

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**RETIRED NYRA “HORSE WHISPERER” BOB DUNCAN AND  
THOROUGHBRED RETIREMENT FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIANA PIKULSKI, TO  
SPEAK AT PGR MEETING**

Saratoga Springs, N.Y. – Retired NYRA Gate Starter (and ‘horse whisperer’) **Robert Duncan** and Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation Executive Director, **Diana Pikulski**, will guest speak at the monthly [Parting Glass Racing](#) meeting on **Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** at The Parting Glass Pub, 40 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, New York. In light of the recent in the wake of the Eight Belles tragedy and mounting public criticism of the thoroughbred racing sport, the presentation will focus on how we can best care for our thoroughbreds *during* and *after* their racing career.

Before his retirement in 2006, **Bob Duncan** enjoyed a career spanning 37 years as a starter for NYRA at Aqueduct, Belmont, and Saratoga Springs. Bob went to work on the gate crew for NYRA and spent the rest of his adult career working with some of the best horses in the world. “I was lucky enough to be on starting gate for last 3 triple crown winners, and the Breeders’ Cups starting with Aqueduct in 1985”. Bob was instrumental in implementing NYRA becoming a leader in the practice of “natural horsemanship”, incorporating as standard practice many of Monty Robert’s methods, as well as other styles learned from the Parelli Natural Horsemanship training program, natural horseman Ray Hunt, and other natural horsemen.

Celebrating 25 years since its founding, the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation's mission is to save Thoroughbred horses no longer able to compete on the racetrack from possible neglect, abuse and slaughter. Today, under **Diana Pikulski's** leadership, the TRF is the world's largest, best known, and most respected charitable organization devoted to equine rescue. As part of this mission, TRF administers a unique arrangement with the State of New York Department of Correctional Services, where TRF designs, staffs, and maintains a vocational training program in equine care and management for prison inmates.

Parting Glass Racing’s Managing Owner, Tom Gallo, is delighted that Diana and Bob have returned as guest speakers to share their thoughts and ideas about how best to care for thoroughbreds. “Considering recent events, I think we’re very lucky to have two great horse experts and horse lovers to examine standards of care both during their careers and after their careers have ended. We welcome everybody to attend this very important forum.”

Parting Glass Racing was founded by Tom Gallo and Joan Desadora (owner of The Parting Glass Pub) in 2001. With more than 200 members, Parting Glass Racing, LLC is the umbrella organization managing several partnerships and horses. Their meeting is held every month at the Parting Glass Pub and is open to the public.

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