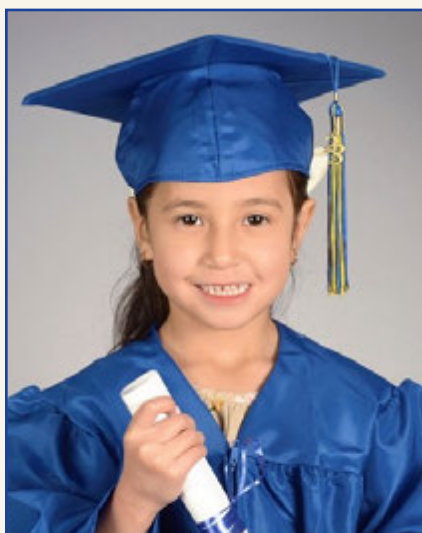


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2023



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## MEET THE TEAM



(L to R) Rachel G. Battle, *Development Manager*, Joanne K. Adams, *Executive Director*, Stephanie N. Siler, *Development Associate*

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### MISSION

The mission of the Belmont Child Care Association, Inc. is to provide a safe, supportive, and academically inspiring environment for the children of parents working in the Thoroughbred racing backstretch area located at New York's historic Belmont Park, Aqueduct Racetrack, and Saratoga Race Course. We are committed to promoting early childhood education, molding young minds, and encouraging the fulfillment of dreams.

# AND THEY'RE Off ...

## BE TRANSFORMATIVE!

Our one-of-a-kind organization is changing lives at the racetrack every day as we continue to expand our programs to better serve our families. This year, BCCA launched *BCCA Blooms: Nourishing Mind · Nourishing Body · Nourishing Family* to help further our mission. Our goal is to *Be Transformative* by changing the lives of our families through knowledge and by providing the proper tools for success as we focus on the importance of establishing healthy eating habits, introducing new snack options to our children in an age-appropriate way, and expanding our garden to provide more fresh fruit and vegetables for our families.

*BCCA Blooms* because the programs we offer at *Anna House* and *Faith's House* have become an invaluable resource for the backstretch families and each year we see our children thrive as they continue on their road to success. This year, in its third year of operation, our program at *Faith's House* is so acclaimed that we are now proud to offer a school-age program during the summer race meet. Thanks to our early childhood education program, *Anna House* graduates enter the local public school system at the same level as or ahead of their peers. Our program has proven successful as our graduates often earn a spot on the Principal's Honor Roll and are celebrated for showcasing their leadership skills in the classroom. Many of our families speak Spanish as their primary language, so our children are often exposed to English for the first time at *Anna House*. A recent research study led by an MIT economist established a correlation between preschool-educated children and positive outcomes, which include a boost in high school graduates and college attendance, and a decrease in problematic behavioral issues.

As *Anna House* celebrated its 20th anniversary last year, BCCA can now follow the long-term effects of providing our students with the foundation for educational success from an early age. One of our earliest graduates, Xochilt, is now preparing to enter college. Xochilt just graduated from high school and plans to attend Northeastern University in the Fall, where she will be pursuing a double major in Civil Engineering and Architectural Studies. Our first *Anna House* graduate, Jonathan, has thrived in the Thoroughbred racing industry since he graduated from high school. Last year, we were so proud to see him recognized with the Godolphin Newcomer Award, sponsored by NYRA. Both Xochilt and Jonathan participated in BCCA's early childhood education and school-age programs.

How do contributions make a great impact on our enrichment programs? Outside of academics, BCCA offers an Integrated Arts curriculum in music, art, and dance. Our students are provided with an opportunity to expand their perspectives by working in different disciplines to foster development, social and emotional skills, and increase mindfulness. Lourdes always loved art classes at *Anna House* and decided at a very young age that she wanted to become an artist. Lourdes, now in sixth grade, recently had her art exhibited at the Long Island Children's Museum. Her piece was influenced by the Aztec culture and she created it using mixed media of copper and metal. Lourdes loves fashion and sketching designs, especially Japanese Lolita dresses. She often uses her free time to sketch and draw and her greatest wish is to become a fashion designer.

Here's how you can help. Please consider a gift to BCCA. We invite you to join us and Think BIG for BCCA at any level because when we come together, we can make a great impact on the lives of our children and their families. To learn more about our event and our programs, please visit us at [www.belmontchildcare.org](http://www.belmontchildcare.org).



Joanne K. Adams  
Executive Director

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, Libby Imperio



2023 has been an overwhelmingly successful year so far at the happiest place on the racetrack! It is incredibly heartwarming to see how BCCA has come full circle in offering programs to fulfill the needs of the entire family.

With the addition of our Women's Literacy program, we have given the mothers the tools to create a greater bond with their children and their communities.

As many of our parents speak Spanish as their native language, our children have often acted as 'de facto' translators. As our parents improve their English fluency, it allows for the children to refocus on their scholastic futures.

Xochilt, who graduated from *Anna House* in 2010, will begin her first semester at Northeastern University this fall. Her mother has been a constant presence in our group since its inception. As her English has improved, Xochilt has become increasingly more confident in going away to college, since she no longer needs to interpret for her mother in daily routines. Parents worry about their children, and children worry about their parents, but helping the entire family has proven to alleviate some of this daily stress.

BCCA has expanded our school-age program both at *Anna House* and *Faith's House*, including adding school-age playgrounds to both facilities. We have also expanded our after-school tutoring program to ensure that every student feels confident in their homework. By expanding our programs, we provide tools for the whole family to build bonds outside of the racetrack.

Thank you to everyone who has supported BCCA and our one-of-a-kind programs. Your generosity allows us to fulfill our commitment to the families of the backstretch workers with the knowledge that their children will receive an amazing early childhood education program to provide them with a great start towards a better future. Help us continue to Think BIG for BCCA every day!

Libby Imperio  
*President*

# Thank You

## BACKSTRETCH COMMUNITY

*The backstretch community is the foundation of our sport.*

The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) extends our sincere gratitude to the **Belmont Child Care Association** (BCCA) for increasing access to early education and childcare for families working at Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course.

In addition to **Anna House**, which has been providing these indispensable services at Belmont Park since 2002, the BCCA successfully opened the doors to a sister facility at Saratoga Race Course in 2021. **Faith's House** now stands proudly at Saratoga as both a service provider and symbol of what is possible through hard work.

NYRA congratulates **Michael Dubb, Libby Imperio** and the **BCCA team** for your sustained success over nearly two decades of service to the New York racing community.



Dave O'Rourke

NYRA President & CEO



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*“We thank you for making our dreams come true!”*

*Anna House Song*

## Michael and Lee Dubb



To our Founder and Chairman, Michael, and his incredible wife, Lee —

Thank you for fulfilling our dream of providing education and enrichment for children year-round at *Anna House* at Belmont and during the summer at *Faith's House* at Saratoga.

With love, gratitude, and appreciation,



ANNA HOUSE



FAITH'S HOUSE





# Oak Ridge

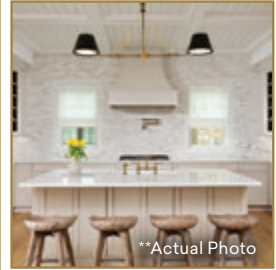
BY BEECHWOOD



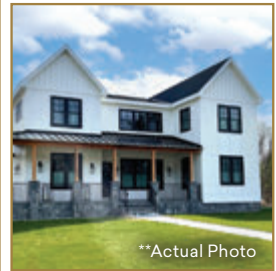
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Imperio Racing wishes all the  
*Anna House* and *Faith's House* families  
love, health, and happiness!

CONGRATS

BARBARA



**Congratulations to Barbara Banke,**  
our Chairman, for being named the Belmont Child Care Association's  
2023 Honoree. Your tireless efforts to help advance the quality of life for  
the children and families of *Anna House* and *Faith's House* inspire us all.

*A Breed Apart*

**Thank You**  
**Barbara R Banke**

**and**



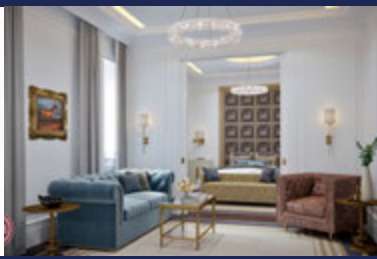
**for your incredible generosity and**  
**for always Thinking BIG for BCCA!**

**With gratitude and appreciation,**





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**Hochheiser and Akmal PLLC,  
along with Keith and Kelley Hochheiser,  
applaud the laudable efforts of the  
Belmont Child Care Association  
for its important work of  
caring for the children of the Backstretch.**



*I support BCCA because I love being involved with such a successful, life-changing organization. It's all about the backstretch kids and their families — simple as that!*

~ Patrick H. Mackay



**Patrick and Lee Mackay are proud to support BCCA and their life-changing programs to benefit the children and families of the backstretch.**

# SUCCESS

## STARTS AT ANNA HOUSE

By Dan Tordjman

On an early spring afternoon, in harmony with the first of the season's blooming daffodils, a palpable energy grew inside a home near Belmont Park. There sat a 17-year-old girl named Xochilt, pondering the vast opportunity that laid ahead.

"It's definitely going to be a new experience," Xochilt confessed, "but I'm excited."

In a month's time, high school would be complete and Xochilt would begin making arrangements to move to Boston. Having just committed to Northeastern University, she'd be living away from home for the first time in her life.



"I hope my parents are excited for me too. I think they are because I see my dad wearing that Northeastern shirt quite a bit," she joked. "So I think he's really happy that I'm going there."

Her father, a longtime groom at New York tracks, couldn't be prouder. The same could be said for Xochilt's mother who is a hotwalker at the track. As parents with work schedules that have always demanded long (and early) hours, they faced several challenges when their kids were young. Fortunately for them, the solution to those obstacles was just steps away from their front door.

Within walking distance from their home was *Anna House*, the full-scale childcare and early education center of the Belmont Child Care Association (BCCA) at Belmont Park. Built in 2002 by current BCCA chairman and prominent horse owner Michael Dubb, *Anna House* was designed to accommodate the early-morning schedules of backstretch workers at Belmont Park and Aqueduct Racetrack. In 2021, *Faith's House* opened in Saratoga as an extension of *Anna House* in support of backstretch workers who travel upstate for the summer.

At both childcare hubs, hours of service begin at 5:00 a.m. and dedicated staff arrive even earlier to stage classrooms for children as young as six weeks old. *Anna House* is open and filled with love every day of the week, 365 days a year. There's breakfast and snack time, and like most childcare facilities, nap time carved out for children who need it. As kids grow, they're enriched, entertained, and educated through a variety of games, learning activities, and physical exercise.

When Xochilt was born, the budding facility was itself in its infancy having only open for a few years. But even then, it provided the crucial

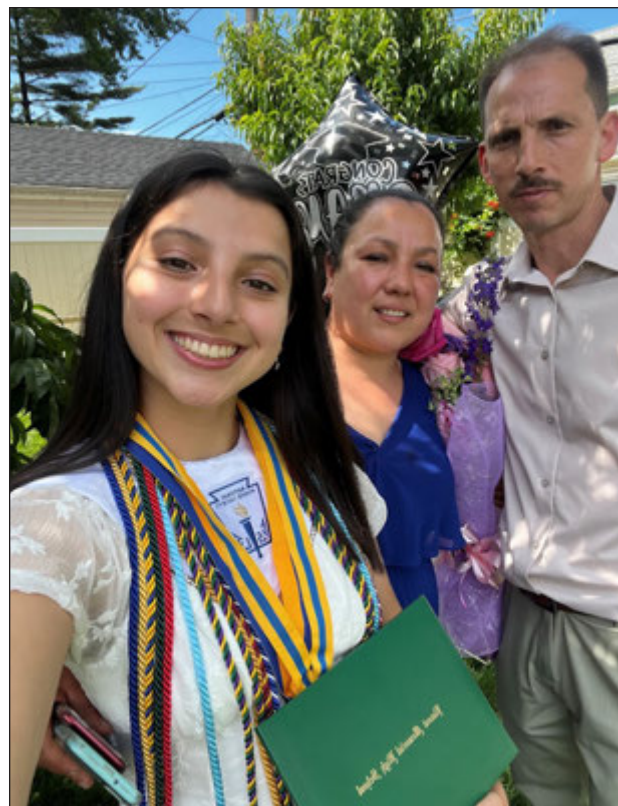
building blocks that Xochilt not only needed but that she might not have received otherwise.

“They taught me basic things before I went into kindergarten,” Xochilt recalled. “They taught me how to write my name, they taught me how to communicate better, they taught me how to socialize with other students in a proper manner. They taught me a lot of the basics.”

“A lot of the activities they had us do were really geared toward hands-on experiences and building things, in a sense. They have a lot of LEGOs, building blocks, magnetic pieces and they had other things but I feel like I always geared more toward those because I found them more interesting... It kind of makes sense now considering I’m going into civil engineering (at Northeastern). I can see the connections.”

Along her academic journey, there were still challenges that Xochilt faced that are common for many children of backstretch workers. One specific issue became apparent to BCCA organizers early on and would ultimately lead to the development of programs that would expand well beyond standard childcare until the age of five.

“All my years growing up my parents only really knew Spanish,” Xochilt explained. “My homework would be in English and if I didn’t know how to do it, then (my parents)



couldn’t exactly help me because they’d have to understand what the paper was saying and the instructions... so it was definitely a struggle in that aspect.”

That dynamic, which is very real for many of the children served by the BCCA, resulted in the advent of *Anna House’s* school-age program. It was an expansion in size and scope of services that allowed for additional support of children



ages five to 12. The goal was to not only be there to help kids with homework and tutoring but to also be a safe space for students when their parents worked weekends or when school was out for regular breaks and holidays.

The BCCA added another dimension to its menu of services with the creation of the Women’s Literacy Program. Xochilt’s mother is one of many on the backstretch who have benefitted from the opportunity to learn basic English reading and writing skills. The program also teaches them the importance of reading with their children and provides mothers a safe space to discuss any issues they encounter in their daily lives.

While Xochilt and her family were some of the earliest beneficiaries of those services, as well as early childcare, the unofficial first student to ever attend *Anna House* was Jonathan Estrada.

“I always say it’s my second home. It’s where I started off and it’s where I’m available to be whenever they need me to be,” Estrada said.

Now 22, Estrada is a groom and recently joined the barn of Hall of Fame trainer Mark Casse. Prior to that, Estrada had worked four years under the tutelage of trainer David Donk for whom he was a hotwalker and a groom.

When Estrada was just a baby — in the months before *Anna House* existed — both of his parents worked as grooms and were up early every day for work on the backstretch. Estrada remembers his parents having no choice but to bring him to work with them. That meant many mornings when Estrada literally sat or slept in a tack room until his parents finished their job.

“That’s stuff you don’t forget,” said Estrada. “Without *Anna House*, you’d probably still have kids in tack rooms or sleeping in the back of cars with the windows rolled down. That’s just where I think it would be. *Anna House* played a huge role in that. They got kids out of the tack room and into the classroom.”

Not only was Estrada one of the earliest beneficiaries of the services provided by *Anna House*, his younger brother would eventually attend as well. Since opening 21 years ago,



more than 1,000 students have participated in the program. In that time, the BCCA has succeeded in the arduous and endless task of raising sufficient funding to cover tuition and operational expenses.

On average the cost of programs and scholarships for each child is approximately \$1,300 per month. It’s an investment that’s more than worthwhile, especially in the case of former students like Estrada who have grown into an inspiring adults. Late last year, Estrada was named the recipient of the “Newcomer Award” at the annual Godolphin Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards.

“It was crazy. It was a feeling I’d never felt before,” he said. “*Anna House* shaped me into the person I am today, giving me the traits that a person needs to be an inspiration. I never would’ve thought that people would look up to me. But *Anna House*, from the time I was a kid, taught me things that I needed in life to help me become someone that could inspire another person.”

Like Estrada, every *Anna House* attendee over the past two-plus decades will have had the opportunity to inspire and to tell a story of their own. While her journey will see Xochilt move away from home and her extended family at *Anna House*, she has remained connected to people there who prepared her for this next season of her life — and the future couldn't be any brighter.

“A lot of opportunities and social experiences and learning skills, I probably wouldn't have gotten if I hadn't gone to *Anna House*,” Xochilt said. So my parents are very happy. They placed me into it so I could have all the opportunities I have now. I'm very happy about it, too.”



# REMEMBERING HERB MOELIS



BCCA thanks Herb and Ellen Moelis  
for their incredible support of our mission  
and for all they have done for the  
Thoroughbred racing industry.



You will be sorely missed, Herb!

With love,





Thanks

**Roy and Gretchen Jackson**

for their many years of kindness and generosity  
in support of our programs  
at  
*Anna House and Faith's House!*



# School-Age Program at **Faith's House**

By Teresa Genaro

More than 20 years ago, the Belmont Child Care Association began changing lives when they opened *Anna House* on the backstretch at Belmont Park, offering affordable childcare to New York Racing Association backstretch workers.

With the opening of *Faith's House* at Saratoga Race Course in 2021, BCCA's life-changing work continues, bringing support to backstretch families in the summer at Saratoga.

The program began by focusing on providing BCCA's invaluable services for the littlest ones on the backstretch with an early childhood education and development program for children ages 6 weeks old to 5 years old. Now in its third year of operation, the program at *Faith's House* is so acclaimed that they have expanded to offer a school-age program during the summer race meet!



Prior to opening this summer, BCCA worked tirelessly to make the necessary modifications and license a school-age classroom at *Faith's House*. A second playground area was created for school-age students and was named after the late Benjamin Epstein, a dedicated horse racing fan and enthusiastic supporter of BCCA.

For more than a decade, BCCA worked on solutions to the Saratoga child-care problem. The board and the staff of BCCA dreamed and planned; they created stopgap collaborations with local organizations. And they finally realized that in order to serve the backstretch workers on whose labor the sport depends, they would have to build it.

Named for the late mother of Michael Dubb, the long-time chair of the BCCA board, *Faith House's* continues the education and care begun at *Anna House* for the littlest racetrackers, the children of the people who take care of the horses.







Dubb has served as the BCCA's board chairman since the organization was founded, and it was his development company, The Beechwood Organization, that donated the labor and materials for *Anna House* and *Faith's House*, and his leadership that helped bring *Faith's House* into being.

"Often, both parents work at the track," he explained. "They're working very hard jobs, at not high wages. Being involved in the BCCA is a gift to me, a gift that gives me an abundance of pleasure. I'm as enamored of this work as I was 20 years ago."

Initially serving children from infancy until they left for kindergarten, *Anna House* extended its hours to include after-school programs for school-age children and teenagers. It is as integral to the success of New York racing as the workers themselves are.

Like its downstate counterpart, *Faith's House* is open from 5am to 5pm every day during the Saratoga meet, offering care and programming for children who range in age from six months old to teenagers.

*Anna House* was the brainchild of Michael Dubb, the late Richard Bomze, and Jerry Bailey. Before it opened, parents often had to leave their babies and toddlers in their cars as they worked. There is no such thing as a daycare center that opens at 5am, when grooms report to work, and few, if any, within the financial reach of grooms and hotwalkers.



Marcelo Arenas is a 20-year Saratoga veteran. A former assistant to trainer Leah Gyarmati, he now trains on his own, and his wife works at Kennedy Airport in Queens, NY and is in Saratoga only on weekends. His five-year-old daughter, Mariapaz has attended *Faith's House* every summer since it opened. Prior to *Faith's House*, he couldn't see his daughter during the summer.

"I love it," he said. "It's the best thing that could have happened to my daughter."

Every year, Dubb participates in the *Anna House* graduation, posing with the five-year-olds and their diplomas, distributing backpacks with school supplies for the children's entrance into kindergarten.

"I see the parents who are doing what my grandparents did," he observed. "Their children are first-generation Americans, and the pride on their faces is indescribable."



"Our goal is to keep families together," he continued. "When I see how the kids are doing, when I see that they're happy and bilingual, I know that we're doing something right."



BCCA THANKS THE  
ANGELA AND SCOTT JAGGAR FOUNDATION  
FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE CHILDREN OF THE  
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*With our gratitude and appreciation*

*to*

**Charlotte Weber**

*and*

**THE  
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FOUNDATION**

**Radical generosity.**



# BCCA's Women's Literacy Program



BCCA's Women's Literacy Program provides the mothers of the children in our care with an opportunity to develop their reading skills, gain confidence, and improve their English fluency.

To celebrate and support the incredible women in our backstretch community, BCCA treated all the participants to a private painting party at Muse in Garden City, NY!



# 2023 Anna House Graduates



Natalia



Daniel



Miguel



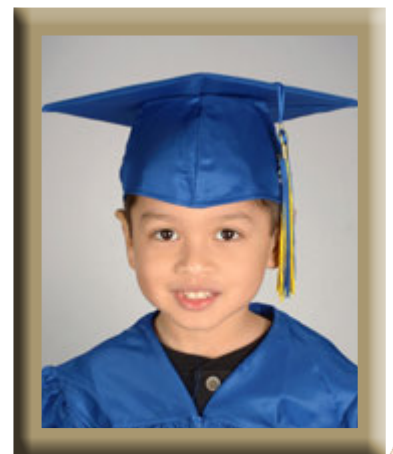
*Xochilt graduated from Anna House in 2010 and was presented with the first BCCA College Scholarship at the 2023 Anna House Graduation. Xochilt will be attending Northeastern University to study Civil Engineering and Architectural Studies. Change the first five years of a child's life, and you change everything!*



Mariapaz



Blake



Yeshua



# Trophy Presentation at Belmont Park

BCCA Celebrates the *Anna House* Class of 2023!



Representatives from NYRA and BCCA joined Daniel, Mariapaz, and winning jockey, Flavien Prat, in the Winner's Circle.



On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, *Anna House* Class of 2023 representatives, Mariapaz and Daniel, headed to the Winner's Circle at Belmont Park for a special Trophy Presentation to celebrate this year's graduating class! BCCA would like to thank the New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) for extending this special invitation to our children.

NYRA Racing Analysts, Maggie Wolfendale-Morley and Andy Serling, took a break from their on-air commitments to interview our graduates and send their best wishes to the entire graduating class! NYRA President and CEO, David O'Rourke, gave 2 thumbs up for our children!

# BY THE NUMBERS:

## Secretariat & the 1973 Belmont Stakes

By Jim Reisler

*For racing fans of a certain age, Secretariat's run for the ages at the 1973 Belmont Stakes – 50 years ago this year – is cemented to memory. If you're too young to remember, watch a tape of Big Red's stunning performance on June 9, 1973 – and you may get chills. Secretariat won racing's ninth Triple Crown at Belmont Park by a margin so vast that it almost looks unreal. So enjoy this brief look at some of the numbers of the day that Secretariat – "moving like a tremendous machine," as announcer Chic Anderson famously put it – put together what is arguably our sport's best performance ever:*



Photo Credits: BOB COGLIANESE

**\$7.9 MILLION:** Figure wagered on the nine-race card on June 9, 1973 at Belmont Park, which included \$2.2 million from off-track betting. A total of \$5.6 million was bet through the mutuels that day.

**\$6.08 MILLION:** The figure at which Mrs. Penny Chenery of Meadow Stable syndicated the breeding rights to Secretariat in January 1973 to settle a tax bill left by her late father (and the big colt's breeder) Christopher Chenery. As part of the agreement, Secretariat would be retired at the end of his 3-year-old season. The breeding rights for Riva Ridge, Meadow Stable's 1972 Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes winner, went for \$5 million.

**\$1,316,808**

The total purse earnings earned by Secretariat during his racing career.

**\$519,689:** The amount wagered on the '73 Belmont Stakes. Bettors holding 5,617 winning parimutuel tickets on Secretariat never redeemed them, presumably saving them as souvenirs.

**\$150,200:** The purse for the 1973 Belmont Stakes, the 105th running of the "Test of the Champion."

**69,138:** Attendance on June 9, 1973 at Belmont Park, though it's likely, as with the day that Don Larsen threw a World Series perfect game or Aaron Judge went deep with home run #61, that twice the number claim to have been there. The Belmont Stakes topped a banner day for sports in New York with 47,800 on hand that afternoon at Shea Stadium for the 4-2 Mets' victory over the Dodgers – and a Willie Mays home run.





# 663:

The number of named foals sired by Secretariat in his second career as a stallion at Claiborne Farm, with 341 going on to become winners, according to Equineline.

**126 (pounds):** The weight of each of the five jockeys in the 1973 Belmont Stakes. Due to the small field, there was no Show wagering for the race.

**37.5 (m.p.h.):** Average speed that Secretariat traveled over the 1½ miles in the Belmont Stakes – one lap around the big dirt track known fondly as “Big Sandy.”

**37 (years):** How many years it took for Lauren to match the last trainer at the time to earn back-to-back titles in the Belmont Stakes. Laurin had also won in 1972 with Riva Ridge. The previous trainer with back-to-back titles in the “Test of the Champion” had been “Sunny Jim” Fitzsimmons, in 1935 with Granville and in 1936 with Triple Crown winner Omaha.

**31 (lengths):** Secretariat’s astounding margin of victory – as demonstrated in Bob Coglianese’s epic photo of Ron Turcotte looking around as he approached

**32,990:** Another crowd figure, this one the number of New York racing fans who withstood a cold, blustery day to attend NYRA’s Secretariat retirement ceremony on November 6, 1973 at Aqueduct. It was fitting because the Big A was where Secretariat had made his debut back on July 4, 1972, and won his first race 11 days later. At the retirement party, the crowd roared as Secretariat, with his jockey Ron Turcotte aboard and groom Eddie Sweat walking alongside, entered the track to the tune of “Auld Lang Syne”. Turcotte, in the blue-and-white silks of Meadow Stables, jogged Secretariat to the quarter pole and then cantered back to the paddock. “He went out and he warmed up, and he came back, and then (said to himself), ‘What’s the matter? Aren’t I gonna run?’” said Mrs. Chenery after the ceremony. “It was a hard day, but it was a heart-warming day, because so many people came out just to say goodbye to him.”

**1,131 (pounds):** Secretariat’s weight, recorded six days after the Belmont Stakes. Noted for his prodigious appetite, Secretariat downed 25 quarts of oats per day as a 3-year-old, prompting trainer Lucien Laurin to insist on purposely fast workouts to keep him racing fit.

the wire. Let your eye travel 31 lengths inside the rail from the finish line and you'll see Belmont Park's Secretariat Pole. Erected 10 years ago and painted in the blue and white of Meadow Stable, the pole marks where the second-place finisher Twice a Prince, a blur in the Coglianese photo, was positioned when Big Red crossed the wire. Secretariat's margin of victory broke the previous Belmont Stakes' record of 25 lengths set in 1943 by Triple Crown winner Count Fleet.

**25 (years):** How long, in 1973, it had been since the previous Triple Crown, won by Citation in 1948. There were three Triple Crowns in the 1930s and four more in the 1940s, and then nothing until Secretariat's shattering performance in 1973. An oddly similar "feast-or-famine" pattern has followed in the years since then, with two more Triple Crown winners – Seattle Slew (1977) and Affirmed (1978), following Secretariat within a few years. Then came another long dry spell – this one, 37 years, until the next Triple Crown, achieved by American Pharoah in 2015, followed by Justify (2018). All 13 Triple Crowns have gone through Belmont Park.

**24 (feet), 11 (inches):** Secretariat's enormous length of stride, which was considered big even for a horse with such a large frame and muscular build. Big Red stood 16.2 hands or about 66 inches.

**21:** The number of career starts for "Big Red" in his two racing seasons in which he compiled 16 wins, three seconds and a third. Secretariat's only race finishing out of the top three was his debut – a fourth-place finish in a 5 1/2-furlong maiden special weight on July 4, 1972 at Aqueduct – before he rattled off seven of his remaining eight starts, including five victories. It earned Secretariat the Eclipse Award for champion two-year-old colt and Horse of the Year, a rare honor for a colt so young.

**18:** Number of starts on Secretariat for his regular rider, Ron Turcotte. Apprentice jockey Paul Feliciano was aboard Secretariat for his first two races, subbing for the injured Turcotte. Eddie Maple rode Secretariat in his final race, guiding him to a 6 1/2-length win on the turf in the Canadian International at Woodbine, while Turcotte served a suspension.

**15:** Number of races Secretariat started in New York, which included six starts at Belmont Park, five at Aqueduct and four at Saratoga Race Course. At the Spa, the big colt won the Sanford and the Hopeful as a 2-year-old, but is perhaps most known for a race he lost – a few months after the Belmont Stakes, finishing second to the unheralded Onion in the Whitney. Onion was trained by Hall of Famer Allen Jerkins, the aptly nicknamed "Giant Killer."



**11:** Number of Eclipse Award-winners, including Secretariat, sired by the Hall of Famer Bold Ruler. Bred by the Wheatley Stable of Gladys Mills Phipps, Bold Ruler was himself Horse of the Year, in 1957. But thanks in part to Secretariat, he is best remembered today as “the sire of sires,” and the great-grand sire of 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew.

**9:** The number of different racetracks at which Secretariat competed, winning at least one race at each one.

**8:** Number of days prior to the Belmont Stakes (June 1) that trainer Lucien Laurin sent Secretariat out for his final, serious work before the race. And Big Red looked ready, traveling  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile in 1:11  $\frac{3}{5}$ .

**6:** The number of records set or equaled by Secretariat in his 21 career races. Fifty years later, he still holds the records for the fastest Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes.

**5:** The barn number on Belmont Park’s backstretch where Secretariat stayed on Belmont Stakes Week. Today, the barn is known, appropriately, as the “Secretariat Barn.”

**4 (minutes); 16 (seconds):** Time that Chic Anderson was on the air calling the Belmont Stakes to a nationwide television audience on CBS – and providing perhaps the greatest ad-lib delivery in the sport’s history. Ironically, the audience at Belmont Park heard not Anderson, but NYRA track announcer Dave Johnson. Anderson uttered his famous “machine” call with Secretariat widening his lead on the backstretch; and remained cool and calm, his voice unwavering throughout the segment. “You can’t be embarrassed by being beaten by the greatest horse in this century,” Anderson said of Secretariat’s overpowered opponents.

**3:** National magazines – *TIME*, *Newsweek* and *Sports Illustrated* – that put Secretariat on their covers during his Triple Crown run. Groom Eddie Sweat became famous himself, making countless media appearance and appearing on the covers of two magazines, *Ebony* and *Jet*. Sweat was also the first person to have groomed Kentucky Derby winners two years in a row – Riva Ridge in ’72 and Secretariat in ’73.

**2 (minutes); 24 (seconds):** Secretariat’s record-shattering time in the Belmont Stakes, which handily surpassed the previous course record of 2:26  $\frac{3}{5}$ , set by Gallant Man in 1957. He also broke the American record for 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles on dirt, which had been 1:26  $\frac{1}{5}$ , set by Going Abroad, in 1964 at Aqueduct.



**2:** Have you seen the magnificent bronze statue of Secretariat in the center of Belmont Park’s paddock (and draped with white carnations on Belmont Stakes Day)? It’s one of two identical statues – the one at Belmont is a 1988 copy of John Skeaping’s 1974 original, which was commissioned by Paul Mellon and is on display at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga.

**1 (word):** As taken from the next day’s banner headline in the *New York Daily News*: “Secretariat!” is all it said. Underneath was a subhead: “Sweeps Triple Crown With A Record-Smashing Belmont.”



## REMEMBERS Bob COGLIANESE



The Belmont Child Care Association remembers the late Bob Coglianese, whose work from Belmont Park, Saratoga Race Course, and Aqueduct Racetrack, served as the standard of excellence in racing photography for a generation.

As NYRA's official track photographer for more than 50 years, Bob was noted for iconic images of horses from Kelso and Dr. Fager to Secretariat, Affirmed and Cigar. Bob, who passed away in December 2022 at the age of 88, was also a passionate supporter of the BCCA and worked tirelessly on our behalf, often donating his considerable skills to us and other backstretch organizations.

We honor Bob's memory and are proud to have known him. And we're thankful that his son, Adam, is carrying on his legacy as a talented racetrack photographer in his own right and is a true backstretch advocate.



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# INTEGRATED

# Arts

By Teresa Genaro

## Lourdes

Hanging on a wall in an office at *Anna House*, on the backstretch of Belmont Park, is a painting. Featuring three flowers and a bluebird, with bright colors and a predominantly orange palette, it effuses warmth and joy.

“You can’t have it,” said the Belmont Child Care Association, in response to an inquiry. “It’s staying right on our wall.”

The painting is an original, produced by an artist without a large portfolio to her name. In addition to the painting at *Anna House*, she was also recently featured in an exhibit at the Long Island Children’s Museum.



Her name is Lourdes and she is a graduate of *Anna House*, about to start sixth grade.

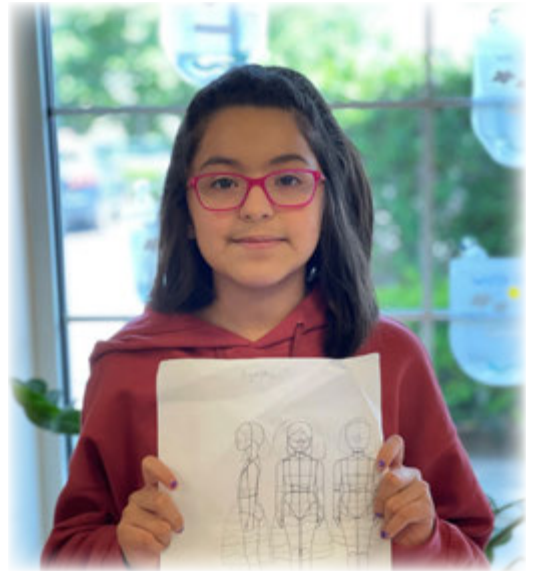
Her work is a result of the BCCA’s Integrated Arts Program, which offers introductory and continuing courses in music, dance, visual and performing arts, and storytelling to the children who attend *Anna House*, ranging in age from six weeks to 12 years old. At a time when budget cuts threaten arts programs in many school districts, the Integrated Arts Program is a foundational element of the curriculum at *Anna House*.



BCCA provides low-cost childcare and early childhood education to children of racetrack workers. Open 365 days a year, *Anna House* welcomes children beginning at 5 a.m., when many backstretch workers start their day. It provides an essential and rich service to people who would otherwise be unable to find care for their children that is either within their budgets or that accommodates their schedules.

Though *Anna House*'s initial goal was to prepare students to enter kindergarten and become fully bilingual, BCCA has steadily expanded its offerings in the 20 years of its existence. Additional classrooms were built in 2010 so that additional students could enroll and so that *Anna House* could provide after-school enrichment programs. In 2021, BCCA opened *Faith's House* in Saratoga Springs for the children of the seasonal track workers who come north for the summer.

Until recently, Lourdes was an *Anna House* "lifer." She began attending when she was an infant, then went on to participate in the school-age programs. Though she no longer attends *Anna House*, she and her family remain in touch with the staff and teachers, who describe her as a student having a "passion for art and who loves drawing."



"She is so talented, and we're really proud of her," said Joanne K. Adams, BCCA Executive Director.

And well they should be.

After taking art classes at *Anna House*, Lourdes continued to develop her skills in elementary and middle school. While learning about Aztec communities, she created a multimedia project in the style of Aztec art, using colored paper, markers, copper foil, and toothpicks.

"We used toothpicks to dent the copper," she said. "We all made the same project, but we could decide what we wanted the faces to look like. My art teacher said that she thought it was really good."

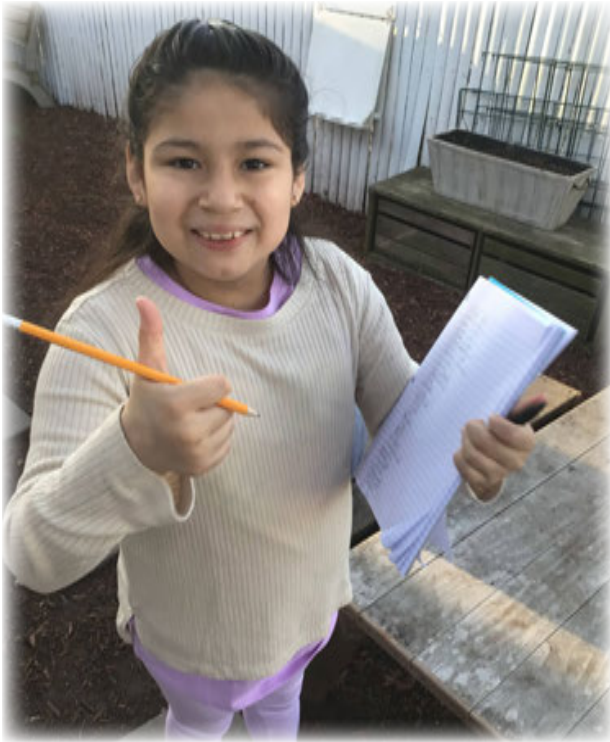
So, apparently, did the Children's Museum, which selected Lourdes' work to hang in its Community Gallery.



## Tonancy

Tonancy will be a third grader this fall, and she has attended *Anna House* since pre-school. Prior to the pandemic, she participated in the dance program, performing in a Christmas production. Now, she focuses more on drawing and other visual arts.





“I like drawing people,” she said. “I can express my feelings when I draw. I was home and lying on my bed, and I started drawing because I was happy. I was going to my friends for a sleepover, so I drew a picture of us sleeping.”

Last spring, Tonancy was back at *Anna House*, returning while school was closed for Easter break and her family was working at the track. Poised, smiling, and gregarious over Zoom, she held up a construction-paper portfolio of her work.

Among the work she produced was a tracing of her hand that she embellished with rings and bracelets; a series of mermaids; and the beginning sketches for a comic book that she’s planning.

The arts teachers at *Anna House* come from a variety of agencies, Rockness Music and Key to My Art among them. Instructors appear in person or via

Zoom, offering lessons in music appreciation and dance techniques, et al., and the effect of the learning goes beyond the arts themselves.

Through these activities, students gain confidence, increase their motor skills, and learn English, in addition to developing their talents and their appreciation of art. Through exhibitions and recitals, the children can share what they’ve learned with their own and larger communities.

“The teachers at *Anna House* really helped me and complimented me,” said Lourdes, who also likes to make fashion sketches, particularly of ‘grunge/punk’ designs.

The value of young children participating in the arts is well-documented. They develop creativity and critical thinking skills; they learn resiliency; they get to know themselves. The children who benefit from an *Anna House* education will take those skills into kindergarten and beyond, and who knows? Maybe someday, we’ll marvel at the work of these artists, in a theater, a concert hall, or an art gallery.





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The New York Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association (NYTHA) was established over 50 years ago to serve the interests of owners and trainers who race at New York Racing Association (NYRA) tracks. NYTHA has three core missions:

- to provide assistance and benevolence to the Backstretch Community;
- to safeguard horsemen’s financial and political interests; and
- to advance and fund equine health and welfare reform, research, and aftercare.

NYTHA’s largest annual expenditure is on benevolence, partnering with nonprofit organizations to support backstretch employees in a variety of ways. For the fiscal year 2022, NYTHA provided over \$1.7 million in benevolence spending. Its nonprofit partners include:

Backstretch Employee Service Team (BEST), which provides healthcare and social services to the backstretch community, and assists with health insurance enrollment and tax preparation;

Belmont Child Care Association (BCCA), whose *Anna House* is a state-of-the-art child care center that is open 365 days a year for children whose parents work in the backstretch areas of NYRA tracks. In 2021, BCCA opened *Faith’s House*, another state-of-the-art child care center located at Saratoga Race Course that is open 7 days/week during the Summer race meet; and Race Track Chaplaincy of America - New York (RTCA-NY), which seeks to offer spiritual guidance, support programs, and recreational activities to enrich the lives of backstretch workers and their families.

Supporting these programs depends on the vitality of horse racing in New York. To that end, NYRA, the New York Thoroughbred Breeders (NYTB) and

NYTHA joined the We Are New York Horse Racing coalition in 2021, and that coalition expanded in 2022 with the specific goal of modernizing Belmont Park.

With such a broad-based coalition, members felt optimistic about securing legislation that would finance the modernization of Belmont Park. NYRA focused on lobbying and marketing, while NYTHA channeled its efforts into galvanizing its members and the backstretch community to support and attend a rally at the State Capitol in March.

Dionne Johnson, NYTHA’s Business Manager, secured buses to transport rally attendees from Belmont Park to Albany, and made arrangements to ensure that everyone had food and beverages for the day.

“I’ve worked in horse racing for four decades,” Johnson said. “I was able to raise my son, put him through college, and fulfill my dream of homeownership. Thousands of New Yorkers rely on racing for their livelihood—not just owners and trainers, but also grooms, blacksmiths, union carpenters, and more. This was the least I could do to support the sport.”



“You see working people here,” he said. “They come from rural areas, urban areas, and the suburbs. What other sport—what other industry—in New York can do that? The support is from all over the state, upstate and downstate, and that reflects on our people, on our constituents, and on our sport.”

Will Alempijevic, NYTHA’s Executive Director, spearheaded the organization’s campaign and spoke to trainers daily about the importance of having backstretch workers present at the rally.

“We asked people to make a personal sacrifice by taking a day off from work and riding a bus to Albany to help the industry as a whole,” he reflected. “But having legislators see our diverse population was important and had a tremendous impact on the event.”

The weather may have been dreary on the day of the rally, but the spirit of the event could not be dampened. Shortly afterwards, it was revealed that NYRA would receive a \$455-million loan that would be paid with casino revenue, and that became official when Governor Hochul signed the Fiscal Year 2024 budget on May 1.

Belmont’s modernization is expected to take at least three years to complete, but the long-term benefits will be felt for generations to come.

Maria Cristina Silva, NYTHA’s Backstretch Coordinator, engaged with exercise riders, grooms, and hotwalkers to ensure their presence at the rally would demonstrate the widespread support for the legislation measure.

Kristen Mason, the Operations Coordinator for NYTHA, made countless phone calls, kept track of all respondents, and took pictures and videos on the rally day itself.

“It was a lot of work, but seeing the turnout at the Capitol on the ‘Million-Dollar Staircase’ was very rewarding,” Mason recalled. “Even though the weather didn’t cooperate, everyone was very upbeat, and all of the speakers were inspired by the crowd that we helped assemble.”

Nearly 200 people came to the rally, which was smoothly emceed by New York Thoroughbred Breeders (NYTB) Executive Director Najja Thompson. NYTHA President Joe Appelbaum took the mic to rousing applause.





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# WOMEN in RACING

BCCA Interviews

SUE FINLEY

*Photo Credit: PATTY WOLFE*



Sue Finley is the Publisher and CEO of the *Thoroughbred Daily News*, the world's largest and most widely read Thoroughbred eNewspaper, reaching 3.5 million unique users per year. Finley is a proud supporter of BCCA and joined the BCCA Advisory Board last year.

**Q.** When did you know that you wanted to have a career in media? What drew you to news media?

**A.** In 1976, when I was 14, I saw the movie *All the President's Men*. I already liked to write, but I was very moved by the press's ability to effect positive societal change with simply their words and decided right then that it was what I wanted to do with my life.

**Q.** Why did you get into Thoroughbred horse racing? How did you get your start?

**A.** My parents both loved horse racing. They were \$2 bettors who loved the intellectual challenge of taking all the various factors and boiling them down to the selection of one horse they thought was the best. They thought it was a great day's entertainment, and they started taking us to the races, mostly at Belmont Park, when we were young. But the day that hooked me was Affirmed's Belmont. The fact that Steve Cauthen was about my age and was accomplishing this amazing thing was the coolest thing in the world to me.

**Q.** Tell us about where you grew up.

**A.** I grew up in Weston, Connecticut, which is a New York City suburb in Fairfield County. I was born in Massachusetts but we moved to Weston when my father got a job teaching in New Canaan, a few towns away.

**Q.** What did you study in school?

**A.** I went to New York University on a scholarship and I was a double major in French and Journalism. My father was a language teacher and spoke fluent French and Spanish. I still take a French lesson every week, and use my French to justify my getting to cover the Arqana sales in Deauville every year for the TDN. During my senior year at NYU, I went out to the press office at Belmont and asked them if they did journalism internships, and they said yes. I was an intern for several months, and they offered me a full-time job just before I graduated.

**Q.** What does a typical workday look like for you?

**A.** It looks long! Most days I get up around 6, and spend a couple of hours going through the morning's email with a cup of coffee. Typically, the morning mail consists of correspondence from Europe, and late emails from the West Coast which arrived after I went to sleep. Today, for example, there was a proof of a video from Europe to review and edit, a credential form to fill out for the Deauville races (see earlier French comment!), some overnight discussion

posts to review and approve, along with some general correspondence. I get hundreds of emails a day and don't go to bed until my inbox is at zero. Around 9 a.m., I drive in to the office in nearby Red Bank, New Jersey, where I'll stay until around 5, come home and play two hours or so of pickleball with my friends, and do another couple of hours of work before I go to bed.

**Q.** Tell us about your family. What is it like to be a working mother?

**A.** Someone once said that being a working mother means being guilty all the time; guilty when you're home that you're not working, and guilty at work that you're not home with your kids. Truer words have never been spoken. My kids are older now—24 and 22—so it's not an issue, but it was very difficult when they were younger, especially in an age when working from home wasn't a thing. I never stopped working when I had kids; I really couldn't. So between illnesses that kept them out of school, and a lot of driving to sports, those were some long years! I completely stopped traveling for around eight years and went back to it slowly as they got older.

**Q.** What are some of your passions outside of racing? Do you do any other charitable work?

**A.** My biggest passion is pickleball. I play almost every day, and try to play in several tournaments every year. It's a great way to get exercise, and to meet people in your community. I help to run a fundraiser every year for Habitat for Humanity of Monmouth County, where I live, which raises money for their Veteran's Build program, enabling veterans to stay in their homes by providing repairs and accommodations like ramps and handrails. My father was a veteran, and that's really important to me. I foster rescue dogs for a charity in my town



which brings them up from shelters in the South and finds them permanent homes. And I do a lot of charity outreach in my work at the TDN, donating hundreds of thousands of dollars of advertising space a year to charities at no charge. Believe it or not, many charities didn't know we did this, and I find myself seeking them out to offer them free ads. Every charity ad you see in the TDN is free, and I'm proud to use our platform to help racing's charities fulfill their missions.

**Q.** What drew you to BCCA? Why is BCCA important to you?

**A.** I honestly believe that education is the solution to most of the world's problems. I grew up seeing the impact that my father had on his students, and I'm so grateful for my own scholarship, which changed my life. When I worked in the Belmont press office, I also walked hots for Woody Stephens and later for John Hertler, and there were women who would come to work early in the morning with their children sleeping in the back of their car, because they had nowhere else for them to go. So the fact that those kids are now spending that time getting a leg up on learning as well as a healthy, hot breakfast is so inspiring. As a working mother, making sure my kids got their homework done and had the appropriate help with it was always stressful, as I had to balance it with my own work. Seeing that the kids can take the bus back to Belmont after school and do their schoolwork in a safe environment has to be such a relief for moms who work long days on the backstretch. And the fact that those moms can now come in for the women's literacy program, which will enable them to help their own children with their studies is just icing on the cake. It's an amazing program that I'm proud to support.



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A photograph of a woman with long, wavy hair, wearing a white t-shirt and dark blue jeans, jumping joyfully in the air with her arms raised. She is in the center of a long, straight garden path lined with tall, dense green trees and hedges. The path leads towards a bright, overcast sky. The overall mood is joyful and celebratory.

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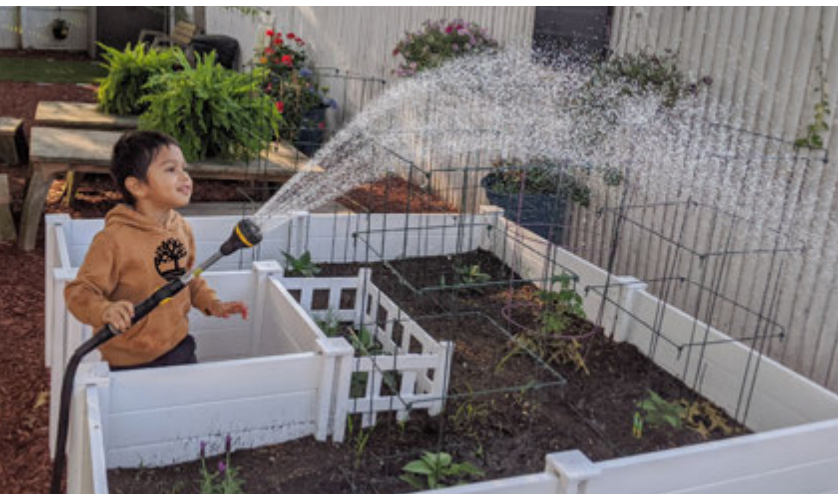
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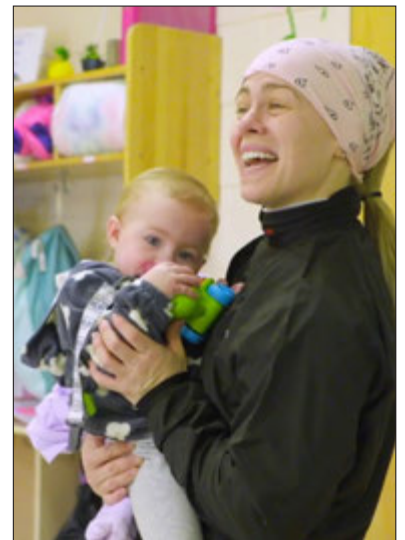


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*“BCCA has been a tremendous help in my life and my family! I consider them a part of my family now. Without them, getting back to work would have been a big struggle of mine. BCCA being on the backside and supporting all the families makes us feel like anything is possible! Thank you again for your love and support.” ~ Katie Davis*

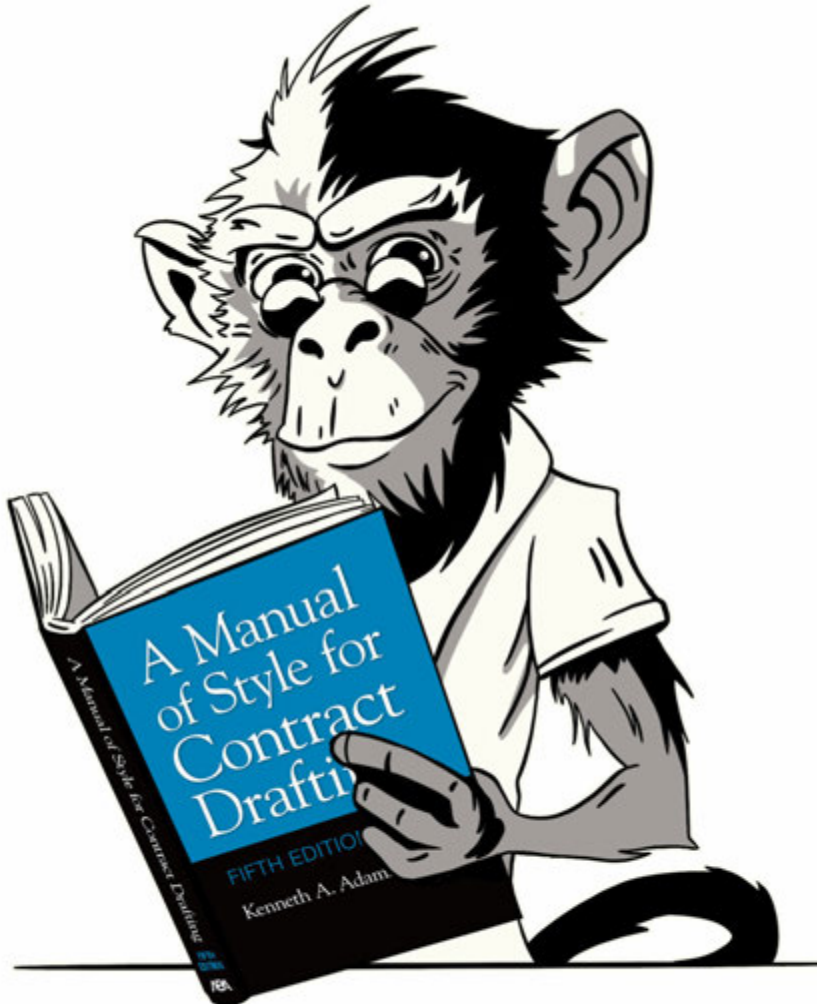


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BCCA was so fortunate to have had another of our pizza visits by Mr. Ken!

Two kinds of pizza were on offer. First, Ken had our kitchen oven “ready to go” for two Detroit-style pies—think pizza meets focaccia, with a crazy caramelized edge to the crust. Then he set up shop outside *Anna House* and cranked out six 16-inch New Haven-style pies—think a crunchier, slightly charred version of a regular New York-style pie.

The kids listened to Ken intently, and a good time was had by all, including BCCA staff, who swooped in to dispatch the extra pizzas after the kids had had their fill.



Joking aside, Ken’s visit was consistent with BCCA’s mission—to expose kids to the world of possibilities in even the most basic of activities.

Thank you, Mr. Ken! We are so grateful for your incredible generosity and support. You are the MVPP (Most Valuable Pizza Person)!



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## THE BCCA LIMITED EDITION SCARF

*B*elmont Child Care Association, Inc. (BCCA) partnered with Chateau du Chavel in 2019 to create our first collection of custom designed silk scarves. Our scarves and tinnies have a hidden message: CHILDREN, spelled out in a nautical alphabet among equestrian imagery.

“BCCA does a great job making sure we give our backstretch children a healthy start and equip them with the academic tools they need to succeed. Partnering with them to achieve their goals has been exceptionally rewarding, not to mention very fun! I’m proud to add it to our online collection of unique horse-racing gifts and clothing and hope to see many people sporting a BCCA silk scarf, a fashionable sign that you love racing and support the children of our backstretch,” said Valerie Clement, owner and founder of Chateau du Cheval.

BCCA custom designed scarves are offered with a \$150 donation and tinnies are offered with a \$75 donation at key fundraising events throughout the year. ♦



## EARLY CHILDHOOD PHILOSOPHIES AND PRACTICES TO USE AT HOME

We know more about how children learn and develop than ever before. This knowledge benefits both teachers and families in supporting children's healthy growth. Below are a few ideas from early childhood theorists and practitioners that may be helpful in your own parenting.

### 1 Child Development Milestones Follow a Predictable Sequence

Child development milestones usually follow a sequence from head to toe, as well as from the center of the body outward. Children hold up their heads before they hold up their chests. They sit up before they crawl, stand, and later walk. Children develop strength and control in their arms before their hands and fingers.



### 2 Development Is Unique to Each Child

Child development follows the basic norms described above, but each child's development is unique. Children sometimes have "spurts" of development. One child may focus mostly on physical development for a few weeks and not advance much in language skills at the same time, and vice versa. Conversely, one child may advance in language, but not so much physically.





### 3 Development Is Unique to Each Child

The physical environment where a child spends their day can positively impact learning, behavior, and development. In Bright Horizons centers, we emphasize:

- Soft colors and items that induce rest, relaxation, and minimize stimulation.
- Child-sized spaces just for children.
- Periodic changes to and rotation of available play materials.
- Minimal clutter, remembering that children deserve a place of beauty.
- Real materials like small pitchers, cups, or a dust pan and brush that allow children to fully participate and be as independent as possible, drawing from Maria Montessori's ideas about children working with real objects.

### 4 Children Learn Through Scaffolding

According to Lev Vygotsky's ideas on scaffolding, and further explored in Jim Greenman's *Thoughts on Early Childhood*, children construct their own knowledge, but adults, and the social environment, serve as the scaffold or the support that encourages construction of knowledge. The adult's job is to offer children challenges that are at, or slightly above, their current level while scaffolding as the child attempts something new—by giving a hint, modeling the skill, adapting the materials, or asking open-ended questions.

### 5 Children Can Solve Their Own Problems

According to infant and toddler specialist Magda Gerber, parents and caregivers should allow children to independently problem solve whenever possible. So, for example, if a baby could get himself into a spot (such as under a chair), he could also get himself out. The parent, watching close by, can say to the baby, "I see you are stuck. Keep trying to get your body out. I'll be right here close by while you figure this out. I know you can do it."



### 6 Children Need Choices

Whenever possible, offer choices to a child, but make sure that either choice is acceptable and can be followed through on. For example, when getting dressed in the morning, ask "Do you want to wear your yellow shirt or your blue shirt this morning?" Or ask, "Do you want to walk to the park or ride in your stroller?" Allowing your child to make choices and following through on your child's choice is a respectful way to interact but be sure to avoid clothing battles with your child. This approach empowers your child and helps them feel confident in their decision-making.



# 2023 Spring Fling

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THURSDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>

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11:30AM  
SPRING FLING BOUTIQUE AND LUXURY RAFFLE

12:30PM  
LUNCHEON, LIVE AUCTION, AND FASHION SHOW



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# Spring Fling 2023



# Spring Fling 2023





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SPRING FLING HAT LUNCHEON

JUNE 6, 2024

HONORING

SUSAN LUCCI

BCCA COMMUNITY HONOREE



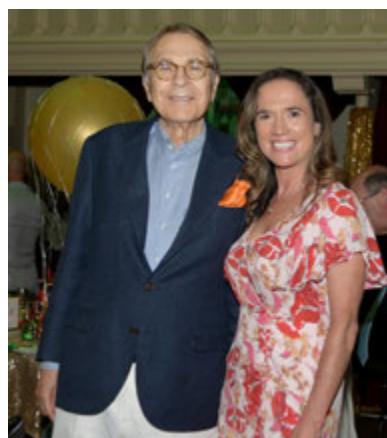
*Susan Lucci at the 2023 Spring Fling Hat Luncheon*

# RACING FOR THE CHILDREN 2022





# RACING FOR THE CHILDREN 2022

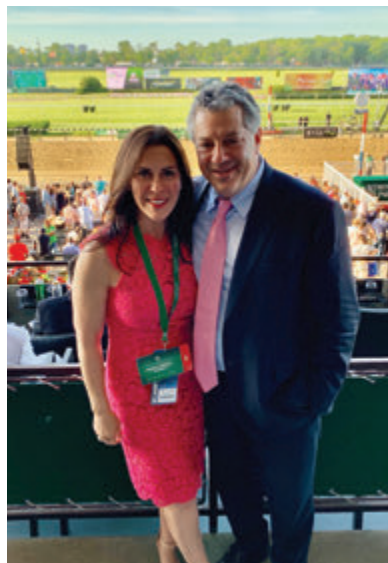




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7:30 pm

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**UNIVERSAL PRESERVATION HALL**

25 Washington Street

Saratoga Springs, NY

7:30 pm

**CELEBRITY EMCEE**

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# STORYTIME

*Look who stopped by!*

*Anna House*



*Kentucky Derby Winning Jockey, Javier Castellano, stopped by Anna House for story time and a quick check-up by our resident doctors!*



*Xochilt Solorio*



*Jonathan Estrada*

*...and  
Faith's House*



*Pam Abrams, BCCA Advisory Board Member*



*Maggie Wolfendale-Morley, BCCA Advisory Board Member*

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A promotional poster for a harness racing match. The background is a collage of images: a horse and driver in a sulky, a portrait of a young man in a racing helmet, and a portrait of a man in a checkered shirt and racing helmet. The text is overlaid on this background.

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Photo By: Jessica Hallett

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## SUMMER CARNIVAL AT ANNA HOUSE

On Friday, July 28 the happiest place on the racetrack was a little happier as the *Anna House* children, staff, and families were treated to a day filled with cotton candy, popcorn, hot dogs, games, face painting, and a magic show! Mister Softee even stopped by to supply delicious ice cream for everyone!! Each child received a unique summer fun basket, courtesy of the National Charity League – Garden City Chapter. We can't wait to see you all next summer!



*Anna House graduates visit Summer Carnival*



# READY, SET, PLAY!

By Pam Abrams

There are a million reasons why outdoor play is key to raising healthy children: running, jumping, and climbing build gross motor skills, taking turns develops social skills, putting jackets on teaches self-sufficiency, and getting fresh air gives everyone a literal breather. The babies, toddlers, and preschoolers at *Anna House* have been hard at play in the outside space since it opened over 20 years ago. Appropriately enough, it was time for an upgrade.

Enter the Junior League of Long Island (JLLI) and their Project Playground. Every two years, the JLLI awards a playground grant to an organization on Long Island to build or improve outdoor play space that will make a positive difference in children's lives. "It's a very competitive grant," says Carol St Jacques, JLLI's president.

The BCCA knows it! This was the third time they applied for the playground grant, and it turned out to be the charm. The fit between the organizations is a good one as they

share a mission to improve outcomes for Long Island's children and families. "We saw the unique position of the BCCA, serving families where the parents have to go to work super-early," St Jacques says. "We felt the time was finally right," to join forces on improving the playground. It helped that the two organizations have partnered on other projects like the distribution of Thanksgiving Baskets to families in need of a helping hand for the holiday. "We were pleased to count BCCA's backstretch families among those who received one of our 135 baskets." This coming year, they plan to assemble even more, with baskets that include a roasting tin, stuffing, vegetables,

juice, rolls, cake, and a Stop N Shop gift card for the actual turkey.

The BCCA – JLLI partnership was established by BCCA Executive Director, Joanne K. Adams, who is a 35 year member of the New York Junior League and a current sustaining member. Adams worked





closely with Stephanie Mangels Kearns, Past President JLLI, to establish the program and create opportunities for support.

But this spring, all eyes were on *Anna House's* new and improved playground. The improvements included resurfacing, new fencing, and new structures. Their Children's Movement Program brings in instructors from Jumpbunch and PlayHooray to lead classes that use fun, carefully structured, age-appropriate activities to help improve each child's fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Understanding that the backstretch families are the backbone of the racing industry, the JLLI was pleased to lend its "do-good-to-feel-good" philosophy to this playground project. The dream for *Anna House* is to eventually extend the outside play space. "There's tons of opportunity with the space outside at Belmont," says St Jacques. "We hope this improvement project lays the foundation, especially for the older kids. Maybe basketball hoops or netting for volleyball, down the road." But for now, it's the little kids that have reason to smile.





## JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LONG ISLAND



BCCA was honored to welcome our long-standing community partner, the Junior League of Long Island (JLLI), to Anna House. Members of the JLLI assisted with the installation of new playground equipment, and tidying up the garden and outdoor space, as part of their Project Playground Initiative.



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~ Leo Buscaglia

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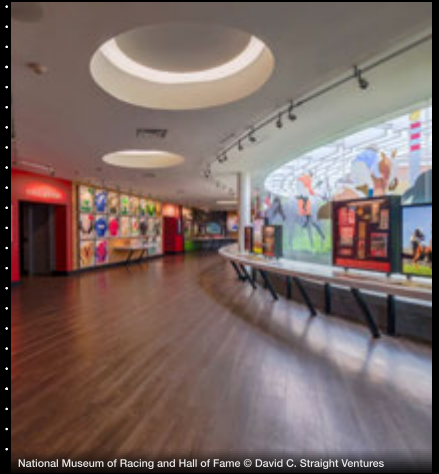
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**Dawn and Rick Schosberg**

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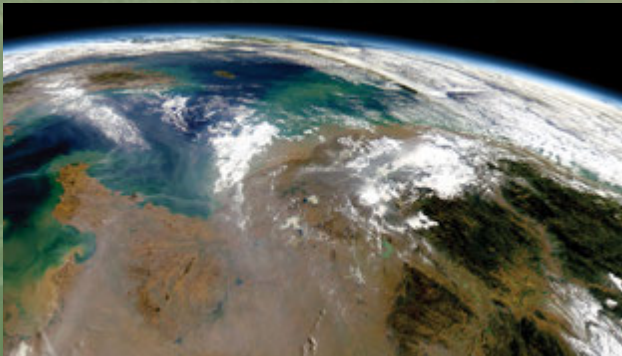
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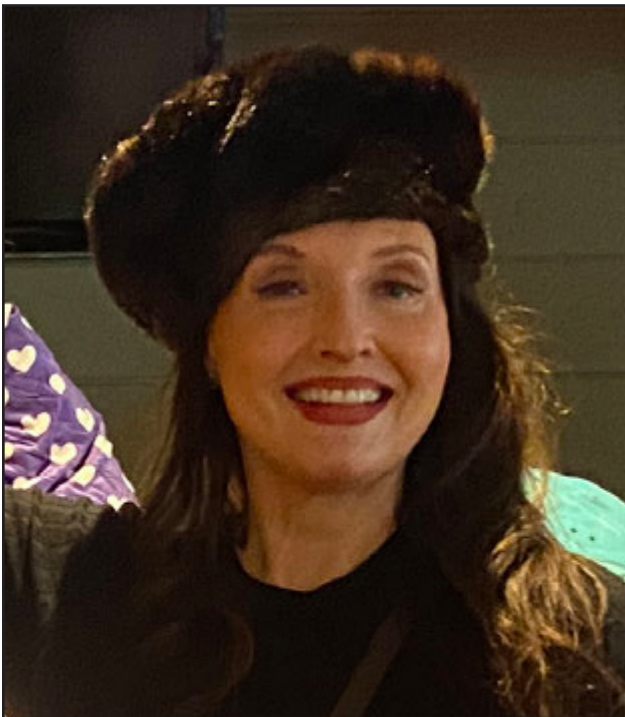
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October Digital Sale	October 5-10
Saratoga Fall Mixed	October 17
Kentucky October Yearlings	October 23-26
The November Sale	November 7
Midlantic December Mixed & Horses of Racing Age	December 5
December Digital Sale	December 7-12

*\*Dates subject to change*



