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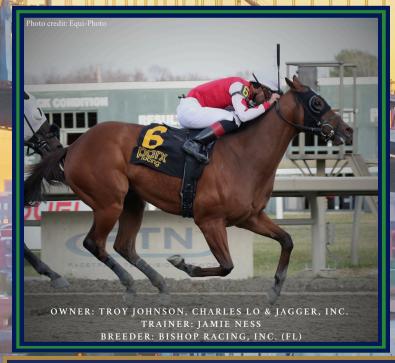
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SPIKEZONE PARX RACING
2024 HORSEMEN'S AWARDS
HORSE OF THE YEAR



PARX RACING 2024 HORSEMEN'S AWARDS TRAINER OF THE YEAR





## 

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#### THIS MONTH

PTHA President's Corner. Robert Hutt

Update from Executive Director Jeffrey A. Matty, Jr.

Smarty Jones - HOF Finalist

Attention Trainers

PTHA Board News

Around the Oval

Mark your Calendar

PTHA Trophy Race Winners

Turning For Home Update

Turning For Home Golf Outing on 5/1/2025

**HPA** 

Heartbeat of the Backstretch

#### **CONTACT US**

PTHA Main Office 215-638-2012

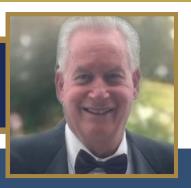
#### SPECIAL THANK YOU

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KIM PRATT

#### PTHA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

#### PTHA PRESIDENT Robert "Bob" Hutt



At long last, after twenty years, Smarty Jones, for the first time, is a finalist for the Hall Of Fame. It took a great deal of effort just to get him on the ballot. We will forever be grateful to Roy & Pat Chapman for sharing him with all of us and trainer, John Servis, for his masterful skills in training him. Stewart Elliot rode him beautifully and came up just one length short of immortality in his last and final race.

In 2004 Smarty Jones came from out of nowhere to capture the hearts and souls of an entire nation. It was your classic underdog, a real life "Rocky Balboa" story come true. Americans everywhere fell in love with Smarty Jones. He made thoroughbred racing better as tens of millions of new racing fans were introduced to our great sport. To this day Belmont Park set a capacity record attendance as cheering fans turned out hoping to witness history. Alas it was not to be as by one length, just thirty-three feet, he missed out on immortality while finishing a game second. He gave everything he had that day, leaving nothing in the tank, and had to be retired.

As we look back in history, his speed figures in the Derby and Preakness were much higher than two Triple Crown champions, American Pharoah and Justify, both inducted into the HOF. Smarty won the Preakness by a record margin while setting a Beyer speed figure that no horse has ever come close to in a quarter of a century. He finished his career having won eight consecutive races, seven were stakes, with over seven million dollars in earnings. Smarty's lone blemish was his second place finish in the Belmont Stakes.

We made this documentary so that now and forever the entire world will remember that there once was a Smarty Jones, and for a brief and shining moment, he carried us all on a magical carpet ride to a place called Camelot.

## Coming in 2025

## PENNSYLVANIA **YEARLING SHOW!**



#### WHERE:

**Brandywine Polo Club** 232 Polo Road. Toughkenamon, PA 19374

#### WHEN:

Saturday, June 21st 2025, from 10:00am to 3:00pm

Four classes featuring PA-Sired males and fillies and Non-PA-Sired males and fillies

**Prizes and trophies** available in each class!

\$50 entry fee before June 1st, \$75 late entry fee after June 1st

Stay tuned for more details and sponsorship opportunities!



## PENNSYLVANIA

HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Please contact our office at

610.444.1050 with any questions

## HORSEMEN Update from PTHA Executive Director

#### Horsemen:

As we turn the calendar to March, we have a lot to look forward to on the horizon. Our 2025 open stakes schedule will be posted, as well as our restricted Pennsylvania-Bred stakes schedule. The Main Line Stakes for straight 3-year-old fillies and City Of Brother Love Stakes for straight 3-year-olds will kick off our stakes action on Tuesday, March 4th.



A quick glance back in the rearview to our February PTHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Horsemen's Awards Banquet, we congratulate all Jeffrey A. Matty Jr. category winners, both statistical and vote earners.

It was a great year on the racetrack for many of our outfits, no more obvious than our finalists for Trainer Of The Year - Felissa Dunn, Michael Moore, Jamie Ness, and Tyler Servis - a great mix of seasoned stables, some of which having break-out years with winners and stake horses. We Congratulate Jamie Ness and his team for taking home the hardware.

On February 28th, the PTHA launched Ride Of A Lifetime - The Smarty Jones Story. This documentary takes all of us back on the chestnut colt's Triple Crown quest of '04, having captured the Run For The Roses. We hope in partnership with Parx Racing, The Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, and the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association, we can forever remember Smarty Jones while drawing both seasoned and new fans around the sport we all love: thoroughbred racing. In a climate such as now, racing needs more horses and stories like Smarty Jones. We hope you check out The Smarty Jones Story.com and watch the documentary.

With the change of seasons, comes a change of areas, topics, and projects to initiate and or refocus on. Please stop in the PTHA Office to help me continue to craft and pursue actionable items that not only assist you day to day, but better and promote racing overall.

Here's to warmer days ahead!

## SMARTY JUNES A FINALIST FOR THE HALL OF FAME



This week, 170 ballots will be sent to the Hall of Fame voting panel. For the first time, Smarty Jones will be among the 16 finalists - eight horses, seven trainers, one jockey. For the first time, I was a part of the 14-person nominating committee. To get to the final ballot, a horse or person needed at least nine votes from the committee.

Before we met by phone three weeks ago to discuss all the nominees, I sent some thoughts on Smarty Jones to my fellow members of the committee. They included the following on Smarty Jones:

First unbeaten Kentucky Derby winner since Seattle Slew in 1977.

Won the Preakness by the largest margin (11 1/2 lengths) in the history of the race.

Raced nine times from early November 2003 until early June 2004, without a break.

Had a four-race series of Beyer figures - Rebel, Arkansas Derby, Kentucky Derby, Preakness (112, 109, 107, 118) unmatched by any horse through Derby preps and Triple Crown races in the 21st century.

In 2004, Rock Hard Ten, Borrego, Eddington, Purge and Imperialism raced against Smarty Jones a combined 12 times. They finished a combined 147 lengths behind him, an average of 12 lengths per race. Smarty Jones did not just win his races; the colt dominated them. And he was crushing some very accomplished horses. In 2005, The Smarty Five won six Grade I races and four Grade II races. Rock Hard Ten won the Strub, Santa Anita Handicap and Goodwood. Borrego won the Pacific Classic and Jockey Club Gold Cup. Eddington won the Gulfstream Park Handicap and Pimlico Special.

Also in 2004, the winners of the Haskell, Jim Dandy and West Virginia Derby raced against Smarty Jones a combined six times and were beaten by a combined 78 lengths. Purge won all four of his races without Smarty Jones. In three tries against Smarty, Purge was a combined 47 lengths behind.

Won his eight races by a combined 47 1/2 lengths. The Belmont Stakes was his ninth race at nine different distances at six race tracks. In his only loss, the Belmont Stakes, the colt was beaten by in-race circumstances much more than by winner Birdstone. In fact, it was somewhat similar to what happened to Triple Crown winner American Pharoah when he finished second in the 2015 Travers. Two horses were taken out of their normal running styles to try to get Smarty Jones beat. Those two, Eddington and Rock Hard Ten, were well beaten, but were a great aid in Birdstone's victory.

It is worth noting that after his Travers loss, American Pharoah raced once more, winning the Breeders' Cup Classic with a 120 Beyer Figure. When American Pharoah and Justify won the Belmont Stakes and their Triple Crowns, they were afforded easy uncontested leads. Smarty Jones was not given that horse racing luxury and, in fact, was under pressure much of the way in his Belmont. If Smarty Jones had gotten that same easy lead, he almost certainly would have won the race and likely would have long since been an easy choice for the committee to make a finalist.

There was justifiable criticism for how the retirement announcement was handled in the late summer of 2004. As the only writer who was there every morning in the weeks leading up to the Belmont Stakes and the weeks after the race, I can tell everyone on the committee: this was not the same horse after the race as before. Most days, he could not even get into a gallop. Something clearly was wrong. Turned out the colt had significant cartilage loss that was going to prevent him from training or running again. That, however, was not known until several months after the retirement announcement.

Popularity is not a HOF criteria, nor should it be, but it is notable that a record 120,000 fans were at Belmont Park that June day in 2004 to see Smarty Jones try for the Triple Crown.

Longevity obviously is an understandable issue for the committee. And nine races does not qualify as long no matter how you define it. But those nine races over seven months qualify as one of the most incredible runs by any horse in the modern history of the sport. Also, given that the committee voted to make Justify a finalist last year with just six races, has voted to make Rags to Riches a finalist with just seven races and given how few races most of the highest quality horses run in this era, it may be time to view longevity through a different lens. On the call, I spoke in favor of Smarty making the final ballot. In addition to asking if there were any questions about what I had written to them, I also pointed out, as fellow committee member Steve Haskin told me, that Majestic Prince, with a career identical to Smarty Jones (unbeaten through the Preakness, second in the Belmont Stakes, never ran again after 10 career races), is in the Hall of Fame.

Now, it is up to the voters, Typically, 90+ percent of the ballots are returned. To get into the Hall of Fame, a finalist must receive 50 percent of the votes, plus one. So, for instance, if all 170 ballots were returned, Smarty would need 86 votes. If, say, 150 ballots were returned, Smarty would need 76 votes. The voting results will be announced April 24.

All many of us ever wanted was for Smarty Jones to get on the ballot and let a wide cross section of voters decide if the horse is worthy of induction. We now have that opportunity.

Photo credit: Equi-Photo

## Smarty Jones racing for his place in the Hall of Fame

It is hard to find appropriate words to express my deep gratitude to the Hall of Fame committee for nominating Smarty Jones as a finalist on this years ballot. This is an extreme honor and one I feel is well deserved by this great horse who ran his way into the hearts of so many people. He brought scores of new fans into the world of thoroughbred racing. I can't tell you how many people have said, and still do, that Smarty was the first race horse they ever watched and fell in love with. He started his career late in 2003, due to a starting gate accident, at Philadelphia Park, a "blue collar track", and won his way into Triple Crown races via Oaklawn Park (where the first of many "Smarty Parties" took place). They loved him and adopted him as their own! This horse came along at a time when our country was still reeling and recovering after 911. He gave us all something to feel good about and to root for, the "underdog" from Philly, the wrong side of the track. He carried with him an older gentleman in a wheelchair, a trainer, John Servis, a jockey, Stewart Elliot, a veterinarian, Patty Hogan, and me, all who had to buckle up for a ride none of us will ever forget. He gave hope, courage, and inspiration to multitudes after his recovery from a near career-ending injury. Smarty ran and won on sloppy tracks and fast tracks at 9 different distances and won 8 out of those 9 times. He was on Time Magazines's list of most influential "people" of 2004 and graced the cover of Sports Illustrated and numerous other publications.



On behalf of the Chapman/Hayden family and Team Smarty I want to thank all of the fans, the sports writers and commentators, who have believed in and supported Smarty Jones and have kept his memory alive and well! A special thanks goes out to ALL who have played a part in the newest documentary—Ride Of A Lifetime—The Smarty Jones Story.

An emotional and heartfelt THANK YOU!

Someday Farm

To watch the full Smarty Jones Documentary:
"Ride Of A Lifetime, The Smarty Jones Story."
please go to:
www.TheSmartyJonesStory.com





## ATTENTION TRAINERS

Please stop by the PTHA office to complete the 2025
Employee Benefits List as well as update your personal address, phone number, and email address as soon as possible.

Remember, ALL 2024
MEDICAL BILLS MUST BE
SUBMITTED TO THE PTHA
OFFICE BY MARCH 31, 2025.
After this date, the trainer is
responsible for paying any
remaining bills. PTHA will not
be responsible for any
reimbursement.



















#### **PTHA Board News**



#### **Dear Horsemen:**

It was brought to the PTHA 's attention that the third-party Lasix Administration Fee will increase to \$35.00 per horse, up from the current \$25.00 per horse.

In order to offset the cost and help assist horsemen, the PTHA Board of Directors met on February 4th and voted to approve an increase in the Paid-To-Last Amount offered during the running of a race at Parx Racing.

Effective Wednesday, February 5, 2025, the Paid-To-Last Amount will increase \$10.00 to \$410.00, up from the current \$400.00 Paid-To-Last.

Please contact the PTHA Office if you have any questions.

#### **Attention Trainers:**

The PTHA Board of Directors meet on February 4, 2025, to discuss the Parx Racing trainers' non-qualified pension plan and approved a distribution of \$20.00 per start for the year 2024. This represents a 33% increase from \$15.00 in 2023, which the PTHA President and Directors are pleased to announce. The distribution will begin soon after the plan statements are received, so please stay tuned for further information, or visit the PTHA office if you have questions.

#### AROUND THE OVAL by Dani Gibson

#### PARX RACING HORSES SHINE IN FEBRUARY STAKES VICTORIES

Parx-based horses made a strong statement in February with a series of dominant stakes wins at both Laurel Park and Aqueduct, showcasing the depth and talent of the region's racing program.

#### BIG WINS AT LAUREL PARK - 2/15/24

At Laurel Park, Irish Maxima and jockey Frankie Pennington delivered a breathtaking performance in the \$200,000 Barbara Fritchie Stakes, blazing through the seven-furlong race with an eye-catching speed figure of 111. Trained by John Servis and owned by Irish-Three Racing LLC, the filly left no doubt about her class, controlling the race from start to finish.

In the \$100,000 John B. Campbell Stakes, Speedyness, under Jaime Rodriguez, took early command of the 1 1/8-mile event and never looked back, securing the win for trainer Jamie Ness and owners Jagger Inc. & Morris Kernan, Jr.. Offaly Cool, ridden by Abner Adorno, put up a valiant effort to claim second for trainer Jacinto Solis and owner Lawrence Rebbecchi, Jr., giving Parx a strong presence in the race.

#### PARX POWER AT AQUEDUCT - 2/1/25



Parx runners dominated the \$125,000 Ruthless Stakes for three-year-old fillies at seven furlongs, sweeping the trifecta. Volleyballprincess, guided by Eliseo Ruiz, surged to victory for trainer Lou Linder, Jr. and owners Bran Jam Stable & David Clark. Their second runner, Ourdaydreaminggirl, finished runner-up with jockey Sahin Civaci, while Hollywood Beauty, piloted by Mychel Sanchez for trainer Marya Montoya and owner Albert Lupcho, rounded out the top three in a stellar showing for Parx-based connections.

The talented Maximus Meridius continued the Parx dominance with a thrilling victory in the \$175,000 Toboggan Stakes at seven furlongs. Ridden by Mychel Sanchez for trainer Butch Reid, Jr., the Gelding battled down the stretch to hold off a determined challenge from Runninsonofagun, securing the win for owners Cash Is King, LC Racing LLC, and Wellselv Stable.

With these powerful performances, Parx Racing's horses and connections have once again proven they can compete—and win—on major racing stages.



Picture credit: Joe Labozetta





### PARX RACING SPECIAL DATES MARK YOUR CALENDAR



THE PARTY NAMED IN

May 3



Join us for a fantastic Saturday celebrating the 151 Kentucky Derby

May 17



The best of 150 Preakness Races, here at Parx.

Jun 7



Feel the triple crown celebrations at Parx with the best of Belmont Stakes in Saratoga

Jun 15



Celebrate Fathers Day at Parx Racing on Sunday June 15. Family fun, music and more!

Jun 21



Enjoy a fun and exciting day with the National Thoroughbred League.

Aug 18



The PTHA will be thanking all owners and trainers at our Annual Owner Appreciation Day.

#### PTHA TROPHY RACE FEBRUARY 2025

#### **FEBRUARY 4**



#### **Bold Hoppertunity**

Owner Alaricorns Trainer
Jack
Abrams

Jockey
Andrew
Wolfsont

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

#### **FEBRUARY 11**



#### **Momma Pic**

Owner
Brown Dog
Racing Stable

Trainer
Howard R.
Brown Jr.

Jockey
Silvestre
Gonzalez

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO

#### **FEBRUARY 25**



#### **Fully Committed**

Owner
Serranos Racing
Stable

<u>Trainer</u> Ruperto A. Perez <u>Jockey</u> Paco Lopez

On Saturday, February 15th, the 2024 Horsemen's Awards Ceremony was held at Celebrations in Bensalem. Hosted by Dani Gibson and Jessica Paquette, the event welcomed over 250 guests and featured exquisite food, great music, and a silent auction benefiting our PTHA Charities. We celebrated the excellence and achievements of our horsemen and horses throughout 2024, showcasing incredible racing and remarkable accomplishments during an exciting year. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible and memorable. The PTHA congratulates all nominees across each category and all the winners. Your hard work and perseverance truly paid off.

To purchase the 2024 Horsemen's Awards pictures please call EQUI-PHOTO office at 732-222-9333 or go to:



https://www-equiphoto-com.photoshelter.com/gallery/02-15-2025-PTHA-2024-Horsemens-Awards/G0000FcMm91wj22g/C0000rdVdRmQY5pw



The PTHA would like to thank PA State Rep.

Brian Fitzpatrick for sending each winner a
certificate of recognition and an American flag
that was flown over the US Capitol,
congratulating each winner on their
achievements and success throughout 2024.



STARTS: 222 RECORD: 50 wins 31 2nds 52 3rds WIN PCT: 23% \$1,434,112

Top Notch **RACING** 

#### LEADING TRAINER >21 STALLS

STARTS: 577 RECORD: 162 wins 90 2nds 88 3rds WIN PCT: 28% \$4.674.479



Jamie **NESS** 

#### LEADING TRAINER <21 STALLS

STARTS: 198 RECORD: 35 wins 31 2nds 16 3rds WIN PCT: 18% \$796,986

Ilias **TAPSAS** 







STARTS: 513 | WIN PCT: 14% RECORD: | \$2,054,846

70 wins 87 2nds

87 3rds

## Francisco **MARTINEZ**

#### **LEADING JOCKEY**

STARTS: 672 | WIN PCT: 26% RECORD: | \$5,577,702

176 wins 116 2nds 81 3rds

Mychel SANCHEZ



#### **WINNINGEST HORSE**

STARTS: 15 | WIN PCT: 53% RECORD: | \$159,880 8 wins \_\_\_\_\_\_

8 wins 3 2nds 1 3rd

Ambitiously **PLACED** 



#### 2024 HORSEMEN'S AWARDS WINNERS

## TWO-YEAR-OLD FEMALE

#### **HONORABLE WIN**

Starts: 3-2-1-0 \$131,600 Owner: Pewter Stable Trainer: Kathleen A. Demasi Breeder: Pewter Stable (PA)

## TWO-YEAR-OLD MALE

#### **GLOBAL STEVE**

Starts: 2-2-0-0 \$73,800 Owner: Cash is King LLC & LC Racing LLC Trainer: Robert E. Reid, Jr. Breeder: Lance Colwell (FL)

#### **IRISH MAXIMA**

Starts: 5-4-1-0 \$213,600 Owner: Irish Three Racing LLC Trainer: John C. Servis Breeder: Pillar Property Services Inc (KY)

## THREE-YEAR-OLD FEMALE

#### **MAXIMUS MERIDIUS**

Starts: 11-3-4-0 \$346,280 Owner: LC Racing LLC, Cash is King LLC & Robert E. Reid, Jr. Trainer: Robert E. Reid, Jr. Breeder: Westerly Farm (PA)

## THREE-YEAR-OLD MALE

#### 2024 HORSEMEN'S AWARDS WINNERS

#### OLDER FEMALE

#### **CONFIRMED STAR**

Starts: 13-5-4-2 \$245,580 Owner: Cash is King LLC & LC Racing LLC Trainer: Robert E. Reid, Jr. Breeder: Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC (PA)

## OLDER MALE

#### **SPIKEZONE**

Starts: 14-11-0-3 \$378,082 Owner: Troy Johnson, Charles Lo & Jagger, Inc. Trainer: Jamie Ness Breeder: Bishop Racing, Inc. (FL)

#### AMBITIOUSLY PLACED

Starts: 16-8-3-2 \$162,190 Owner: Just In Time Racing LLC Trainer: Michael V. Pino |Breeder: Equus Farm (KY)

#### CLAIMING HORSE OF THE YEAR



#### Danielle Montgomery

Program Administrator



#### Celebrating Our 4,400th Horse: El Hermano's Journey to Retirement

Turning for Home is proud to welcome **El Hermano** as our **4,400th retiree**, marking another incredible milestone for our program. His career is typical of so many of our retirees—strong, successful, and deserving of a soft landing when the time comes to step away from racing. We are honored to help him transition to his next chapter.

A flashy chestnut gelding foaled in 2016, El Hermano had a long and accomplished career, making 61 starts with 13 wins, 11 seconds, and 5 thirds, earning \$401,943. Bred in New York by Equivine Farm, he spent his racing days competing primarily on the Mid-Atlantic circuit, running at Parx Racing, Monmouth Park, Belmont Park, and Aqueduct.

Starting his career in 2019, he broke his maiden at **Belmont Park** and quickly found success in Allowance company, posting an impressive 98 Equibase Speed Figure in a 2019 win. Over time, he transitioned into claiming and starter-level races, proving to be a hard-knocking competitor. Parx Racing became his home base, where he recorded many of his victories, including an elusive three-in-a-row streak and his final win on October 29, 2024, for the Silvino Ramirez barn.

Though he continued to show high speed figures—such as a 95 ESF in March 2024—he ultimately required surgery for a small apical sesamoid chip to ensure he could have a **competitive second career**. Thanks to the support of our donors, he received expert treatment at Mid-Atlantic Equine Medical Center under Dr. Cat Thurston.

El Hermano's full-circle moment is made even more special by the fact that it rekindled our partnership with his breeders at Equivine Farm. In a fitting tribute to his career, Val McNeeley, who was there when he began his racing career, was also there to welcome him back to the farm, which is now a TFH Partner in Aftercare.





Photo: Val McNeeley, El Hermano, and her Welsh Springer Spaniel, Echo.

We can't wait to see what's next for **El Hermano** and look forward to our partnership with this beautiful farm!

El Hermano's 13th win, Photo: Let's Go Racing Parx

#### Major Outreach at Horse World Expo & Retired Racehorse Makeover

For the past **ten years**, the **Horse World Expo in Harrisburg** has been one of the most important outreach opportunities for **Turning for Home**. While we were a little short-handed this year and couldn't bring our full team of **adopters and Thoroughbreds**, we are incredibly grateful to **Kelsey Parisi of ReeLee Restarting** for representing so well.

Thanks to **Kelsey's** dedication, **TFH horses** were still on site to showcase their **versatility** and remind the public that these athletes are **available and worth their weight in gold**. Outreach like this is essential in **expanding our network of adopters**, and we are grateful to **everyone who helped make it possible**.

We are looking forward to October at the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover, where our Partner Farms interviewed over 80 applicants to find the top 10 qualifiers for the TFH Makeover Scholarship Program.

This program **supports trainers** who take **TFH horses** to compete in the event's **ten disciplines**, providing:

- **▼** Reimbursement for some show fees
- Access to TFH retirees at great discounts

This initiative encourages **skilled and promising trainers** to work with **TFH horses** all year, developing them into top competitors in disciplines like **eventing**, **show jumping**, **dressage**, **and ranch work**.

The RRP's Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium is one of the most impactful showcases of a racehorse's potential beyond the racetrack, and we are incredibly proud of the TFH horses and trainers who represent us there. The dedication of these horsemen and horsewomen proves that when given the right opportunities, our Thoroughbreds thrive in their second careers.

#### **Parx Racing Broadcasts**

We're also excited to announce a **new collaboration with Parx Racing**, which will now be **aired alongside the races**, bringing even more visibility to the **success stories of TFH horses**. Fans at the track and watching at home will see firsthand that our **Thoroughbreds have bright futures beyond racing**.

This is a huge step in helping the public understand the **importance of aftercare** and showcasing that **responsible retirement is a priority in the industry**.

#### A Record Year Thanks to Responsible Owners and Trainers

Looking back at **2024**, it was truly a **record-breaking year of growth** for Turning for Home. More horses entered our program than ever before, proving that **responsible owners and trainers** continue to prioritize **aftercare**.

We are honored to be trusted with transitioning these **athletes into their second careers** and couldn't do it without the **village of supporters** who make this all possible.

Thank you for believing in us and for believing in them.



## Turning for Home



#### Sunshine Threat (FL)

(St Patrick's Day - Adorable Heidi, by Gimmeawink) Trainer: Miguel A. Rodriguez Owner: Jireh Stable Breeder: Holley Rice

Some racehorses shine on the track, while others find their true calling beyond it. Sunshine Threat may have only made one start in her racing career for trainer Miguel Rodriguez but she's proving that success isn't measured in wins and losses —it's found in the happiness of a second chance.

Now thriving in Massachusetts, Sunshine Threat has embraced her new life with her loving family. She's taken to trail riding with ease, enjoying the fresh air, open spaces, and the special bond she's building with her Adopter Sarah.



#### Sewanee (KY)

25 Starts 7 wins 5 seconds 1 third \$187,494 Earnings (Bernardini - Seoul, by Deputy Minister) Trainer: Patricia Farro Owner: Patricia Farro

Breeder: Mueller Thoroughbred Stable, LTD.

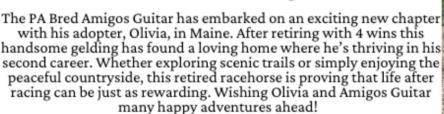


Hall of fame trainer Patricia Farro retired her horse Sewanne which was our 2013 Winningest horse back in 2015. Sewanne went to Safe Haven Farm run by Kate Goldenberg, she found him such an amazing adopter Linda in 2018. Back in 2013, Sewanne was the winningest horse of the year, a true warrior on the racetrack.



#### Amigos Guitar (PA)

28 Starts 4 Firsts 2 Seconds 3 Thirds \$95,224 Earnings (Peace and Justice - Aquatint, by Not For Love) Trainer: Jorge Diaz Owner: 3 Amigos 3 Stables Breeder: Elizabeth R. Houghton





#### Mr. Doda (FL)

27 Starts 4 Firsts 2 Seconds 4 Thirds \$121,785 Earnings Trainer: Carlos Soto Owner: Perez Stables LLC Breeder: Monmouth Stud

Mr. Doda closed the gates on his racing career last January and he's been making the most of his retirement ever since. This athletic gelding has embraced life beyond the track, proving that Thoroughbreds are just as impressive in their second careers as they are in racing silks. From learning new skills to adjusting to a slower pace, he was adopted

adopter Desi.





## Turning FOI Home 4711 ARRUAL GOLF OUTING



#### THURSDAY MAY 1, 2025



#### **BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNTRY CLUB**

Individual Golfer \$130.00

Foursome **\$520.00** 

#### **SPONSORSHIPS**

Grade 1 \$3,000.00

Grade 2 \$2,000.00

Grade 3 \$1,000.00

Foursome \$520.00

Hole Sign \$500.00

Dinner Ticket \$50.00

#### **AGENDA**

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Registration / Lite Breakfast / Driving Range

**11:00 AM** Shotgun Start **4:15 PM - 5:15 PM** Open Bar

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Kentucky Derby Preview / Dinner / Awards



**Register Now** 215-638-2012

TICKET

#### **EMAIL US AT**

Jmatty@patha.org / Dmontgomery@patha.org

## HORSEMEN'S PURCHASING ASSOCIATION

# Happy St. Patrick's Day 10% SAXE Monday March 17th

**Excludes Shavings and Feed** 





Race Days 8 am to 4:30 pm Th.-Fr. 8 am to 4 pm Sat. 8 am to 2:30 pm

Feed trailers open until 1 pm Ice House open until 2 pm on Race Days

**CONTACT US:** 

HLA

Diane Day HPA Manager 267-223-3140 dday@patha.org



# Heart of the By: Nikki Guzman

March is the month of transition. We've all heard the old proverb, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." Winter steadily departs, the days get considerably longer, and spring is on the way. With the approach of spring, only one thing can be certain: stall applications for the upcoming meet will be due soon enough, and John Shirly will be back working on allocating stalls.

For most of his life, John Shirly has lived in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. After graduating from Monsignor Bonner High School, he attended Millersville University and earned a bachelor's degree in political science. In 1990, he worked part-time as a teller at the Center City Turf Club before transferring to the Upper Darby Tuff Club in 1991 and full-time as an independent contractor overseeing the Septa ticket distribution on regional train lines. Following his layoff,



John accepted a full-time position at the Turf Club and became the Mutual Manager. John later was promoted to Assistant General Manager, then General Manager, before joining PARX in 2006 as the Security Supervisor. When the Stall Superintendent position became empty, John stepped in. It was a straightforward decision for him because he already knew who he'd be working with, and dealing with people is one of his strongest skills. He used to tell his young managers, "You don't just get respect because you have the keys. You get respect because you earn respect." He appreciates his job because it allows him to contribute to the accomplishment of goals by being a part of the decision-making process, assisting his superiors, and supporting the horsemen in the hopes of making things simpler for everyone. John described his job plain and simple, "My job is to make sure that people do what PARX needs them to do."

While John enjoys seeing PARX horses and trainers do well at other tracks, PA Derby Day is something he looks forward to every year. That day, PARX is in the racing limelight. Yes, the big horses arrive, which is wonderful, but the fact that the news media pays attention to PARX, that people are flocking to witness some very outstanding races, and that the excitement level is at an all-time high for the year makes him glad to be a part of it all.

When he is not at PARX solving issues, John enjoys spending time with his wife, two children, three grandchildren, and his recently born great-granddaughter.

As Pat Riley said," Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better."

The PTHA wishes John great success in his career here at PARX and appreciates all of his effort and hard work!

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