



# PTHA NEWS

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

2016 Issue #4

## Record Support on Turning for Home Day '16

The 3rd Annual Turning for Home Day occurred on Saturday, June 25th at Parx Racing. Thanks to the generous support from a combined total of more than 100 sponsors and supporters, Turning for Home was able to put on a tremendously exciting day. For a full recap of the event, turn to pages 10-11.



The \$100,000 Turning for Home Stakes was sponsored for the second straight year by Fantasy Lane Stable & Diamond B Farm.

Photo: Nikki Sherman

## PA Derby Bonus Looks to Attract Triple Crown Winners

Over the past half-decade, the \$1 million Pennsylvania Derby (G2) has grown into a premiere fall event for some of the best three-year-olds in the country. Beginning with future multiple Grade 1 winner and stakes record-holder To Honor and Serve in 2011, the PA Derby has drawn an impressive roster of horses, including 2014 Kentucky Derby (and future Dubai World Cup) hero California Chrome, who finished fourth behind Bayern, who used the PA Derby as a springboard prep for his exciting victory in his next start - the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic. Will Take Charge captured the 2013 PA Derby en route to being crowned that year's Eclipse Award for top three-year-old male. And of course last year fans saw Frosted

vault out of American Pharoah's shadow, winning under a hand ride and showing a spark of the brilliance he has exhibited as a four-year-old this year (Frosted won the G1 Met Mile by more than 14 lengths before winning the G1 Whitney Handicap in his most recent start at Saratoga).

This year's PA Derby is looking to attract yet another group of outstanding sophomores, and is doing so in a big way, as track management has implemented a structure of total purse bonuses. Three different colts captured the three Triple Crown races this spring and

(cont'd on page 14)



Photos: Nikki Sherman for DRF & NYRA/Coglianese Photos



## President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

After this brutally hot summer, I am happy that we are now headed into the cooler months of autumn. Of course, that also means we are entering the most thrilling part of our racing year. After a productive three-week break that included maintenance of the track surface, racing will return on Sept. 3 when we will celebrate PA-Breds with PA's Day at the Races. Labor Day is two days later and should be yet another great afternoon of racing, with four stakes worth a total of \$1 million.

Every year I look forward to presenting the PTHA President's Cup trophy, which this year falls on Sept. 10. Please don't forget to join us upstairs for our

annual Owners Appreciation Day luncheon that same afternoon.

On Sept. 17 we will induct six new members into the Parx Racing Hall of Fame. And last but certainly not least, Pennsylvania Derby Day is Sept. 24. I am hopeful that we will draw the three Triple Crown race winners. It will also be exciting to see our Two-Year-Old Champion Filly Cathryn Sophia meet Songbird in the Cotillion!

I am immensely proud of Turning for Home Day this past June. It is incredible what this organization has done in just eight years and for so many people to support them on their big day is truly special.

It continues to be an extremely difficult time for our industry,

but I believe that I am helping to combat the many issues facing horse racing by making major contributions as a member of the new Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission (PSHRC). I vow to you that I will continue working my hardest to improve our industry. Recently, the PSHRC unfortunately had to table necessary corrections to the recently enacted breeding fund legislation because of legal limitations, but the PSHRC sent a letter to the legislative leadership urging the legislature to act quickly to restore the original funding language and study later what changes, if any, can be made to enhance breeding in Pennsylvania.

## Upcoming Events



**Saturday, September 3 (All Day)**

### PA's DAY AT THE RACES

Five \$100,000 PA-Bred stakes races:  
Banjo Picker Sprint • Roanoke S.  
Marshall Jenney H. • Mrs. Penny S.  
Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial  
\$150,000 Princess of Sylmar S.



**Saturday, September 17 (All Day)**  
**HALL OF FAME DAY**

Parx Racing Hall of Fame  
Induction Ceremonies  
\$100,000 Hall of Fame S.



**Monday, September 5 (All Day)**

### LABOR DAY AT PARX RACING

\$300,000 Smarty Jones S. (G3)  
\$300,000 Turf Monster H. (G3)  
\$200,000 Greenwood Cup (G3)  
\$200,000 Turf Amazon H.



**Saturday, September 24 (All Day)**  
**PENNSYLVANIA DERBY DAY**

\$1,000,000 G1 Cotillion S.  
\$1,000,000 G2 PA Derby  
\$300,000 G3 Gallant Bob S.  
\$150,000 PA Derby Champion S.  
\$100,000 Alphabet Soup S.  
Baseball Cap Giveaway



**Saturday, September 10 (All Day)**

### OWNERS APPRECIATION DAY

\$200,000 PTHA President's Cup  
Owners luncheon in grandstand  
sponsored by the PTHA

### \*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*

Live racing dates missed this past winter have been rescheduled. Added to the schedule are the following days:  
Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, Dec. 24,  
Dec. 26, Dec. 27, Dec. 31.



## Parx Horsemen Around the Nation

June 11 - **ACORN S. (G1)**  
Belmont Park, 1 mile  
3rd - CATHRYN SOPHIA  
O: Cash Is King LLC  
T: John C. Servis  
J: Javier Castellano

June 11 - **HONEY BEE S.**  
Monmouth Park, 5 1/2f (T)  
3rd - EVERYTHING LOVELY  
O: Pewter Stable &  
Armand A. Delaperriere  
T: Kathleen DeMasi  
J: Victor Lebron

June 11 - **DANZIG S.**  
Penn National, 6f  
3rd - BIRD OF TREY  
O: JRita Young  
Thoroughbreds LLC  
T: John Servis  
J: Joshua Navarro

June 18 - **DONALD LEVINE  
MEMORIAL S.**  
Parx Racing, 7f  
2nd - ROXBURY N OVERTON  
O: J A G Racing & Jettany  
Thoroughbred Corp.  
T: Ramon Preciado  
J: Hector Caballero

June 25 - **OHIO DERBY**  
Thistledown, 1 1/8 miles  
3rd - DISCREET LOVER  
O: Trin-Brook Stables, Inc.  
T: Uriah St. Lewis  
J: Jose Flores

July 9 - **DASHING BEAUTY S.**  
Delaware Park, 6f  
2nd - DISCO CHICK  
O: Freedom Acres, Inc.  
T: Carlos Soto  
J: Ricardo Chiappe

July 10 - **WOLF HILL S.**  
Monmouth Park, 5 1/2f  
2nd - BEANTOWN SAINT  
O: Veritas Stable  
T: John Servis  
J: Joshua Navarro

July 23 - **POWER BY FAR S.**  
Parx Racing, 5f (T)  
1st - FAT KAT  
O: L and C Racing LLC,  
Squire Thoroughbreds  
LLC & Wake The Dame  
T: Robert Reid, Jr.  
J: Edwin Rivera  
3rd - PERSNICKITY  
O: Branjam Stable &  
David W. Clark  
T: Louis Linder, Jr.  
J: Ruben Silvera

July 23 - **CROWD PLEASER S.**  
Parx Racing, 1 1/16 miles (T)  
1st - SARATOGA JACK  
O: Jean Mahoney  
T: Miguel Vera  
J: Jose Flores  
3rd - SMARTY MR D  
O: Joshtylane Farm &  
Harry J. Daut  
T: John Servis  
J: Anthony Salgado

July 27 - **HONORABLE MISS  
H. (G2)**  
Saratoga, 6f  
3rd - DISCO CHICK  
O: Freedom Acres, Inc.  
T: Mario Serey, Jr.  
J: Trevor McCarthy

August 4 - **STRIKE YOUR  
COLORS S.**  
Delaware Park, 5 1/2f  
2nd - BRAHMS SECRET  
O: Richard P. Hessee III  
T: Randy Allen  
J: Carol Cedeno

August 13 - **MY FRENCHMAN S.**  
Monmouth Park, 5 1/2f (T)  
2nd - SYLVEN PARK  
O: Just in Time Racing LLC  
T: Mario Serey, Jr.  
J: Frankie Pennington



**Joya Real.**

August 14 - **BLUE SPARKLER S.**  
Monmouth Park, 5 1/2f (T)  
1st - JOYA REAL  
O: Pewter Stable  
T: Kathleen DeMasi  
J: Frankie Pennington

August 20 - **JAMEELA S.**  
Laurel Park, 6f (T)  
2nd - EVERYTHING LOVELY  
O: Pewter Stable &  
Armand A. Delaperriere  
T: Kathleen DeMasi  
J: Daniel Centeno



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# Parx Racing Roundup

## DONALD LEVINE MEMORIAL STAKES



Photos: Nikki Sherman

**Joe Bravo celebrates aboard A. P. Indian.**

Defending champion A. P. Indian made easy work of the \$100,000 Donald LeVine Memorial Stakes, held at Parx Racing on June 18. The imposing son of Indian Charlie completed the seven furlongs nearly a full second faster than last year, while leading wire-to-wire under a masterful hand ride by Joe Bravo. A. P. Indian is undefeated in 2016 for trainer Arnaud Delacour, including two scintillating Grade 1 victories at Saratoga. He is a homebred for Green Lantern Stables, LLC, and is out of multiple stakes winner Ender's Sister, who was most recently a \$725,000 RNA at the 2008 Keeneland November Sale while in foal to Distorted Humor.

## TURNING FOR HOME STAKES

Encryption kept his perfect record at Parx Racing intact with a hard-fought victory over favored Majestic Affair in the \$100,000 Turning for Home Stakes on June 25. The Exchange Rate colt captured the \$150,000 Bayern Stakes on PA Derby Day last year by an emphatic 6 1/4 lengths after pressing the pace throughout, defeating a strong field of eight for his first stakes win. The Turning for Home Stakes required a different tactic, as jockey Nik Juarez settled the five-year-old behind the leaders before swinging wide into the final turn en route to a neck victory. Kelly Breen trains for owner Stoneway Farm, who purchased Encryption as a yearling for \$140,000 at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale. He was bred by Greenwood Lodge Farm in Kentucky and is out of the stakes-winning Bahri mare Mystic Soul.



**Encryption wins the \$100,000 Turning for Home Stakes, sponsored by Fantasy Lane Stable & Diamond B Farm.**



**Zipessa wins the Dr. James Penny Memorial under Florent Geroux.**

## DR. JAMES PENNY MEMORIAL STAKES

The first graded stakes event of the year went to Empyrean Stables' Zipessa, as Florent Geroux guided the daughter of City Zip to an easy two-length win on the Fourth of July. Michael Stidham trains Zipessa, who captured her first career stakes win in the Grade 3, \$200,000 Dr. James Penny Memorial Stakes. Zipessa was bred in Kentucky by G. Watts Humphrey, Jr., and Sally S. Humphrey.

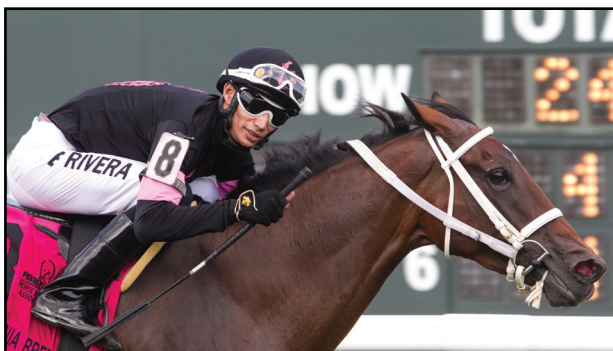
## STEEPLECHASE RACING AT PARX

Barbara's Smile beat the boys in an allowance race over hurdles on July 12 at Parx Racing. The five-year-old Curlin mare sat just off the pace set by King Ting (IRE) for the first mile and three-quarters before passing him with ease under a careful ride by Mark Watts.



**Barbara's Smile wins a steeplechase for trainer Julie Gomena and owner Michael A Smith.**





**Encryption** wins the \$100,000 Turning for Home Stakes, sponsored by Fantasy Lane Stable & Diamond B Farm.

## POWER BY FAR STAKES

In the first of two stakes for Pennsylvania-Breds on July 23, Fat Kat demolished her competitors in the \$100,000 Power by Far Stakes, a five-furlong turf sprint for fillies and mares. It was the first career stakes win for Fat Kat, who is trained by Robert Reid, Jr., for owners L and C Racing LLC, Squire Thoroughbreds LLC and Wake The Dame. Fat Kat is a five-year-old daughter of Weigelia who was bred by Wynoaks Farm, LLC & St. Omers Farm.

## CROWD PLEASER STAKES

Nearly all of Saratoga Jack's connections earned their first career stakes wins with his emphatic 5 3/4-length victory in the \$100,000 Crowd Pleaser Stakes on July 23, including owner Jean Mahoney, trainer Miguel Vera, and breeders Kate Goldenberg & Helen Boynton. Saratoga Jack is by Emperor Tiberius, out of the Williamstown mare Thinkoutsidethebox.



**Jean Mahoney** hugs trainer **Miguel Vera**, while part-breeder **Kate Goldenberg** looks on & **Jose Flores** celebrates aboard **Saratoga Jack**.

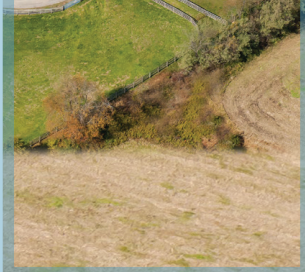
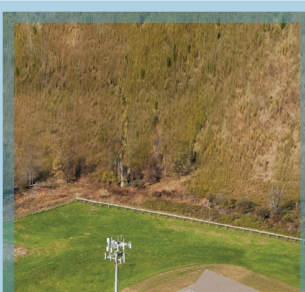


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# Milestones



Photos: Barbara Weid | EQUI-PHOTO

## Around the Parx Oval



Photos: Nikki Sherman, Kate DeMasi, Barbara Weid | EQUI-PHOTO

**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!



# Track Improvements During August Break



The track was closed for morning training on several days in August for surface maintenance.



As per the horsemen's contract with frontside, trees have been installed between each barn, including this handsome, young pin oak tree - the very first one to be planted!

Photos: Nikki Sherman



## CRANE THOROUGHBREDS

### Year-Round Breaking and Sales

Yearling sales and breaking season is almost upon us! Crane Thoroughbreds is a full-service facility featuring an all-weather 1/2 Mile track, an uphill turf gallop and a starting gate. Keep your babies close so you can check on them anytime!

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# PSHRC Adjusts Licensing Fees

LICENSE CLASSIFICATION	FEE
Owner	\$120
Owner/Trainer	\$240
Trainer	\$120
Assistant Trainer	\$75
Driver	\$120
Groom	\$30
Jockey	\$120
Jockey Agent	\$45
Apprentice Jockey	\$60
Partnership	\$60
Stable Name/Corporation	\$60
Colors Registration	\$15
Change of License	\$15
Concession	\$30
Blacksmith (Farrier)	\$60
Freelance Exercise Rider	\$30
Freelance Pony Person	\$30
Stable Employee	\$30
Veterinarian	\$120
Track Management/Official	\$100
Vendor	\$60
Vender Employee	\$30
Association/Track Employee	\$30
Pari-Mutuel Department	\$30
Open Claiming	\$45

On June 29, 2016, the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission (PSHRC) amended the Administrative Code of 1929 (P.L. 177, No. 175). More commonly known as the "Racing Act", this measure permits the PSHRC to license all trainers, drivers, horse owners, vendors and all other persons participating in horse racing.

The PSHRC consolidated the license classifications and all previously established occupational license fees prior to February 23, 2016, including no longer distinguishing by breed of racehorse. All new fees took affect as of July 1, 2016 and supersede all previous fee schedules individually approved or issued by the former State Horse and State Harness Racing Commissions respectively. Unless otherwise noted, license fees are valid for three years. Fingerprinting may be required and if so, a requisite fingerprint processing fee will be additional.

LICENSE CLASSIFICATION	FEE
Duplicate License	\$25
Estate (1 year)	\$40
Executor (1 year)	\$40
Authorized Agent (1-12 months)	\$35
Authorized Agent (13-24 months)	\$70
Authorized Agent (25-36 months)	\$100



**The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association**  
*cordially invites you*  
*to attend our 8th annual*  
**Owners Appreciation Day**



**Saturday, September 10, 2016**  
**First Post: 12:55 p.m.**  
**Parx Racing, Bensalem, PA**

Complimentary gifts and luncheon

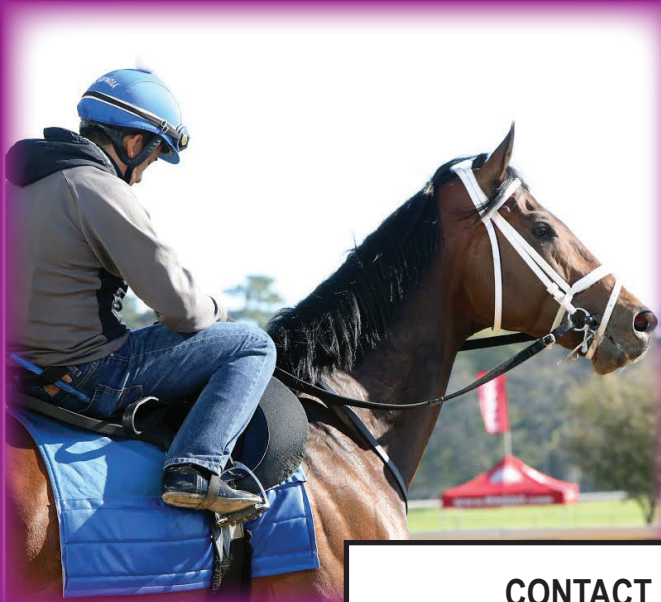


**Please call the PTHA office for more information.**  
**215-638-2012 | P. O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020**





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## Reflections on Our 3rd Annual TFH Day

### 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)

Find us on Facebook



"This image has so many special parts to it. We are so thankful for the support of **Brian Sanfratello** (fourth from left) and the **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association**, for their support over the years, including their sponsorship on TFH Day. Also pictured are some of our fantastic volunteers, **Claudia Day** (her second year!) and **Devon Dougherty**, who helped **Parx the Horse** throw out t-shirts throughout the afternoon. And perhaps our most emotional moment came when adopter **Amanda Day** (black tank top), her daughter and mom had the opportunity to meet her horse **Gran Manolo's** former owner/breeder/trainer **Carlos Soto** (after many, many years of saying they wanted to meet)!"



"Trainer **Dee Curry** (fourth from right) has always been a big supporter of TFH and teamed with **Crestwood Farm** to sponsor a race in honor of warhorses like **Serene Queen**. Also featured was **Fearless Cowboy** who was rehomed through **Safe Haven Equine**, represented by volunteer **Kim Berg** (far right). **Linda Schiavo** (next to Parx the Horse) was a tremendous help with fundraising, including gathering items for silent auction such as the Zippy Chippy basket - won by an ecstatic **Taylor Ejdy's** (right photo)."



"Fans at the track were treated to short videos about featured TFH graduates between each race. The talented voiceover artist for these videos was **Madelaine Shedlick** (center), who adopted **Meadow Cat** from **After the Races** (represented by **Bonnie McRae**, third from left), **Formal Music** from **Black Oak Farm** (represented by **Kelly Lupton**, second from right) and **Lady Heat** from **Five Point Farm**. She also boards **Catfive** and **Rosiana** at her farm."





"We were so happy to have owner and PTHA Board Member **Nick Saponara** of **Club Risque Stable** (third from right) and trainer **Randy Allen** (fourth from left) support us on our big day for the second year and they were thrilled when we featured their former horse **Jack's Back**. Winning this particular race were **Branjam Stable & David Clark**, who not only sponsored another race but won it as well (right, with *Persnickety*)!"



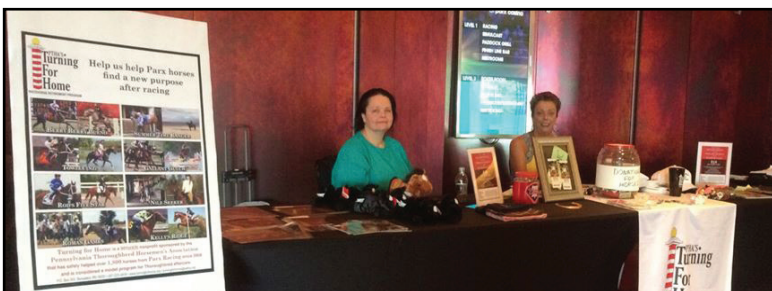
"**Ready to Play** and adopter **Amanda Eichfeld** led the **Turning for Home Stakes** post parade for the second straight year (left). The stakes jockeys also posed for a picture before mounting (center). And congratulations to **Encryption**, who captured our big race (right)!"



"We are thankful for the continued support from **Pat Chapman** (second from left) & her **Someday Farm**, so were happy to feature three TFH graduates by her stallion **Smarty Jones**. New supporters **Clovis & Joanna** of **Crane Thoroughbreds** (middle, second from right) sponsored the paddock & were very impressed with TFH!"



"Up-and-coming band **American Dictionary** entertained fans in the picnic area throughout the afternoon."



"We can never thank our amazing **volunteers** enough for their hard work and incredible dedication. On TFH Day they not only supported multiple merchandise tables; they also assisted with many raffles including one for a beautiful bicycle that was donated by trainer **Kate DeMasi** (right)."





## Thank you to our Turning for Home Day sponsors:



Dear PTHA Members,

For the past three years, the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's Turning for Home, Inc., Racehorse Retirement Program at Parx Racing has hosted a special race day where we come together as Horsemen to spotlight some of our horses in their second careers. This exciting afternoon at the races raises awareness for responsible retirement and the many attributes of Off-Track Thoroughbreds, and also brings former racing connections, TFH Partner Farms, and adopters together in heartfelt support of our mission to assist all of our horses into a safe, dignified retirement.

**Thank You! To our many sponsors, supporters, board members, volunteers, racing connections, veterinarians, farm managers, and horsemen who make this all possible!**

We hope that everyone who attended our Third Annual Turning for Home Day, sponsored for the second year in a row by Fantasy Lane Stable & Diamond B Farm, had a fun-filled day at Parx Racing, from the Nations Racing Stable Walking Ring to the Berkshire Hathaway Picnic Area, and the Newtown Vet Hospital Cotillion Room to the Mid-Atlantic Equine Medical Center Finish Line, as we celebrated eight years of successful Thoroughbred Aftercare here at Parx Racing.

With your support, no eligible horse will be turned away from TFH's assistance, and our proactive approach will continue to work in preventing the inhumane slaughter of racehorses while protecting and insuring the health and safety of our horses and the preservation of our racing industry.

Thank you for supporting the PTHA's Turning for Home. None of this would be possible without the leadership of our horsemen, PTHA President Salvatore DeBunda, Esq., PTHA Executive Director Michael Ballezzi, Esq., and the entire PTHA Board of Directors, as well as Parx Racing, including Chief Operating Officer Joe Wilson and Director of Racing Sam Elliott. Turning for Home Day 2016 would have been a challenge without the hard work of our Marketing Director, Nikki Sherman; our volunteers; Linda Schiavo for fundraising; our own Chef Ron Tridente; the many who worked behind the scenes; and our amazing sponsors.

Cordially,

Danielle Montgomery  
Program Administrator, TFH



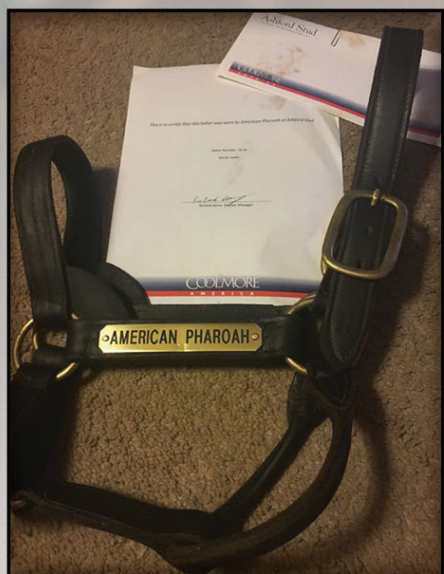


# WIN AMERICAN PHAROAH'S HALTER

from his very first year at stud!

**\$20 per raffle ticket**

Winning ticket drawn on PA Derby Day



## How to Buy Your Raffle Tickets:

- Visit the TFH table on big race days at Parx
- Visit the TFH office on the backside
- Send a check to TFH via mail
- Purchase through PayPal on our website

**Raffle Tickets will be sold between  
Turning for Home Day (June 25) - Pennsylvania Derby Day (Sept. 24)**

No more than 1,000 tickets will be sold • Halter not for resale

Winning ticket drawn at 5:00 pm PA Derby Day

All proceeds will directly benefit the retiring racehorses of Turning for Home

License #2016-57 • Special Raffle #SGSR52



## Remembering Former PTHA President Larry Riviello



Larry Riviello & "Goose" Heimer

Lawrence Riviello, Sr., passed away on June 10, 2016 at the age of 88. He graduated from Upper Darby High School and subsequently majored in Marketing and Business

Administration at Temple University. An owner-operator of restaurants since 1949, he owned Larry's Luncheonette in Upper Darby, the Cafeteria at The Bazaar of All Nations, and Rite Buy Beer Corporation in Clifton Heights.

Riviello raced at Parx as LaBet, Inc. and had been involved in the breeding and ownership of Thoroughbreds since 1965. Elected as the Vice-President of the National Horsemen's Benevolence and Protective Association twice, he was named their Man of the Year in 1989.

During the years that Riviello served the PTHA, he and the Board of Directors worked together to gain a new first floor, new director's room, horsemen's cafe, clubhouse with box seats, sports bar, Cotillion Room, and newly renovated paddock and walking ring. They also successfully negotiated the repeal of a 6% sales tax, the no live racing – no simulcasting live racing agreement, guarantee of due process and arbitration by contract, as well as establishing trophy and blanket races for owners.

A highlight of his Presidency was when Governor Ed Rendell signed the Gaming Bill, House Bill 2330, on July 5, 2004, which permitted slot machines at Pennsylvania racetracks. Riviello retired in 2007 after serving eight terms as PTHA President.



Larry Riviello & wife Betty Mae

## PA Derby Bonus Looks to Attract Triple Crown Winners

*(cont'd from cover)*

Parx Racing would like the whole trio to make the trip to Bensalem for its premiere event.

"If all three run, the purse will be raised by \$500,000 to \$1.5 million," said Director of Racing Sam Elliott, who has been regularly speaking with the horses' connections this summer. "If two of the three run, the purse will be revised \$250,000 to \$1.25 million. All three have expressed interest."

The \$1 million, Grade 1 Cotillion will also be contested on PA Derby Day. It is expected that the undefeated, sensational filly Songbird will draw a big crowd, but she will likely face a formidable local competitor - John Servis's Kentucky Oaks (G1) heroine Cathryn Sophia. Elliott recently added the \$150,000 Princess of Sylmar Stakes on September 3rd

as a prep for Cathryn Sophia and the filly is expected to make her fall debut there.

"We're looking forward to it," said Servis upon the race announcement. "We hope all goes well up to that point, but it gives us a chance to get a race over the track before the Cotillion."



John Servis & Cathryn Sophia at Parx

Photo: Nikki Sherman



# SMARTY JONES

*by Elusive Quality*



---

1ST G1 **KENTUCKY DERBY** (2004)

1ST G1 **PREAKNESS STAKES** (2004)

2ND G1 **BELMONT STAKES** (2004)

WINNER OF OVER \$7.6 MILLION.

SIRE OF 2 CHAMPIONS, 9 GSW'S AND 23 SW'S.

LIFETIME PROGENY AVERAGE EARNINGS / STARTER \$90,467

(OVER 12X STUD FEE!)

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# Backstretch Views

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



Trainer **Daniel Velazquez** and wife **Hilary Gohen** saw their family grow to five with the birth of twin boys on August 18, 2016! **Noah Alfredo Velazquez** entered the world just one minute (but four oz. heavier!) ahead of **Gabriel Mark Velazquez**, joining their proud older sister **Talia**. Many congratulations to this happy family!



Assistant trainer **Refugio "Grande" Preciado** and wife **Araceli Preciado** also added on to their family with the recent birth of **Erick Pablo Preciado** on August 16, 2016. He joins siblings **Araceli** and **Jesus**. Congratulations!

## *Our Condolences...*

**Ruth Ortale** sadly passed away at the age of 84 on August 13, 2016. Her son (a racehorse owner and familiar face at the racetrack) **Frank Ortale** had cared for both of his parents for nearly a decade and continues to care for his father **Francis "Franny" Ortale**, also a longtime racehorse owner.

**Gregory Nunn** (far right) passed away unexpectedly on May 28, 2016. He owned and operated Cobblestone Horse Transportation and was heavily involved at Finger Lakes Race Track. Among his family are Parx regulars David and Doug Nunn. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to R.A.C.E. Fund, Inc. at [www.racefund.org](http://www.racefund.org) or the Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program.



## 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](mailto:nsherman@patha.org).



## ***Congratulations Are In Order...!***



**Charlie Lyman** and **Nina Bradley** (now Lyman) finally tied the knot on July 30 after many years together! Charlie is a third-generation horseman from Pennsylvania's oldest working Thoroughbred facility, **Maui Meadow Farm**, in West Chester. They not only breed and own racehorses, but have also recently established the soon-to-be nonprofit organization TRRAC (Thoroughbred Retirement, Rehabilitation and Careers), a longtime Partner Farm with Turning for Home. As Director of Second Career Training for TRRAC, Nina has assisted with the safe placement of more than 50 Parx equines - including four used in their wedding ceremony! In the photo below, see TFH graduates Brandeis (*far left*), Sum Diva (*with Nina*), Denn Piper (*second from right*) and Lockport (*far right*). Charlie also has his own retired Thoroughbred (*not TFH*), named Half Time Show.



**Irene Myers** (*second from left*), who works for the Racing Commission, along with "CC Whatever Forever" teammates Debbie Marker, Debi Ralston, Pam O'Neill and Jen Tullio won the Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties' American Pool Players Association City Playoffs at the Valley Forge Convention & Casino Center. The victory stamped a ticket for the women to compete in Las Vegas where over 250 teams from the U.S., Japan and Canada met up to try and win a jackpot of \$10,000.

**Guadalupe** and **Wendy Preciado's** son **Joey Preciado** recently accepted a Division 1 scholarship to Quinnipiac University, where he will be a part of their pitching staff starting in the fall of 2017. This year Joey is a senior at Council Rock North High School, so be sure to check out some of their games before he heads north for the next chapter in his athletic career!







## Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

**“<sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their cry.**

**<sup>16</sup> The face of the LORD *is* against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

**<sup>17</sup> The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.**

**<sup>18</sup> The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.**

**<sup>19</sup> Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.”**

- Psalm 34:15-19 (NKJV)

“Life is difficult.” Those three words make up the complete first sentence of M. Scott Peck’s book *The Road Less Traveled*. The passage above makes a similar assertion – “Many are the afflictions of the righteous.” The Bible never misrepresents reality. It tells the truth. Thankfully the truth continues by clarifying that though the report that a life of many afflictions is normative, “the LORD delivers [us] from them all.”

This year there have been many more people at the track that have found themselves in hardship and needing assistance from the Chaplaincy here at our track than anyone can remember. Thankfully, the Chaplaincy has been able to help everyone who has come for help so far. I do know that many needing help have not asked. This is one reason why I am often asking around to learn who needs help. I thank those who have shared with me, to help find and ask those folks if they would let us help them. Please continue to spread the word that people can come to the Chaplaincy to receive food, assistance with paying a bill, and much more.

Just the other day I used a credit card over the phone to make a payment for someone. Their truck was going to be repossessed later that day. I heard the recording of what was due immediately, as well as the amount still owed. That total was not much – only perhaps two and half more payments. It would have been an especially great and disruptive shame if the truck had been repossessed with so little remaining. Our assistance gave this person a chance to catch up. They would have been in worse trouble if the truck had been lost.

It is an honor when we are able to be conduits through which blessings can flow. It is only by the support of many of you that these blessings the Chaplaincy shares are able to be given – thank you. It is your continued support that will allow these benevolences to continue.

It is not easy to share and give when we know that the future is sure to be challenging. Take and practice faith by sharing of your treasure, time, and talents; and know that this will allow you to be entrusted with even more. It is when we are faithful and because we are faithful that the LORD is willing to entrust us with even more.

Troubles are sure to come and success itself is a stressful challenge; but the LORD has promised to deliver us from them. In fact it seems that they make us better somehow if we face them with the LORD. Dr. Peck’s book ends: “The universe, this stepping-stone, has been laid down to prepare a way for us. But we ourselves must step across it one by one. Through grace we are helped not to stumble and through grace we know that we are being welcomed. What more can we ask?”

It seems that stumbling of a sort is a part of life. I am sure that Dr. Peck would agree. But thankfully, when we stumble, fall, and even get stepped on; the LORD will ultimately help us up. Up, up higher than we were before. This promise is yours if you ask and accept it. I hope you will accept this offer. It’s a promise from One who needn’t have made it, but from One who will surely keep it – Amen!



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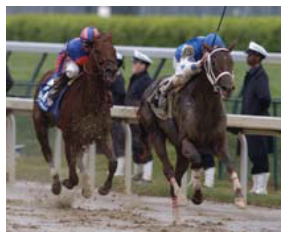
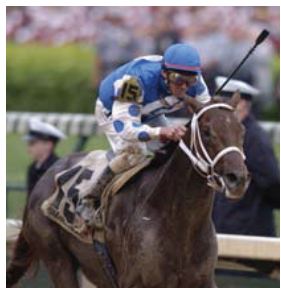
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