



# PTHA NEWS

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

2017 Issue #2

## A Night of Celebration for Parx Horsemen 2016 Parx Racing Champions Crowned

The PTHA partnered with Parx Racing on March 29, 2017 to honor the top horsemen and their equine athletes from 2016. Attendees were ecstatic for the return to Celebrations, a stunningly elegant venue located just up the road from Parx Racing's stable gate entrance. A sold out crowd of nearly 300 people enjoyed an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing.



**Disco Chick** captures the \$100,000 My Juliet Stakes during a season that culminated in her being crowned **2016 Parx Racing Horse of the Year**.



PTHA President **Sal DeBunda** & PTHA 1st Vice President **Steve Appel** present the Horse of the Year trophy to **Disco Chick's** owner **Jerry** & his wife **Maria Kolybabiuk**.

Photos: Nikki Sherman

Headlining the evening as 2016 Parx Racing Horse of the Year was Disco Chick, who captured two of three starts at Parx including the \$100,000 My Juliet Stakes and \$100,000 Foxy J G Stakes. Disco Chick is owned by Yaroslav "Jerry" Kolybabiuk and also received the award for Champion Older Female.

The leading horsemen at Parx set incredible records in 2016. Patricia Farro earned the Leading Trainer title for the second time in her career, winning 97 races with an astounding 70 *different* horses. Frankie Pennington successfully defended his Leading Jockey title, while Luis Ocasio was able to add the Leading Apprentice Jockey award at Parx Racing to the Eclipse Award on his mantle. Leading Owner went to Marshall Gramm's Ten Strike Racing, while Morris E. Kernan, Jr. earned Leading "Division B" Owner. Miguel Penaloza took home the honors for Leading "Division B" Trainer.

Also capturing awards were A Fleet Attitude (Claiming Horse of the Year & Outstanding Claim of the Year), Broadway Bay (Winningest Horse), Downhill Racer (2yo Male), Ms Locust Point (2yo Female), Abiding Star (3yo Male), Trace of Grace (3yo Female), and Duval (Older Male).

A full recap of the winners can be found throughout this edition of *PTHA News*.



**Sal DeBunda** speaks during the awards ceremony (*left*); Elegant tables await the nearly 300 attendees to arrive at Celebrations (*right*).



## President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

Yet again, it is the most crucial time of year for horsemen, as we continue the never-ending battle with legislators to protect the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) going into fiscal year 2017-2018. Earlier this month, I testified at the Pennsylvania

House of Representatives' Gaming Oversight Committee meeting in Bensalem, during which committee members discussed the possibility of expanded gaming in the state. I wanted to share with you some highlights, so that you can fully understand what is at stake.

"As you know, when the Race Horse Development and Gaming Act - Act 71 - was enacted, an assessment, not a tax, was agreed to by track operators to offset the negative impact additional gaming (slots) would have on the well-established equine racing program within Pennsylvania. ***It is very important that I make this point. NOT ONE DIME OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS GOES TO THE RHDF. NOT ONE.*** I state this in the strongest terms possible because some, in the legislature and elsewhere, have stated the opposite and they are simply wrong.

"In fact, since 2009, the RHDF has been raided to help solve the chronic structural deficit issues facing PA. Since that year, over \$300 million has been diverted from the Fund . . . to help balance the General Fund. . . In total, the horsemen and breeders have seen over \$325 million originally purposed for Race Horse Development diverted to other uses. This fiscal year we saw an additional \$25.759 million diverted to help fund the Racing Commissions, the equine testing program, and . . . the fairs, farm show, Animal Health lab and Penn Vet School.

"Now we look at the prospect of significant expansion of gaming options and see the likelihood that slots play will diminish through a . . . plethora of additional . . . gaming options for consumers. We foresee a future where the operator assessments for the equine racing program will continue to decline while the diversion of funds from a significantly reduced RHDF will continue to increase. This combination of events will result in:

- limiting the health & pension programs provided to trainers, jockeys & other racing personnel,
- dramatically reducing the likelihood of investment within the Commonwealth for breeding facilities, and
- lowering the number of jobs related to the care & training of our equine athletes as fewer horses will race within the state.

" . . . Our equine racing industry is deeply rooted within Pennsylvania's agriculture and tourism industries. It provides over 23,000 Pennsylvanians with family sustaining jobs and helps to preserve thousands of acres of farmland for pasture and feed production. . . It is through the disbursement of purse winnings and breeder awards . . . that the economic benefit of our Race Horse Development and Gaming Act of 2004 benefits more than just a few host communities and counties. ***In fact, the Joint State Government Commission (staff study of Horse Racing in Pennsylvania) noted that the casino assessment of \$232 million to the RHDF resulted in over \$389 million in economic activity and benefit for the Commonwealth.***"

The morning after this crucial meeting, the PTHA gave a group of these committee members, including Committee Chairman, Rep. Scott Petri, a tour of the Parx Racing backstretch, showcasing the fact that our racetrack is about more than just horses and gambling.

On a lighter note, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to our 2016 Horsemen's Awards recipients, especially Horse of the Year Disco Chick. We were also able to recognize some of our outstanding horsemen. Congratulations again to all involved!

Our very own Turning for Home was recently honored with a proclamation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. House Resolution H60, congratulating Turning for Home on the safe retirement of 2,000 horses, was passed unanimously. A similar decision was also passed in the Senate, and their own proclamation will be presented on Saturday, June 24, 2017 - our 4th Annual Turning for Home Day. Please be sure to mark that date on your calendar, as it will be another exciting day at the races, filled with many success stories. I look forward to seeing you there!



## PA Gaming Oversight Committee Visits Parx Racing

On Wednesday, April 12, 2017, members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Gaming Oversight Committee attended a meeting at Parx Racing to receive testimony regarding local share assessment, gaming expansion and casino competitiveness.

While in Bensalem, the group also gathered the following morning for a tour of Parx Racing's backstretch, where they not only were able to watch morning training but also hear first-hand accounts

about the industry from actual horsemen, including PTHA President Sal DeBunda, PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi, PTHA Board Member & Parx-based trainer Butch Reid, Turning for Home Program Administrator Danielle Montgomery, veterinarian Dr. Al Reed, and Parx Racing Hall of Fame jockey Frankie Pennington. The experience was eye-opening for several Commissioners, who were truly able to see just how many people are affected by the horse racing industry.



Photos: Nikki Sherman

# 2016 Awards - The Horsemen



Photos: Nikki Sherman

## TEN STRIKE RACING

*Leading Owner*

**2016 Parx Racing Record:**  
101-33-17-17

**2016 Parx Racing Earnings:**  
\$908,374

**2016 Parx Highlights:** Won at a 33% clip and 66% on the board; owned 2016 Champion Older Male winner Duval who captured five of ten Parx starts; also won six races with Eufaula

and 3 races with Red Dragon Tattoo.



Photo: Taylor Eidsys | EQUI-PHOTO

## MORRIS E. KERNAN, JR.

*Leading "Division B" Owner*

**2016 Parx Racing Record:**  
19-8-5-1

**2016 Parx Racing Earnings:**  
\$251,367

**2016 Parx Highlights:** Finished year at 42% win percentage & over 70% on the board; won two races each with Mr. Beer Goggles and Monaguska; captured \$100,000 Banjo Picker Sprint

with 2016 Claiming Horse of the Year and Outstanding Claim of the Year A Fleet Attitude.



Photo: Ana Casio

## PATRICIA FARRO

*Leading Trainer*

**2016 Parx Racing Record:**  
652-97-112-97

**2016 Parx Racing Earnings:**  
\$3,387,598

**2016 Parx Highlights:** Won at least one race at Parx with 70 DIFFERENT horses; captured \$100,000 Marshall Jenney Handicap with Winning the Medal; won 3 races at Parx with

Clowney, Jacapo; Mine the Store, Red Razzo & Sweets Galore; won 4 races at Parx with Runs for Luck



## MIGUEL PENALOZA

*Leading "Division B" Trainer*

**2016 Parx Racing Record:**  
148-22-17-16

**2016 Parx Racing Earnings:**  
\$686,518

**2016 Parx Highlights:** Trained He's a Slam Dunk who won four times in 2016; notched three straight victories with Benny's Diamond; finished 2nd in PA Derby Champion Stakes with

War Story on Pennsylvania Derby Day.



## FRANKIE PENNINGTON

*Leading Jockey*

**2016 Parx Racing Record:**  
640-103-127-97

**2016 Parx Racing Earnings:**  
\$4,587,554

**2016 Parx Highlights:** 3rd career Parx jockey title while finishing on the board at a 51% clip; inducted into the Parx Racing Hall of Fame in 2016; crossed career milestone 2,000th

victory in 2016; won the Banjo Picker S. aboard 2016 Outstanding Claim of the Year and 2016 Claiming Horse of the Year A Fleet Attitude.



## LUIS M. OCASIO

*Leading Apprentice Jockey*

**2016 Parx Racing Record:**  
437-85-66-57

**2016 Parx Racing Earnings:**  
\$2,455,183

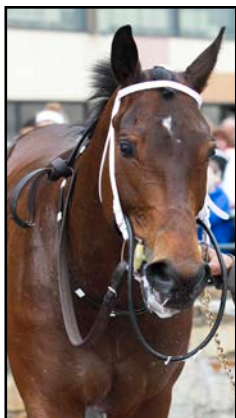
**2016 Parx Highlights:** Not only captured Leading Apprentice Jockey at Parx Racing for 2016, but was also named the nation's top apprentice at the Eclipse Awards; finished 2nd by

overall wins at Parx Racing; rode Queen Esther in the G1 Cotillion Stakes at Parx against Songbird and Cathryn Sophia.



# 2016 Awards - The Horses

Photos: Nikki Sherman



## DISCO CHICK

*Horse of the Year,  
Older Female*

**Owner:** Yaroslav J. Kolybabiuk

**Trainer:** Mario Serey, Jr.

**Breeder:** Y. Jerry Kolybabiuk

**2016 Parx Highlights:** In four starts at Parx, won both the My Juliet Stakes and the Foxy J G Stakes and finished second in the Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial Stakes.



## A FLEET ATTITUDE

*Claiming Horse of the Year,  
Outstanding Claim of the Year*

**Owner:** Morris E. Kernan, Jr.

**Trainer:** Marcos Zulueta

**Breeder:** Charles Zacney &  
Tim Ritchey

**2016 Parx Highlights:** Leader by money earned among older males; won Banjo Picker Sprint Stakes after being claimed for \$40,000.



## DOWNHILL RACER

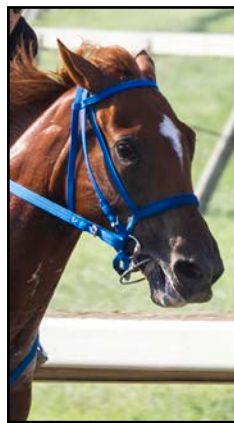
*2yo Colt or Gelding*

**Owner:** Buttonwood Farm

**Trainer:** Jonathan E. Sheppard

**Breeder:** Mr. & Mrs. Rodman  
Moorhead III

**2016 Parx Highlights:** Captured the \$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes by a hard-fought neck despite experiencing a troubled trip.



## MS LOCUST POINT

*2yo Filly*

**Owner:** Jim Reichenberg &

Bruno De Julio

**Trainer:** John C. Servis

**Breeder:** Lesley Campion

**2016 Parx Highlights:** 100% on the board at Parx Racing in 2016; broke maiden by 4 3/4 lengths in a \$50,000 maiden special weight.



## TRACE OF GRACE

*3yo Filly*

**Owner:** W.M.T. Stable

**Trainer:** T. Bernard Houghton

**Breeder:** WMT Stables, Inc.

**2016 Parx Highlights:** Won 2 of 5 Parx starts in 2016, including an easy 4 1/2-length romp in the \$100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes and a 7 1/4-length score in a starter allowance.



## ABIDING STAR

*3yo Colt or Gelding*

**Owner:** Stonehedge LLC

**Trainer:** Edward T. Allard

**Breeder:** Gilbert G. Campbell

**2016 Parx Highlights:** Captured 3 of 5 starts at Parx in 2016, including the \$100,000 Parx Derby, earning a trip to the G1 Preakness Stakes; defeated older horses by 8 3/4 lengths in an allowance in April.



## DUVAL

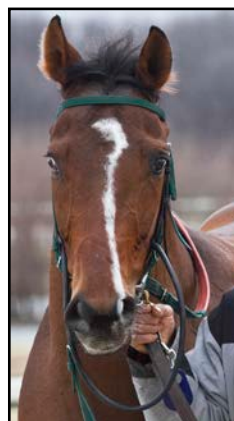
*4yo and Up Colt or Gelding*

**Owner:** Ten Strike Racing

**Trainer:** Juan Carlos Guerrero

**Breeder:** Mark Reid & DDS Stables

**2016 Parx Highlights:** Contested all 10 starts at Parx including five victories; 2nd leading money-earner by purses won in the older male division at Parx.



## BROADWAY BAY

*Winningest Horse*

**Owner:** Hakim's Stable LLC

**Trainer:** Marcos Zulueta

**Breeder:** Tracy Egan

**2016 Parx Highlights:** Claimed for \$10,000 in July before going on to capture four more starter allowance races.



# 2016 Parx Racing Horsemen's Awards Banquet



PTHA 1st Vice President **Steve Appel** presents **Luis Ocasio** with the **Leading Apprentice** trophy.



Parx Racing Secretary **Sam Elliott** presents **Patricia Farro** with the trophy for **Leading Trainer**.



**Steve Appel** presents **Frankie Pennington** & his family with the **Leading Jockey** trophy.

Photos: Nikki Sherman



PTHA Board Member **John Servis** presents the award for top **Two-Year-Old Colt or Gelding** of 2016 to the connections of winner **Downhill Racer**.



Parx Assistant Racing Secretary **Tommy Creel** presents the trophy for **Leading "B" Trainer** to **Miguel Penaloza**.



PTHA Board Member **Kate DeMasi** presents the award for top **Two-Year-Old Filly** of 2016 to the connections of **Ms Locust Point**, including trainer **John Servis**.



PTHA 2nd Vice President **Phil Aristone** presents the trophy for top **Three-Year-Old Colt or Gelding** to **Ned Allard**, trainer of winner **Abiding Star**.





Marshall Gramm of Leading Owner Ten Strike Racing accepts his trophy from PTHA Board Member & Treasurer Nick Saponara.



John Servis presents the award for top Three-Year-Old Filly of 2016 to Jerry Kolybabiuk, owner of winner Disco Chick.



PTHA Benefits Coordinator Amanda-Kate Lenzi accepts the trophy for Outstanding Claim of the Year on behalf of the winning connections for A Fleet Attitude.



PTHA President Sal DeBunda presents Broadway Bay's trophy for Winningest Horse to trainer Marcos Zulueta.



Steve Appel presents Duval's award for Champion Older Male to owner Marshall Gramm and trainer Juan Carlos Guerrero.



PTHA Benefits Coordinator Amanda-Kate Lenzi accepts the award for Claiming Horse of the Year on behalf of the winning connections for A Fleet Attitude.



PTHA Board Member Ron Glorioso presents the trophy for Leading "B" Owner to trainer Marcos Zulueta, who accepted on behalf of winner Morris Kernan, Jr.



HPA Manager Vicky Mangini accepts the trophy for Champion Three-Year-Old Filly on behalf of the connections for winner Trace of Grace.



# *Horsemen's Awards Memories*





# Basket Raffle



**The following groups donated to the basket raffle, silent auction & 50/50 raffle at the Horsemen's Awards Banquet. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to raise a record amount for TFH & The Granny Fund!**

- |                               |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Amie Martinez               | • Harmony Hill Stables              | • Marcos Zulueta                 |
| • Applebee's                  | • Holiday Inn Bensalem              | • Massage Envy                   |
| • Bensalem Country Club       | • Horsemen's Purchasing Association | • McCaulley Equine               |
| • Bertucci's                  | • Howard Brown                      | • Michael Picariello             |
| • Blue Bell Country Club      | • Indian Mills Stock Farm           | • Nick Saponara                  |
| • Brandywine River Museum     | • Jan Palmer                        | • Nutrena                        |
| • Brook Ledge Horse Transport | • Jean Fritz                        | • Outback Steakhouse             |
| • Brunswick Zone Feasterville | • Jean Mahoney                      | • Parx Casino                    |
| • Carrabba's                  | • Jericho Nat'l Golf Club           | • Parx Racing                    |
| • Cindy Servideo              | • Joi Hollinger                     | • Philadelphia Phillies          |
| • Cleveland Yard              | • Juan Vazquez                      | • Phoenix Equine Services        |
| • Club Risque                 | • Just Flowers                      | • Radison Hotel Phila. Northeast |
| • Courtyard by Marriott       | • Kate DeMasi                       | • ReeLee Restarting & Training   |
| • Crayola                     | • Kim Berg                          | • Safe Haven Equine              |
| • Crowne Plaza Feasterville   | • Leslie Saunders                   | • Susan Meckling                 |
| • Dave & Buster's             | • Lighted Way Equestrian Program    | • The Boot                       |
| • Debbie Ulmer                | • Lockton                           | • Trenton Thunder                |
| • Erica Gallagher             | • Longwood Gardens                  |                                  |
| • Farnam                      | • Mad Golfer Golf Club              |                                  |
| • Fox Hill Farm               |                                     |                                  |

**We would also like to thank our volunteers for their tremendous work on the baskets and help throughout the night:**

Jean Fritz  
Joi Hollinger  
Donna Hural  
Megan Montgomery

Ali Montgomery  
Jan Palmer  
Ginny Suevo  
Debbie Ulmer



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**Westampton Farm**  
*Thoroughbred Training Center*



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**PROFESSIONAL SIZE EQUINE POOL**



**180 WELL LIT SPACIOUS STALLS**



**ACRES OF FENCED IN PADDOCKS**

**ADDITIONAL FEATURES INCLUDE:**

**INDOOR & OUTDOOR JOGGING MACHINES, 6 HOT WALKING MACHINES,  
10 INDOOR WASH STALLS (HOT & COLD WATER), 24 HOUR VIDEO SECURITY  
ON SITE, AND 1/5 MILE SHED ROW FOR TRAINING  
WHEN TRACK IS CLOSED DUE TO WEATHER.**

**PLEASE INQUIRE ABOUT MORE FEATURES & SERVICES NOT LISTED.**

*Westampton Farm TTC*

*ERNIE DeNOFA (OWNER & MANAGER) 215-416-2432*

*75 OXMEAD ROAD, WESTAMPTON NJ 08060*



## Parx Racing to Host 4th Annual Jockeys & Jeans



Parx Racing will host the fourth Jockeys & Jeans event during the races on Saturday, June 3, a week before the Belmont Stakes.

Event proceeds benefit the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF), which makes monthly payments to over 60 former jockeys who suffered catastrophic, career-ending injuries. Over half of recipients are either pari- or quadriplegics. In three years, Jockeys & Jeans has raised nearly \$650,000 for PDJF.

“Once again, a major racing facility has come forward to provide the infrastructure and personnel needed to honor and financially assist severely injured riders and at the same time provide their fans with the rare opportunity to meet our sport’s most storied athletes,” said the group’s President, former jockey, Barry Pearl. “We believe that Parx Racing’s participation, along with the heart-touching response we have received from the racing community, will allow us to top the record \$235,000 we raised last winter at Gulfstream Park.”

“Parx Racing is honored to be hosting Jockeys & Jeans this coming June,” said Parx Racing COO Joe Wilson. “Barry and his team have made great strides with their event to benefit the PDJF and we look forward to building on that momentum with them.”

The 2016 Jockeys & Jeans event attracted 14 Hall of Fame jockeys and a host of other famous riders along with Academy Award winner Robert Duvall, Hall of Fame golfer Raymond Floyd and former ambassador to England, Will Farish and his wife, Sarah. The couple founded Lane’s End Farm, which in 2016 led a large group of stallion season owners who contributed seasons that added \$130,000 to funds raised for that event.

This year the organization expects to attract as many as 17 Hall of Fame Jockeys such as Laffit Pincay, Jr. Manny Ycaza, Chris McCarron, Pat Day, John Rotz, Bill Boland and Edgar Prado, as well as six Fallen Riders and local favorite Sam Boulmetis.

Jockeys & Jeans was founded in 2014 by a group of former jockeys to publicize the dangers inherent in race riding and honor the courage of severely injured jockeys as they rebuild their abruptly-changed lives, as well as raise funds for their ongoing support.

The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association (PTHA) is a major sponsor of the event. While additional sponsors are being still being added, the following are confirmed sponsors:

Parx Racing - Host	Johnny & Jana Trotter
American Quarter	Keeneland Race Track
Horse Association	Kentucky Downs
Benefits Plus	NYRA
Boyd’s Evangeline	NY Yankees
Downs	Foundation
Boyd’s Delta Downs	Ocala Breeders Sales
Brittlyn, Inc.	Company
Canterbury Park	PA-HBPA
Casner Racing	PTHA
Clay Ward Insurance	Penn National
Denali Stud	Gaming, Inc.
Eaton Sales	Prairie Meadows
Equibase Company	Race Track
Fairmont Park	Raymond Floyd
Finger Lakes Race Track	Foundation
Florida HBPA	Ruidoso Downs
Glen Hill Farm	Spendthrift Farm
Lane’s End Farm	Team Valor
Hialeah Park	Tom VanMeter Sales
Harrah’s Louisiana Downs	Taylor Made Farm
Horseman’s Park	Wrangler Jeans
Jack Entertainment	
Indiana Quarter Horse	
Racing Association	

To purchase tickets, visit <https://parxcasino.ticketleap.com/jockeysandjeans> or call Barry Pearl at 717-503-0182.

## *Thank You for Your Continued Support* **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)



Earlier this spring, the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association held its annual Parx Racing Horsemen's Awards Dinner at Celebrations in Bensalem. It was a fantastic night celebrating the achievements of our owners, trainers, jockeys, horses and Parx family. We want to congratulate the horsemen at Parx Racing for all the hard work and dedication that it takes to bring these athletes into the winner's circle. The PTHA's Turning for Home and the Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for trainers and backside employees, as well as their families, are the charitable beneficiaries. The auctions were an overwhelming success thanks to over 300 attendees and the gracious donors who provided tables of exciting prizes.

Among the many beautiful baskets and silent auctions were a \$1,000 shipping credit from Brook Ledge Horse Transport, as well as Arrogate and Songbird memorabilia signed by jockey Mike Smith. The event would not be possible without longtime Volunteer Coordinator Joi Hollinger and her team of volunteers and fantastic support of the attendees, with the help of the PTHA staff and Parx representatives who work together so well. Every donation goes directly towards helping find safe homes for our horses.

True to its original intentions, Turning for Home has become a model program for other racetracks across the country, and on March 21, 2017, House Resolution H60 unanimously passed the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania, honoring our retirement program. Representative Gene DiGirolamo read the resolution during the cocktail hour of the awards banquet, and advised that a similar resolution was also introduced by Senator Tommy Tomlinson and unanimously passed the Senate. We are proud that legislators in Harrisburg are acknowledging our hard work and dedication. This positive public recognition advances the PTHA's mission to protect our racing industry in Pennsylvania.



**PA State Rep. Gene DiGirolamo (left) & Ryan Skoczylas (right, Policy Director for PA State Rep. Tommy Tomlinson)** present H60 to Turning for Home Program Administrator **Danielle Montgomery**.

With the return of warm spring weather, we are excited to see more of our alumni starting back in trail rides and horse shows all over the country. As always, we give each horse the best chance to recover from injury, and some really amazing success stories are coming together. Rienzi – the current track record-holder for one mile on the dirt right here at Parx Racing – is dusting the competition in Aiken, 2015 Parx Horse of the Year Trouble Kid is starting his rehabilitation and retraining with us, and we have over 20 horses training for the 2017 Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover in October.

We look forward to sharing more stories with you during our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Turning for Home Day on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Each year this amazing day at the races allows us to bring the people together who make a difference in our horses' lives. If you wish to sponsor a race or enjoy the day with us, please contact our office. Thank you for your ongoing support of our groundbreaking program that, by assisting racehorses after their careers are over, supports our continuing careers in this spectacular industry.



## SPOTLIGHT ON TFH PARTNER FARMS

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

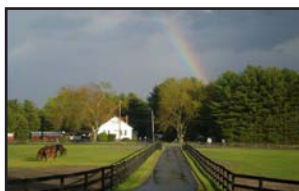


### Black Oak Farm

*Egg Harbor, New Jersey*

Partner Since: 2013

Total Horses: 120



Black Oak Farm has been breeding, raising, shipping, rehabilitating and boarding horses for over 20 years. The farm is located just outside of Atlantic City, New Jersey. In just a few years of working with Turning for Home, Black Oak Farm has assisted more than 100 horses. The farm's program is unique in that Kelly Lupton rides, markets and places the horses into new homes, while her mother Gina Lupton handles the daily horse care and rehabilitation. Gina's husband Jack Gordon regularly ships up and down the East Coast, making it simple to deliver adopted horses to their new homes. Follow-up on alumni is just as easy, as Kelly is in regular contact with all of her adopters. Kelly has competed in both Thoroughbred Makeovers, including last year when she rode two Turning for Home graduates - Samurai Sam (*chestnut on left*) and Brannaman.



## 2016 Iroquois Award Finalists

Please join us at our Annual Awards Banquet on  
June 9, 2017, 5 p.m. at The Hotel Hershey

### 2 Year Old Colt

Downhill Racer  
Trooper John

### 3 Year Old Colt

Mor Spirit  
Tom's Ready

### Horse of the Year

Als Gal  
Finest City  
Tom's Ready

### Older Male

Granny's Kitten  
Page McKenney  
Res Judicata  
Roxbury N Overton  
Saratoga Jack

### Male Sprinter

Page McKenney  
Res Judicata  
Tom's Ready

### 2 Year Old Filly

Diamond  
Item  
Rose Tree  
Tulsa Queen

### 3 Year Old Filly

Dark Nile  
Lucy N Ethel

### Turf Male

Edge of Reality  
Granny's Kitten  
Saratoga Jack

### Older Female

Als Gal  
Finest City  
Illuminant  
Spelling Again

### Female Sprinter

Finest City  
Lucy N Ethel  
Spelling Again

### Steeplechase

Senior Senator  
Tempt Me Alex

### Broodmare

Be Envied '01  
Dans La Ville '95  
Goodbye Stranger '03

### Turf Female

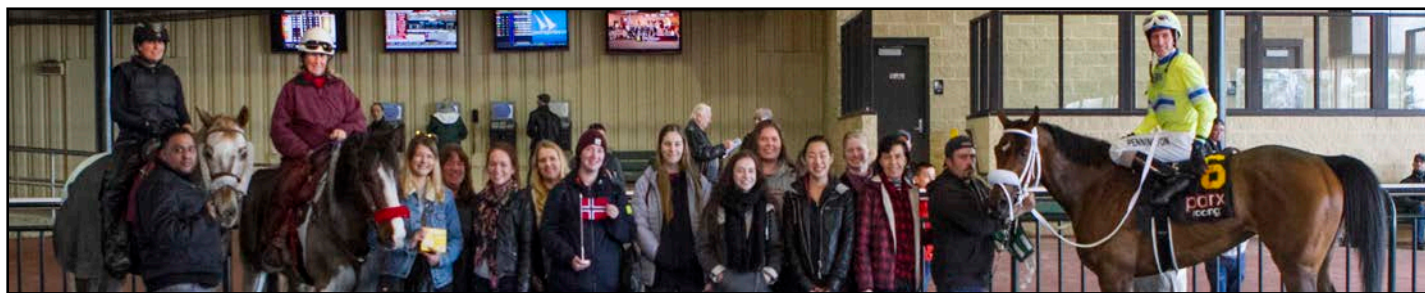
Als Gal  
Illuminant

### PA-Preferred PA-Sired, PA-Bred

New Category:  
Male & Female

# Student Groups Visit Parx Racing

Photos: Nikki Sherman



## ASANE FOLKEHOGSKOLE

Scandinavia is a hub within the harness racing world, with Sweden hosting the most prestigious international trotting event in the world, the Elitloppet (G1) - "The Elite Race" - each year. Some of the world's greatest equestrians hail from the region, which also includes Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland and Norway.

Every spring, a group of young Scandinavian equestrian students travel to the United States. The girls attend the Asane Folkehogskole, which is a boarding school located in Bergen, Norway. It offers a number of unique curriculums, including music,

theater, art, writing, game design, and equestrian studies. The school is located just minutes from Bergen Trotting Park, giving students the opportunity to work directly with professional horsemen on a regular basis.

When the students arrive in the United States for their two-week educational field trip, one of the highlights is always a stop at Parx Racing. 2017 marked the ninth straight year that the girls have visited the Bensalem track, thanks to the assistance of pony rider Brandy Steenson, who works with the school's Equestrian Manager Marianne Kaarevik to make the trip successful.



## EVERYTHING LITTLE FARM

The Beers family (Donna, Bill, Kelsey and Brad) founded Everything Little Farm in 2009, and specialize in young children (starting as young as 3 years old). The students learn everything about horses, not just how to ride their ponies, so they have a true understanding of what it means to be a horseman. The farm is located in Bedminster, PA and has taught hundreds of young riders.

On Saturday, April 15, 2017, a group of 30 students (not including parents - and these kids were just

from the farm's leadership group!) were able to visit Parx Racing for a Day at the Races. In addition, the students met in the PTHA's board room where they heard from many industry professionals, including PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi, Chief PA State Veterinarian Dr. Craig Goldblatt, and trainers Randy Allen and Kate DeMasi.

The students also learned about off-track Thoroughbreds from Turning for Home Program Administrator Danielle Montgomery, and they even donated their own pocket money as well as handmade cards for Turning for Home's horses!



# Around the Parx Oval



**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!

Photos: Nikki Sherman



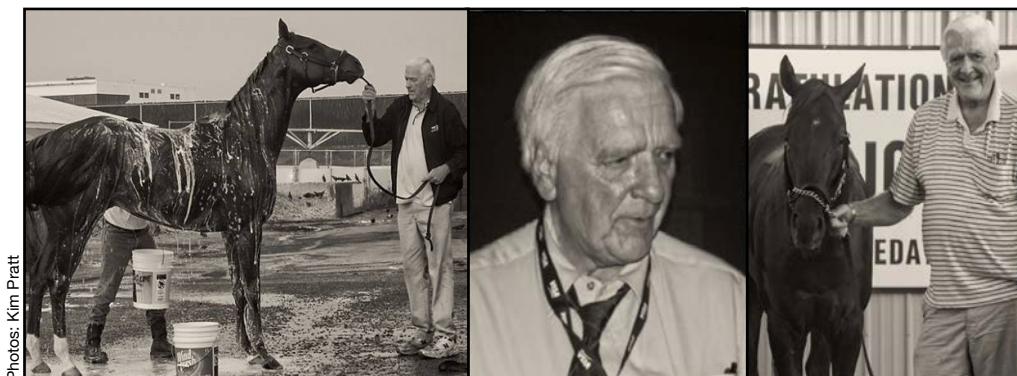
# Backstretch Views

## *Our Condolences . . .*

**Thomas Dasher**, 80, passed away on February 26, 2017. He was a longtime operating engineer at Parx Racing and a member of local 542. In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be sent to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Foundation, P. O. Box 781352, Philadelphia, PA 19178.



**Robert Gerkin**, 74, passed away on January 21, 2017. He was a lifelong horseman and held just about every job available on the racetrack, including starting gate attendant, trainer and jockey's agent. He later became a driver for Brook Ledge Horse Transportation, where he worked for fifteen years.



Photos: Kim Pratt

Parx Racing lost a legend when **Bill Foster**, a longtime foreman and hotwalker for John Servis, passed away suddenly on March 29, 2017. "Big Bill" was known for his kindness and love for the best horse he ever handled, Smarty Jones.



Photos: Joshua Hamer Memorial Scholarship Fund

**Josh Hamer** passed away following a tragic car accident on March 2, 2017. His father **Jim Hamer** is a track official at Parx Racing. Josh was kind hearted, outgoing and had a genuine love for life. While he loved all sports, he lived and breathed baseball. Josh was a rising star on the John Carroll School baseball team. In lieu of flowers, donations in Josh's memory may be sent to the Joshua Hamer Memorial Baseball Scholarship and sent in care of R. T. Foard Funeral Home, P. O. Box 248, Rising Sun, MD 21911.



**Frank "Flowers" Lippincott** passed away at the age of 80 on December 17, 2016. He was a well-known character on the racetrack, where he worked as an operating engineer. He was also a veteran of the U. S. Navy.

**Patrick DiRuggiero**, 79, passed away on March 2, 2017. He was a longtime horse racing fan and he made it clear to his wife **Julie** that his wish was for donations to be made in his memory to Turning for Home upon his passing.



**Edward Sessa**, 78, passed away on March 7, 2017. He was a racehorse trainer for more than 35 years at Parx Racing. Ed enjoyed spending time at the beach, whether he was fishing or basking in the sun and drinking a cold beer, but his great joy and love was spending time with his grandchildren.



## ***Congratulations!***



Parx riders **Amanda Auwarter & Ortega Jomar** had their first child on March 26, 2017. **Cody Jomar** (left) was born at 7:07 pm & was 6 lbs. 9 oz.



Blacksmith **Richie Vermeeren** & fiancée **Kassie Baker** had their 2nd child on April 14, 2017. **Paige Ellen Vermeeren** is also a granddaughter of blacksmith **Rich Vermeeren**.

Parx Racing Hall of Famer **Craig "Donnelly" Harris** and wife **Carmen** (right) have been blessed over the past year with two granddaughters. **Palmer Ann Brostrom** (below left, parents **Erin & Rob Brostrom**) was born on May 9, 2016, while **Loralei Liberty Kubach** (below right, parents **Tess & Kason Kubach**) recently joined the family on February 23, 2017.



**Let's Go Racing LLC's** feature, "Always B Miki's Miraculous Return" was named the winner of the 2016 John Hervey Award for excellence in harness racing broadcasting. The piece chronicled the pacer's comeback from two leg surgeries to become a Breeders Crown champion and the fastest horse in harness racing history. It was produced by Parx Racing Hall of Fame member **Bruce Casella** and narrated by Heather Vitale. Keeneland track announcer Kurt Becker, who judged the broadcasting division, said that the piece was "well-edited, with a keen sense of what was pertinent to the storyline" and "told the story in an efficient and powerful manner".



Photo: Mark Hall | USHWA

## ***Best Wishes . . .***



Trainer **Kevin Sleeter** had a hemorrhagic stroke on March 7, 2017 and was in the ICU at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center for more than two weeks. He is now undergoing intensive rehabilitation, but it is expected to take a long time for him to recover and return to his barn at Parx Racing. A Go Fund Me account has been set up to assist with the financial hardships he and his family will experience over that time at <https://www.gofundme.com/supporting-kevin-sleetee>. In addition, a Lucky 7 Drawing has been created in support of Kevin.

Tickets are \$5 each, 3 for \$10, 4 for \$15 or 7 for \$20. The drawing will take place at the Democrat Club in Gloucester Twp, NJ on June 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM (winner need not be present). Prizes include \$1,000, 48" smart tv, mini iPad, spa day and more. Tickets are being sold at his barn at Parx Racing.

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

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



## Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

**"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."**

**- Genesis 1:1 (NIV)**

In the beginning – who came up with the idea of a beginning first, the Bible or science? It wasn't until the 1960s that scientific evidence started coming in that there was an origin to space/time (the expansion of the universe, microwave background, etc.). There was great resistance to this evidence and the reason very often given was it would give too much leverage to those who believe the Bible. Here was the biggest advance in astrophysics and cosmology in the 20<sup>th</sup> century being resisted because it paralleled Scripture. Many believe if more scientists had kept their minds open to the Biblical Worldview instead of being so wedded to Aristotle's eternal universe, we might have found this evidence much earlier, and many other discoveries as well.

Now what about this beginning resulting in God creating everything? "The heavens and the earth" is a merism that refers to *everything*. The God of the Bible is not a "god of the gaps". "God created the heavens and the earth" doesn't mean God created the bits we don't understand, and once I understand, for instance, what thunder is, that gets rid of the god of thunder. It means to say that the God of the Bible created everything.

As we do explain more and more, should this cause one to consider it irrational, or delusional to believe in God, as some have written? Should a move from theism to atheism be considered natural progress based on current explanations and discoveries? Well - what do scientific discoveries explain?

Ludwig Wittgenstein wrote, "The great delusion of modernity, is that the laws of nature explain

the universe for us. The laws of nature describe the universe, they describe the regularities. But they explain nothing."

Even Newton, who taught us so much about gravity, said, "I have no idea what gravity is."

In the more famous quote of Saint Augustine, he says, "What then is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks, I do not know."

There are different ways of explaining an event. Scientific explanations deal with laws and mechanism. If someone asks why the water is boiling, I could give a simple scientific explanation that I had put it on heat and it heated the water to the point that the water molecules were moving so fast that the water was boiling. I could also give a personal explanation that deals with agency and say, "I wanted a cup of tea." Neither answer contradicts the other; they complement each other.

The more we understand of the universe, the more we understand the God who did it that way. Just as the more someone learns about art, the more they will admire and enjoy a Rembrandt. The more someone understands engineering, the more she can admire a turbo fan jet.

My hope is that as we enjoy the season of spring and all the new life that comes with the season, you will be filled with wonder at the power and beauty of this creation. You are the crown of creation and may you be filled with optimism in knowing that the same God who created you also loves you and values you more than all of the rest of creation.

**"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." - Psalm 139:14 (NIV)**



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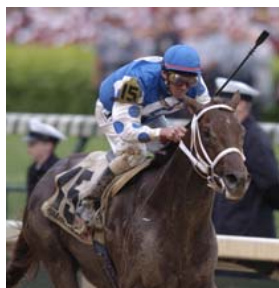
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