colt Awesome Slew went right out to the front and continued to lengthen that lead, crossing the wire seven emphatic lengths in front of Wild About Deb. Awesome Slew was ridden by Paco Lopez for trainer Edward Plesa, Jr.



GREENWOOD CUP

Scuba has been knocking on the stakes winner door and finally crossed this elusive benchmark when coasting to victory in the \$200,000 Greenwood Cup (G3) on Labor Day. The nearly-white son of brilliant sire Tapit went straight to the lead and never let up, drawing off by the end of the marathon mile-and-a-half race to win by an easy five-lengths under expert Parx jockey Kendrick Carmouche. Brendan Walsh trains the gelding for DARRS, Inc. Also contesting

the Greenwood Cup were Parx-based Nieto Mireyo (PER) and Winter Ride, as well as recent stakes winner Hawaakom and former Preakness contender Bodhisattva.



Photos: Nikki Sherman

TURF MONSTER

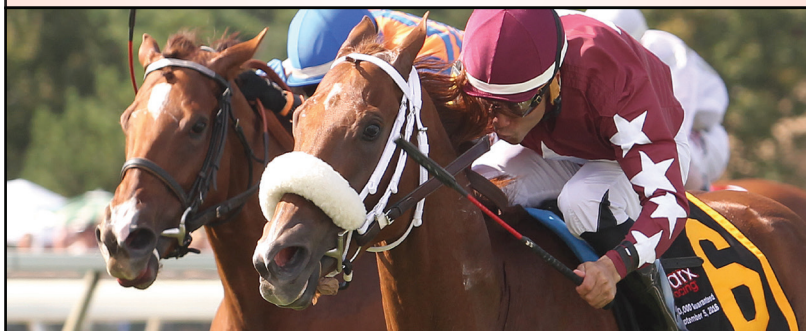


Longshot Doctor J Dub delivered a Labor Day surprise in the \$300,000 Turf Monster (G3), overcoming an early bump down the backstretch before holding off a late surge by fellow longshot Two Notch Road to capture his first graded stakes victory by a half-length. The gelded bay son of Sharp Humor was ridden by Sheldon Russell for the ecstatic ownership group of Drawing Away Stable. Doctor J Dub is trained by Jena Antonucci.



TURF AMAZON

In the United States there are limited options for stakes-level female turf sprinters, so the \$200,000 Turf Amazon Stakes usually attracts a quality field. This year was no different: five of the eight entrants were already stakes winners. Highlighting the race was odds-on choice Lady Shipman. The daughter of Midshipman had earned just over \$775,000 while capturing 12 of 18 starts for owners Ranlo Investments LLC and trainer Kieran McLaughlin. Her most impressive race occurred last October in the \$1 million Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1) against the boys when she finished just a neck behind last year's Turf Monster runner-up Mongolian Saturday. Lady Shipman made easy work of this year's Turf Amazon, winning by a length under a masterful ride by Joel Rosario.



Photos: Nikki Sherman, Bill Denver/EQUI-PHOTO

Pennsylvania's Day at the Races Stakes Winners



Winning the Medal
Marshall Jenney H.



Valued Strike
Mrs. Penny S.



A Fleet Attitude
Banjo Picker S.



Black Mission Fig
*Dr. Teresea Garofalo
Memorial S.*



Kobel
Roanoke S.

2017 Broodmare Domicile Report Now Online!

*For mares foaling in 2017, the
Broodmare Domicile Reports are
due November 15th, 2016*

Reminder

*This is the first year of change for
domicile eligibility for dams from
October 1st to November 1st*

*Forms can be found & filled out
online under the "forms" section
at www.pabred.com*



GALLANT bob



Arguably, nobody was happier for Noholdingback Bear's determined victory in the \$300,000 Gallant Bob S. (G3) than jockey Eurico Rosa Da Silva, whose ecstatic celebrations were a refreshing start to graded stakes action on PA Derby Day. Noholdingback Bear struck back after two straight losses to capture the Gallant Bob for Bear Stables, Ltd. and trainer Michael De Paulo. Next up for the colt may be the Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) at Santa Anita.



PA DERBY "FROSTED" CHAMPION STAKES



Trainer Jerry Hollendorfer didn't come to Parx with just Songbird; he also shipped in Cyrus Alexander for the \$150,000 PA Derby "Frosted" Champion Stakes. The well-bred Medaglia d'Oro colt was more than ready for his chance in the spotlight, and survived a thrilling stretch battle with morning line favorite Mr. Jordan to capture the win. Ridden by Rafael Bejarano, Cyrus Alexander is owned by Spendthrift Farm LLC & Stonestreet Stables LLC.



Photos: Nikki Sherman



On every Owners Appreciation Day, the PTHA celebrates the owners of horses at Parx Racing, and the 8th edition held on Saturday, September 10th was no different. Each owner who had a horse entered received a gift bag

in the paddock (*below, top left*) and all owners were invited to a free buffet luncheon in the grandstand. Every winning owner also received a beautiful faux leather overnight bag filled with even more goodies (*below, top right*).

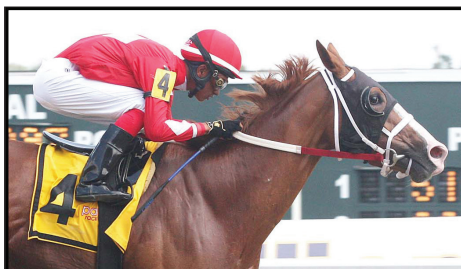
The featured race was the \$200,000 PTHA President's Cup, being contested for the 16th time. The field was small but included top racehorses such as last year's Champion Older

Male at Parx Racing, Uncle Dave, as well as Grade 1-placed War Dancer. In what was to be the final race of his career, War Dancer would not be denied, wearing down Uncle Dave in the final strides, for his ecstatic owners Diamond M Stable. The colt is trained by Bill Mott, and was ridden to victory by Junior Alvarado. PTHA Vice President Dr. Steven Appel was on hand to present the trophy to the winning connections (*below, bottom right*).



Photos: Nikki Sherman

2016 Owners Appreciation Day Winners



Heat Seeking

Owner: Peter Kazamias
Trainer: Enrique Arroyo



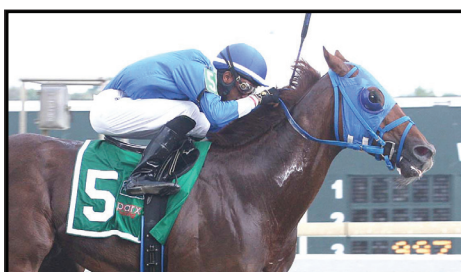
Stax On Stacks

Owner: Ten Strike Racing
Trainer: J. Carlos Guerrero



Recanted

Owner: Tobey L. Morton
Trainer: Scott Lake



Blast Away

Owner: Mario DeJesus Arriaga
Trainer: Wilfredo Caraballo



Bon Voyage

Owner: David Claudio
Trainer: John Rodriguez



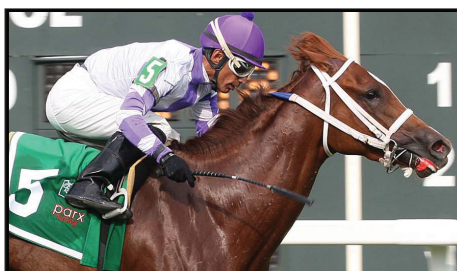
My Son Ernie

Owner: John Fanelli
Trainer: Miguel Penaloza



Miss Lauren Ann

Owner: Floyd W. Snyder
Trainer: Floyd Snyder



She's Chubs

Owner: John Phillip & Rebecca Taylor
Trainer: Scott Lake



Thoroughbred Fuel

Owner: Golden Oak Farm LLC
Trainer: Scott Lake



War Dancer

Owner: Diamond M Stable
Trainer: William Mott



Magic Five

Owner: Jack J. Armstrong
Trainer: Philip Aristone

Photos: Nikki Sherman & Barbara Weidl | EQUI-PHOTO

2016 Pennsylvania DERBY

Cotillion 2016



Fans watch **Connect** enter the winner's circle.

(cont'd from cover)

The \$300,000 Gallant Bob Stakes (G3) attracted a full field but the heavy favorite made easy work of the challenge. Bear Stables, Ltd.'s Noholdingback Bear rebounded from a third-place finish in the G1 King's Bishop to win the Gallant Bob under Eurico Da Silva for trainer Michael De Paulo.

By 4:00, the track apron was packed with fans and the air was absolutely buzzing with excitement. Popular racing television personalities Laffit Pincay, III, Dick Jerardi, Caton Bredar, Maggie Wolfendale and Sharla McBride were also set up to cover the biggest races live on Comcast SportsNet.



Connect holds off **Gun Runner** to win the 40th running of the Grade 2 **Pennsylvania Derby**.

First up in the one-two punch of \$1 million races was the only Grade 1 in the state of Pennsylvania - the Cotillion Stakes. In recent history, top fillies - such as Rachel Alexandra and Zenyatta - have dodged each other, but an incredible matchup in the Cotillion would give bettors something to really think about before visiting the betting window. Not only did the Cotillion draw undefeated champion Songbird; also entered were G1 winners Cathryn Sophia & Carina Mia, as well as G2 winner Land Over Sea.

However, despite their impressive credentials, the connections of Songbird's opposition knew that the Cotillion would be difficult.

"We'll see," said John Servis, trainer of Cathryn Sophia. "Everything changes once they leave the gate. Songbird has impressed me a lot. She has the talent to run horses off their feet and keep going."

Land Over Sea's trainer Doug O'Neill agreed, "Songbird has the speed and class . . . you'd probably have to go back before I was born to find anyone as good as her."



Nyquist



Exaggerator



Connect in the **Pennsylvania Derby** winner's circle.



Connect in front of a huge crowd by the walking ring.

And so, when Songbird soared past Carina Mia and began to draw away under the gentle urging of jockey Mike Smith, the appreciative crowd could only roar with approval. Next up for the daughter of Medaglia d'Oro will be the Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) at her home base of Santa Anita Park, when she is expected to face older females for the first time, including Beholder and Stellar Wind.

"There's some big cheese in that race," admitted owner Rick Porter of Fox Hill Farm. "But that's the fun of it - hook the big ones and hopefully beat 'em . . . I'm proud to watch her race, she gives me chills every time. It's just so much fun to watch her run. I thought this race fit in with the Breeders' Cup, the timing is perfect."

After the Cotillion trophy presentation, it was time for the second knockout round, as a deep field of twelve sophomores entered the paddock for the \$1.32 million Pennsylvania Derby (G2). It will be hard for the graded stakes committee to ignore the state's signature race after this year's edition. Reminiscent of Affirmed and Alydar, two-year-old champion Nyquist and multiple G1 winner Exaggerator were meeting for the seventh time, and those two drew most of the attention from bettors and fans all week. However, the deeply competitive field did not end there, and included four additional graded stakes winners and two listed stakes winners. Of the remaining horses, only Summer Revolution was unplaced in a stakes, and the lightly raced colt just missed with a fourth place finish in the G1 King's Bishop.

It was one of those talented underdogs that jumped up to the top of the three-year-old class in the PA Derby. Paul Pompa, Jr.'s late-blooming Connect, who captured his first three career starts including the \$100,000 Curlin Stakes at Saratoga, rebounded from a throwaway sixth-place finish in the Travers Stakes (G1) to gamely hold off Gun Runner by a half-length in the PA Derby. Nyquist and Exaggerator could do no better than sixth and seventh, respectively.

Afterwards, winning jockey Javier Castellano was all praise for Connect. "This kind of horse, he's a big horse, and I think he put it together today and I'm very satisfied with the way he did it today."



Owner **Rick Porter** walks **Songbird** into the winner's circle.



Songbird soars to victory in the **Cotillion Stakes**.



Cathryn Sophia



Songbird surrounded by fans.



Mike Smith, Rick Porter and **Jerry Hollendorfer** celebrate their victory.



Songbird in the **Cotillion Stakes** winner's circle.

Our Unsung Heroes

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



As the beauty of autumn reaches the treetops, we begin to reflect on the current year and anticipate the new year. This was as challenging a year for Turning for Home as it was for our horsemen, with lost racing days, and with a record intake of horses to evaluate, rehabilitate, and send out to Partner Farms for safe placement, we have again relied on our supporters to come through for the horses we protect. At the current rate, this winter we will exceed 2,000 horses retired safely, thanks to the support of our owners and the various donors that make our TFH program the leading on-track retirement program in the nation. Our goal is to provide safe retirement for all eligible Parx horses, and not have to turn any away. For the ninth straight year, we have achieved that goal, and much of our success is due to the unsung heroes of racehorse retirement: our Parx trainers.

Without the loyalty and allegiance of our trainers, our program would not work. While there has been great progress within the industry for owners to step up and take responsibility for the safe retirement of their horses, it often falls upon the trainer to advise and make retirement arrangements for the horses. Many times, these trainers go above and beyond what is required in order to make sure their horses are carefully eased into

retirement. They do what is best for the horse, often waiving a day rate while providing appropriate after-care as their horses wait for placement. If you ask any one of them, they will tell you how much better it makes them feel to know that these horses are not just "disappearing" after their careers are over. There are too many great horsemen to mention here, but we all know who they are, sponsoring well-loved horses, campaigning with us and supporting our fundraisers and promotions, reaching out to their vets and proactively protecting their charges from breakdown injuries. These trainers have quite the balancing act to do, and they are a racehorse's best advocate, bar none: the unsung heroes of racehorse retirement.



Bob Donaldson won the American Pharoah stud halter raffle.



Danielle, daughter **Megan** and volunteer **Linda Schiavo**.



Danielle & Victor Molina with the big out-of-town jockeys.



Volunteers **Jean Fritz** and **Ginny Suevo** on Derby Day.

This year is far from over and we have plenty still to do. In addition to thanking our trainers, we would also like to thank Coolmore America for their donation of the American Pharoah Stud halter, which raised over \$7,000 for our program (enough to cover two surgical horses with placement!!). Pennsylvania Derby Day was a great fundraising day for us, with 250 Songbird t-shirts donated by Fox Hill Farm, many of them signed by four top jockeys (Mike Smith, Kent Desormeaux, Javier Castellano and Mario Gutierrez), who also contributed to TFH and the Permanently Disabled Jockey Fund (PDJF) via an exclusive autograph session.

All of your support is appreciated and will always be welcomed.

Parx Horsemen Around the Nation

August 28 - **ELEVEN NORTH H.**
Monmouth Park, 6f
3rd - SHE'S HOT WIRED
O: Lawrence Dilione, Jr.
T: Mario Serey, Jr.
J: Trevor McCarthy

September 3 - **BANJO PICKER SPRINT S.**
Parx Racing, 6f
1st - A FLEET ATTITUDE
O: Morris E. Kernan, Jr.
T: Marcos Zulueta
J: Frankie Pennington
2nd - PURCELL
O: Thomas G. McClay
T: Ramon Preciado
J: Angel Arroyo

September 3 - **MARSHALL JENNEY H.**
Parx Racing, 5f (T)
1st - WINNING THE MEDAL
O: R and L Racing
T: Patricia Farro
J: Emmanuel Esquivel
3rd (DH) - SPARTANOS
O: Nick Sanna Stables LLC & Two Legends Farm
T: Michael Pino
J: Frankie Pennington
3rd (DH) - AGONISTIC
O: D and E Stable LLC
T: Edward Coletti, Jr.
J: Eriluis Vaz

September 3 - **DR. TERESA GAROFALO MEMORIAL S.**
Parx Racing, 6f
2nd - DISCO CHICK
O: Freedom Acres, Inc.
T: Mario Serey, Jr.
J: Trevor McCarthy
3rd - AUTHORITATIVE
O: S.M.D., Ltd.
T: John Servis
J: Frankie Pennington

September 3 - **ROANOKE S.**
Parx Racing, 1 1/16 miles
1st - KOBEL
O: Richard Malouf
T: Scott Lake
J: Frankie Pennington
2nd - RES JUDICATA
O: Someday Farm
T: John Servis
J: Paco Lopez

September 3 - **PRINCESS OF SYLMAR S.**
Parx Racing, 1 mile
1st - CATHRYN SOPHIA
O: Cash is King LLC
T: John Servis
J: Paco Lopez
2nd - DISCO ROSE
O: LC Racing
T: Robert Reid, Jr.
J: Edwin Rivera

September 5 - **TURF AMAZON S.**
Parx Racing, 5f (T)
2nd - EVERYTHING LOVELY
O: Pewter Stable & Armand A. Delaperriere
T: Kathleen DeMasi
J: Daniel Centeno

September 5 - **SMARTY JONES S. (G3)**
Parx Racing, 1 1/16 miles
2nd - WILD ABOUT DEB
O: Marisa Lizza
T: Ramon Preciado
J: Tiago Pereira

September 10 - **PTHA PRESIDENT'S CUP S.**
Parx Racing, 1 1/8 miles (T)
2nd - UNCLE DAVE
O: M-Z Racing Partnership
T: Marcos Zulueta
J: Jorge Vargas, Jr.

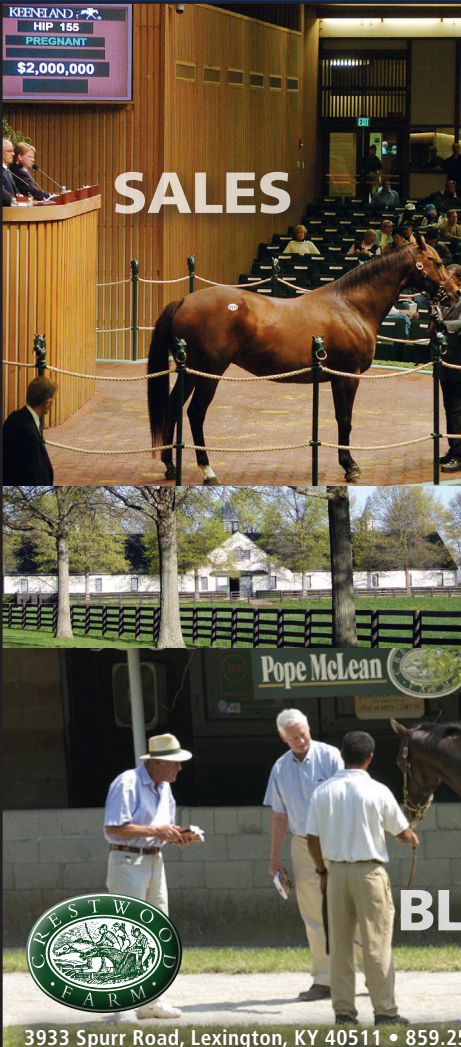
September 17 - **PINK RIBBON S.**
Charles Town, 7f
1st - SHE'S HOT WIRED
O: Lawrence Dilione, Jr.
T: Miguel Penaloza
J: Trevor McCarthy

September 17 - **HALL OF FAME S.**
Parx Racing, 5f
2nd - POMEROY'S PACKAGE
O: Robert Reidy
T: Miguel Penaloza
J: Ruben Silvera

September 24 - **ALPHABET SOUP S.**
Parx Racing, 1 1/16 miles (T)
3rd - UNCLE DAVE
O: M-Z Racing Partnership
T: Marcos Zulueta
J: Jorge Vargas, Jr.

September 24 - **PA DERBY CHAMPION S.**
Parx Racing, 1 1/16 miles
2nd - WAR STORY
O: Loooch Racing Stable, Inc. & Glenn K. Ellis
T: Miguel Penaloza
J: Frankie Pennington

September 24 - **COTILLION S. (G1)**
Parx Racing, 1 1/16 miles
3rd - CATHRYN SOPHIA
O: Cash is King LLC
T: John Servis
J: Javier Castellano



SALES

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On Saturday, September 17th, Parx Racing and the PTHA inducted six outstanding individuals into the Parx Racing Hall of Fame.

More photos and full biographies of each honoree may be found on the PTHA website, <http://www.patha.org>.

Banjo Picker



Perhaps the greatest claim in the history of Philadelphia Park was the \$15,000 slip dropped on Banjo Picker by trainer Steven Krebs for owner Danny Limongelli. The gelded son of Swear by Dixie became one of the most consistent and longest-lasting PA-Breds of all time. His resume includes victories in the Devil's Honor Handicap (2x), Le Grande Pos Handicap, Lyman Sprint Championship, and Power by Far Handicap. He also won the Grade 3 Gravesend Handicap at Aqueduct. Parx Racing now hosts a PA-Bred stakes in his honor, called the Banjo Picker Stakes.

Frankie Pennington

No rider at Parx Racing has come close to the numbers set by Frankie Pennington in recent years. Since ousting fellow Hall of Famer Kendrick Carmouche in 2014, Pennington has captured two consecutive riding titles at Parx. Both years were runaways - he led by 33 and 22 wins, respectively. He also set



an impressive - and likely unbreakable - record of 259 wins in 2006 while earning his first riding title at then-Philadelphia Park. After growing up in Texas, Pennington moved first to Ohio and then Pennsylvania, where he has remained a loyal member of the Parx Racing Jockey Colony since 2004.

Jorge Tejeira

Panamanian-born Jorge Tejeira was in the upper echelon of jockeys in the United States in the latter quarter of the twentieth century. Known for being a quiet and reserved rider, he was also exceptionally astute in the saddle. In 1976, he tied a longstanding North American record for total wins in a single day when he guided eight horses to victory - three at Keystone Race Track during the day and five at Atlantic City Race Course in the evening. At Keystone/Philadelphia Park, Tejeira was regularly at the top of the jockey standings and was crowned Leading Rider five times.



Kathleen DeMasi

Kathleen DeMasi is one of the most respected trainers at Parx Racing, where she is also a longtime board member of the PTHA. Her expertise with racehorses has regularly propelled her to the top 10% of the trainer standings, and she made history as the first female trainer to be inducted into the Parx Racing Hall of Fame. DeMasi saddled her first horse - also her first winner - in 1984 and recently passed the 1,200-victory mark for her career. She trained PA-Bred Turf Filly of the Year Merry Princess, who won three stakes races, as well as her stakes-winning son Merry's Honor. Her other stakes winners include Tj's Tuff as Nails, Tuff Partners, Joya Real, Sailor's Revenge and Winchill.



Ronald Glorioso



Ronald Glorioso has been a fixture in Pennsylvania racing since the early 1970s, when he was stabled at Liberty Bell Park, and was the very first trainer on the grounds at Keystone Race Track (now Parx Racing). Glorioso has been a part of the PTHA since 2007 and was especially important in pushing the pension fund to become retroactive, so that horsemen who have been in the industry for years would be covered fairly. A multiple stakes-winning trainer with career purse earnings of nearly \$10 million, Glorioso conditioned Grade 3 winner Fling, and one of his favorite horses was Lady On Ice, who won the 1986 Tuscarora Handicap right here at Philadelphia Park.

Connie Youmans

When horsemen on the backstretch have a question or problem, the universal answer is almost always: "Go see Connie." As a youngster, Youmans took advantage of growing up in Louisville, Kentucky by taking a part-time job on weekends at Churchill Downs. In 1974 Youmans came to Pennsylvania with now-husband Murray Scott, and she proudly notes that her claim to fame was installing the very first screw eye in Barn 1 at Keystone Race Track. By 1976 she was working for the Pennsylvania Horsemen's Benevolence & Protective Association and has since continued with the PTHA. Youmans established The Granny Fund, an education scholarship for horsemen and their families, in honor of her mother Catherine "Granny" Youmans.

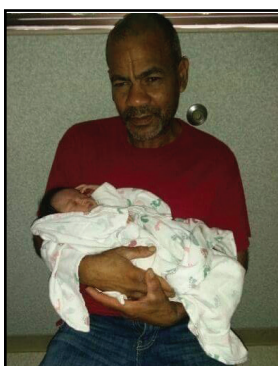


Backstretch Views

Congratulations!



In the last PTHA News, we printed a happy birth announcement for **Daniel Velazquez** and wife **Hilary Gohen**'s twin boys. In the final race on Pennsylvania Derby Day, September 24, 2016, **Noah Alfredo Velazquez** and **Gabriel Mark Velazquez**, were in their very first winner's circle photo! What a great finale to a fantastic day!



Longtime groom **Luis Colon** became a first-time grandfather to grandson **Yanniel Jovanni** in September. Congratulations to the happy family!



Trainer **Jennie Wilhelm**'s family grew with the addition of granddaughter **Jocelyn Victoria Saldana** on September 8, 2016, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. Mom **Victoria Saldana** is doing great! Jocelyn is Jennie's fourth grandchild.

Our Condolences...



Robert Tresente passed away at the age of 74 on September 19, 2016. In addition to owning racehorses, he was also the owner/operator at Lord's Parking in Newark, New Jersey, and served in the U. S. Army. Robert was passionate about Thoroughbred racing and was regularly among the leading owners at Parx Racing: he was ranked #2 by overall wins

in 2015, #3 in 2014. He was also ranked amongst the top 100 owners in the country from 2013-2015. Robert is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Diane, and children Robert Jr. (wife Claudia), Gregory (wife Debra), and Lori (husband Andrew), as well as many grandchildren and one great-grandson. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to be sent to Turning for Home, Inc., at P. O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020.



Owner **Christopher Goldacker** passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on October 13, 2016. Known as "one of the nicest people on the racetrack", he will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him. In lieu of flowers, his family asks for donations to be sent to Turning for Home, an organization that Chris was a huge supporter of since its inception.

Do you have any news for Backstretch Views?

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

Around the Parx Oval



Photos: Nikki Sherman, Danielle Montgomery

Do you have any photos for Around the Parx Oval?

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Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”

- Mark 8:36 (NASB)

It may not be until *after* Thanksgiving when I next write to you, and so let me share a great reason to be thankful. Holy Scripture declares that we are surrounded by priceless precious people – you are one of them! So precious that in truth our Creator can ask this rhetorical question in the Scripture above that clearly implies that each person's soul is worth more than the entire world. It is not unusual to see signs on houses which say for sale and we are not shocked to see for sale signs on automobiles. Yet, we would be dismayed at the thought of a price tag on a person walking down the street.

There are many valuable horses that we were blessed to see during our Fall Festival. And yet, every rider on every horse is worth more than the whole world. Every walker of every horse is worth more than the whole world. Jesus implies in the above Scripture verse that if any one of them traded their soul for the whole world it would be a bad deal. Jesus is essentially saying that each and every person is worth more than the whole world. Why? For one, a soul will never die. Long after the sun has burned out your soul will still be living. Another reason is that each person is unique, one-of-a-kind, like the rarest coin, but that will not melt away. There never was another you with the same emotional balance, exact talents or precisely similar mind and imagination, so no, there never will be another you. Even more important than this vastly astonishing truth is the fact that each of us is made in the image of God so that deep down underneath there is an essential likeness to God in us.

C.S. Lewis writes in *The Weight of Glory*:

“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours

as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption.”

Charlemagne the wise and benevolent ruler of the Franks left a record of loyalty to faith and education. When he died, this wise & honored king was not buried as if sleeping in his shroud in a reclining position. Rather, he was buried seated on a throne in robes of state with an open Bible on his knee, one finger pointed to the words of Jesus that live on when kings are dead and empires are dust – “For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul.”

Now, I suppose that everyone is for sale. It is a matter of for what, or how much. We are negotiable. We may attempt to stand on dead center doing no business in loyalty and allegiance and love, stubbornly trying to be completely neutral, but neutrality is not our natural estate. No one can assume complete neutrality in the physical by saying, “I will neither eat nor fail to eat. I will be neutral.” Or, “I will neither breathe nor fail to breathe. I will be neutral.” As in the physical, so in the spiritual – we are made to be used to love and be loved, to spend and be spent. The matter is not whether our souls are to be claimed and owned by somebody or something else. The question is rather, by whom or by what? Yes, our souls are for sale.

What will a person give in exchange for his or her soul? There is nothing except God worth all that we are. And, thankfully, God will receive us and keep us. Thanks be . . . to God – Amen!



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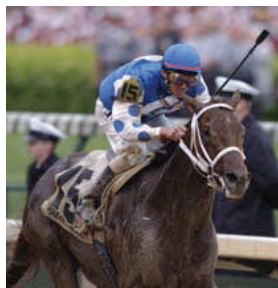
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