



A Giving Community

Many thanks for a night at the races

by Shelley Falitico

“SPECIAL EVENING”: The author (red scarf) was part of the first Genesee ARC Night at the Races, held at Batavia Downs this past November to raise funds for Genesee ARC, a human service agency that supports children and adults with disabilities in Batavia and all of Genesee County in New York.

My lifelong career and personal life has been helping and supporting children and adults with developmental disabilities. I love what I do and have shared many different life experiences and tribulations with the families and individuals I have grown to care for deeply over those years.

About eight years ago, my husband and I ventured into the horse business. We attended the new owners seminar held at Batavia Downs and consulted with a family friend and well-known trainer, Jim Mulcahy, about purchasing a horse and all the details that go along with that business venture. We have owned three horses and have ventured into breeding

our beautiful mare, Azorean Sky. We are hooked!

To say the least, we have spent a lot of time at several racetracks throughout New York state and have met many wonderful people in the business. Thanks to Jim as well as two owners, Howard and Michael Ouriel, the first-ever Genesee ARC Night at the Races was held Nov. 5, 2014, at Batavia Downs in western New York. Involvement in their community and helping others in need is characteristic of all three gentlemen. Helping an agency that assists people with disabilities is a natural fit.

The organization that I work for, Genesee ARC, is a human service agency that supports children and adults with disabilities in Batavia and all of Genesee County. The Genesee ARC Night at the Races event helped raise funds for vital programs provided by the agency including children services, day habilitation, employment training, residential services and recreation opportunities.

Friends, sponsors, people with disabilities and their families all joined in the excitement for Wednesday-night harness

BIG NEWS IN OHIO! **MISTER BIG**

p,2, 1:53s, 3, 1:49.2, 4, 1:47.4 (\$4,143,492)

Bh 2003 (16h) • Grinfromeartoeat - World's Sweetheart by Jate Lobell



The richest pacing stallion of all time and Canadian Hall of Fame member has arrived!

Trained **BIG** by Ohio's own Virgil Morgan Jr.

Won **BIG** on all sized tracks, including the Delaware County Fairgrounds on Jug Day in the 2008 Winbak Pace

BIG earnings of \$4,143,492

As a five year old, **MISTER BIG** won the WR Haughton Memorial, the US Pacing Championship, the Canadian Pacing Derby and the Breeders Crown. He is the first horse in history to win all four blue- ribbon events for free-for-all pacers in one year.

In 85 career starts, 34-20-11
Paced 18 miles in 1:49 or faster
Successful sire in Ontario
Sire of the winners of over \$1.2 million
2 - \$100,000+ winners & 13 in 1:55 or faster!



2990 State Route 93 | Sugarcreek, OH 44681
(330) 852-0789 | E: info@abbystables.com

www.abbystables.com

Introductory Fee \$2,500

Oldest foals were 3 in 2014

Foals are Ohio Sires Stakes and Breeders Crown Eligible

Introducing Sole Freeze

to our family of
award-winning
products

Hawthorne's Sole Freeze is a new, non-regulated product which requires no extra paperwork to purchase. Like Hoof Freeze, it aids in preventing and treating pain and soreness in horses' hooves, particularly tender-footed horses. Sole Freeze also combats thrush and white line disease, and is a very effective hoof hardener. Visit Hawthorne-Products.com to learn more about our award-winning hoof care products.

Save 25%
on Hoof Freeze!

Use promo code
HBSF25
Call or visit online
for details



Visit hawthorne-products.com or call 800.548.5658 for more information.

racing and cheered each winning driver and horse as they crossed the finish line. Mr. Howard Ouriel graciously sponsored dinner buffets for individuals served by the agency and their staff members in attendance. A winner's circle picture topped the night for individuals served by Genesee ARC.

Throughout my 30-year career working with and supporting people with disabilities and their families, I have become acutely aware of the daily struggles someone may have due to their disability, or, at times, the ongoing barriers in one's community due to the perception of having a disability. It was such a pleasure to be part

It was such a pleasure to be part of the inclusive setting of this evening. We enjoyed a great meal with friends, with and without disabilities, and watched an exciting night of harness racing.

of the inclusive setting of this evening. We enjoyed a great meal with friends, with and without disabilities, and watched an exciting night of harness racing.

Adding to this special evening was the friendly and welcoming atmosphere provided by Batavia Downs General Manager Todd Haight and his staff, race announcer Joe Zambito, and race sponsors.

Along with generous support from Howard and Michael Ouriel, race sponsors included Jeff Gural representing Tioga and Vernon Downs, Wanda Polisseni of Purple Haze Stables, Great Lakes Plastic Co., Genesee Valley Farm, Goodwin Farm, Tompkins Insurance, Crickler Vending, Down Syndrome Parent Support Group and the Western New York Harness Horsemen's Association. Approximately \$15,000 was raised as a result of the generosity of a very giving community.

This quote by St. Francis of Assisi says it all: "For it is in giving that we receive."

Shelley Falitico is director of development at Genesee ARC. | To comment on this story, e-mail us at readerforum@ustrotting.com.



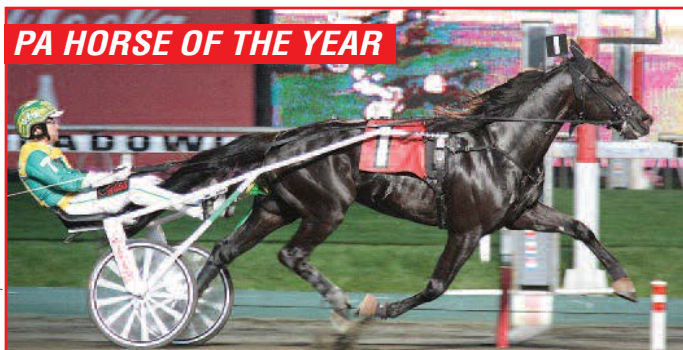
IN THE ZONE

The Harness Racing Fan Zone is for you... the fans. It's the place to be for seeing, sharing, and connecting with harness racing fans around the world. So get in on the action and get in the Zone.



HARNESSRACINGFANZONE.COM

Three Top Trotting Stallions for three top racing programs!



Michael Lisa/Lisa Photo

WINNING MISTER

2,1:56.1; 3,1:54.3; 1:51.3 (\$1,108,874)
Angus Hall-Winning Missbrenda-American Winner

A millionaire son of Angus Hall, he is also the fastest son of his sire standing at stud. A multiple stakes winner at 2 and 3, he raced against the best Open trotters at 4, 5 & 6 and defeated the likes of Arch Madness and Mister Herbie. He retired to stud with 38 career victories, including 29 under 1:55 and 11 in 1:53 or faster. He established track records at every Pennsylvania track and six track records in all, and is the current track record-holder at Pocono (1:52.1) and Dover (1:53.2).

His dam Winning Missbrenda 3,1:57.4 (\$117,659) has also produced another millionaire performer in Win Missy B 3,1:52 (\$1,597,036), 2-heat World Champion (1:52-1:52.1).

Winning Mister's oldest foals are yearlings in 2015.

2015 Fee \$6,000

Standing at Lindwood Farm in PENNSYLVANIA
(724) 836-1802



Michael Lisa/Lisa Photo

ENCORE ENCORE

2,1:55.3; 3,1:53.3f (\$418,337)
Broadway Hall-Key's La Nina-BJ's Mac

His first small crop raced as 2-year-olds in 2014 and from 7 starters, 3 were sub-1:59 stakes winners: GOLD CORA 2,1:56.3f'14 (r.t. 1:53.4) (\$116,237), SIXTEEN ENCORES 2,1:57.2f'14 (r.t. 1:54.3) (\$51,989) and ALPHA ALPHA 2,1:58.3f'14 (\$42,152). His average earnings per starter currently stand at \$31,487.

A multiple stakes winner himself, Encore Encore won multiple stakes at 2, including the Bluegrass and elims of the Wellwood, Peter Haughton Memorial and Valley Victory. An injury at 3 limited his sophomore season to just one start.

2015 Fee \$5,000

Standing at Ivy Lane Farm in INDIANA
(574) 536-1600



Racehorse Photo

BREAK THE BANK K

2,1:55.3f; 3,1:51.3 (\$1,104,630)
Revenue-American Misty-American Winner

World Champion and Breeders Crown Champion and multiple stakes winner at both 2 and 3! Break The Bank K defeated Lucky Chucky and Wishing Stone in his World Record 1:52.2f victory in the Breeders Crown at three. One of the fastest and richest trotters standing in Ohio, he is a millionaire son of Revenue and from a Hall of Fame maternal line.

Break The Bank's oldest foals are 2-year-olds in 2015.

2015 Fee \$3,500

Multiple mare discount: \$3,000
Standing at Midland Acres in OHIO
(740) 437-7800

Bookings can also be made by contacting Debbie at R.J. Key Stables
(800) 245-3600 or (724) 295-5111 / Fax (800) 847-1672 or (724) 295-0377
email: info@winningkeyfarms.com