



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

September 2018

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



*Chaplain Lee Alphen*

### Board of Directors

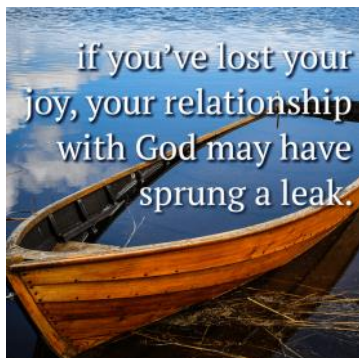
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**Wanted  
Praise Reports  
Testimonies  
Articles**

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
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157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079



### Lost Horses, Donkeys, People...

*By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

“Loose horse in Area One,” blared over the loudspeaker at Rockingham Park as security guards raced to close the gates. Horsemen and women in the stable area positioned themselves to slow down the galloping horse, making the area smaller and smaller. Eventually someone was able to grab him and put him in an empty stall. The next morning a trainer finding the horse missing panicked. “Barn J, Stall 7,” he was told. The villain had eaten breakfast and was safely munching on hay.

Kish’s donkeys were missing so he sent his son, Saul, with a servant to find them (1 Samuel 9:3). After three days, concerned his father would be worried that his son too was lost, Saul told his servant they should head home. His servant suggested they go into the town to see the man of God (1 Samuel 9:5-6). The man of God, Samuel, told Saul that the donkeys had been found but that he had a message from God for him. The next day, Samuel anointed Saul as king and instructed him to continue on his journey. He told him of some people he would meet and things that would happen (1 Samuel 10:1-8). A few days later, Samuel caught up to him again and, with all the people gathered, presented Saul to them as their king (1 Samuel 10:17-24).

We have all lost something valuable. We retrace our steps and try to think of when we last saw it. We ask our family and friends to pray we find it. When it shows up, we breathe a sigh of relief and thank God. There was a news story last month about a little girl lost in the cornfields. She was found in the morning under the corn stalks. Her dog never left her side. The story didn’t

say, but I am certain people were praying for her.

A woman searched high and low for her lost silver coin. When she found it, she invited her friends and neighbors in to celebrate (Luke 15:8-9). The father whose lost son returned home after squandering his inheritance killed the fatted calf and threw a huge party (Luke 15:11-24). Jesus reminded the crowd that when a sheep is lost, the shepherd leaves the rest of the herd to find it. The shepherd too invites friends and neighbors in to rejoice because the lost sheep has been found (Luke 15:4-6).

Whenever we are stressed over something, the best thing we can do is turn it over to God (Matthew 11:28-30) and listen for the still small voice of the Lord (1 Kings 19:12). God often uses circumstances like with Kish and Saul and the donkeys for a greater purpose. When God nudges us, it is important to follow through. When God is quiet, it is best to leave our concerns with God to work out. In every struggle, it is good to ask, “Where is God in this?”

What about our friends and family members whose faith in God is dwindling? Are they lost? Jesus repeatedly tells the people how happy everyone in heaven is when one person turns back to God (Luke 15:7 and 10). How important will it be for us to find those we love in heaven? Will it matter? Have we put them in God’s hands? Are our lives a good witness? Let’s do all we can now so our celebrations in heaven will be great.

**Jug Prayer  
Breakfast**  
*Wednesday, September 19*

## Governor's Day at the Delaware State Fair

## Blessings



Rich and Sandy Thorstenson set up a CHHA booth at the Delaware State Fair on Governor's Day. Sal Marino secured a terrific location for us.

Rich says, "We had a fantastic evening, meeting up with current members. They were surprised to see us at the fair. A few people became new CHHA members."

*From Ken Carter...*

Karen's cancer numbers are down a bit and her hemoglobin is up. She is taking chemo pills. Her next appointment is August 14<sup>th</sup>. Please keep her in your prayers.

*From Lori Romanetti...*

Katherine passed her kidney stone. Praise God! Thank you for your prayers.

*From Art Plant*

I am inching along to better health, but have a ways to go. Benign polyps were removed. I am grateful for our prayer partners.

## CHHA Scholars : Excerpts from their essays

### Ronnie Huff was

awarded a CHHA scholarship to study Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement at Webber International University.

Ronnie says, "I grew up in harness racing with my parents.

In the summer and on weekends, I work at the barn with my dad jogging horses, cleaning stalls, bathing and feeding the horses. When he races at night, I help paddock the horses.

Since coming to know Jesus, I have had several trials in my life, but, when I see Jesus hung on the cross and realize that he took the nails for me, my troubles don't seem so great. He is my rock and my salvation. I get to know Christ a little better all the time through reading the Bible, going to CCD, church, praying and seeing the examples of my parents and others. I hope to grow in the Lord's way for the rest of my life.

I've been playing sports since I was five. I played all the sports until I started paying football and wrestling at Monarch High School. I also continue to bowl. In my senior year, I was nominated for the Black Lion Award in football. I was also one of seven selected for the 2018 Broward County Athletic Association Scholar Athlete Award."

**Ryan Fusco and Parker Steck** were featured in our August newsletter. See [www.chha.net/newsletters..](http://www.chha.net/newsletters..)



### Casey Hite was awarded

a CHHA Scholarship to continue her studies at the Fayette campus of Penn State. She does a great job as a customer relations representative for the MSOA.

Casey says, "My parents are both horse trainers at the Meadows Racetrack. From the beginning, they always knew the order of life was God, family and then work. They instilled this lifestyle in my brother and me. Maintaining a strong connection to our church and church family has also been very important. From an early age, I was encouraged to help in the nursery and then attend church. I also help with Vacation Bible School and love watching the kids grow in Christ.

I was taught to never give up when I failed. My brother and I were homeschooled until it was evident we had a strong connection to God to help with the obstacles public school would throw at us. Praying was, and still is, a huge part of my lifestyle.

My major is Corporate Communications, and I've chosen this major to help with my goal of saving this sport. I love this business, but, in my lifetime, have seen the downward spiral of harness racing. Historical tracks are closing and the number of fans born yearly is decreasing. When I talk about what I do, most people do not even realize there is a harness racing track right in their backyard. I



feel as an industry we are failing by not reaching and including the public, for without them, we cannot survive. I have worked in our family business grooming and paddocking while witnessing the devotion of the trainers and grooms. Entire families, like ours, solely depend on harness racing as their livelihood. We need to educate the public to bring in more owners and a larger betting crowd, or this sport will continue to die. This is a family sport, and we families need to come and share with our excitement."

**Alexis Schwartz** was awarded a CHHA scholarship to continue her studies at the University of Kentucky.

Alexis says, "Throughout my high school career, I was able to form a closer relationship with God through a program called Fayette Christian Athletes. This group helped me understand more about giving to others. We donated time working at The Well serving food to those in need.

I am very thankful for the many connections I have made through school and working at Keeneland with the thoroughbreds. My long-term goal is to receive a job as a pharmaceutical sales representative. I believe though my hard work and determination and making connections, I will be able to reach this."



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**Gifts**

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

CHHA hat  **Blue hat with CHHA Logo**

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings and heart bracelets—see below

**Books**

*Daily Oats* by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

*Downloading God* by Jack Levine

*Live A Life That Matters for God* by Jack Levine

*My Addict Your Addict* by Jack Levine

*Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God* by Jack Levine

*Don't Blow It With God* by Jack Levine

*Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care*  
by ER Gager and Bob "Dusty Rhodes"

*Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines* by Edmund R Gager



*Rambling Willie Remembers*

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.

**Horseshoe Nail Heart Bracelets and Cross Necklaces and Keyrings**

**Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions**

**Bracelet:** Horseshoe nails are bent into a heart and tied together with coordinated wire and attached to a leather strap.

**Key Ring:** Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.

**Necklace:** Key ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire.

[Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form—Orders can also be placed at \[www.chha.net/products\]\(http://www.chha.net/products\)](#)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with \$20 ea + \$4 shipping to:

**Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317**

Bracelet Qty: Black / Silver \_\_\_\_ Rawhide /Gold \_\_\_\_ Rawhide / Turquoise \_\_\_\_

Necklace Qty: Red \_\_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_\_

Keyring Qty: Red \_\_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_\_



## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Thomas D Clarke**, 63, of Georgetown, DE, and formerly of Felton, DE, died July 21. Thomas was an avid and gifted horseman, trainer and driver. He loved the harness racing business and the many people involved in the sport. In his earlier years he did some shoeing. However, his main interest was in training and driving for his family's harness racing business. Del became involved in Teen Challenge in his later life, and it was through this organization he found the Lord. His life changed forever and thereafter was guided by Jesus Christ. His outgoing personality and generous spirit made him a friend to all and an inspiration to many.



**Mario Lachance**, 57, of Mirabel, Quebec, died while undergoing heart surgery July 21. Mario enjoyed a long and productive career at Hippodrome de Montreal, training and driving horses like Reddy Almahurst, Natchez Hanover, Dandy Loup, Schnockered and Beagle Bay. He was the regular driver in Quebec of sires stakes star Val Taurus, who was undefeated as a 2 year old. "Mario was a trotting guy. He knew how to adjust them," his brother-in-law, Danel Surprenant, said. Mario and his wife of more than 30 years, Lynda Fortin, also were distinguished breeders.



**John Erik Magnusson**, 66, of Paris, KY, originally from Sweden, died July 14. John, who bred and raced horses under the banner of ACL Farm, succumbed to injuries sustained in an accident while bailing hay on his farm. He purchased Mack Lobell who then won his second Elitlopp. John and his wife, Ann-Christin, trained and bred horses on their farm. The ACL horses are trained and taken on the road by Magnusson's daughters Anette and Anna Lorentzon.

**Julia Ann Mayotte**, 59, of Mississauga, Ontario, died June 24. She met the love of her life, horseman Roger Mayotte, while working in the harness racing industry. She was a devoted mother and wife, she was an avid gardener, animal lover and enjoyed reading

**Paul F. Pangrazio Sr**, 90, of Stafford, NY, died July 14. Paul, affectionately known as "The Chief," was active as a Standardbred owner in the Empire State from the 1950's through the 1980's.

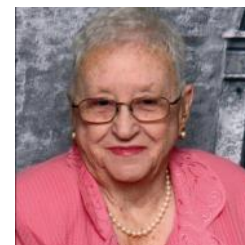


**Dorothy D Parker**, 83, of Seaford, DE, originally from Boston and later Ohio, died August 30. Dorothy enjoyed her career as a florist. She and her husband, Bill, were avid harness racing fans and owned many horses through the years.

**Willard "Bill" Case Parker**, 97, of Seaford, DE, died July 1. Bill was a retired insurance executive who had formerly resided in Cincinnati, OH, for twenty -five years. He was also an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II. He was an active harness horseman in his younger years.



**Euvonia Doris Parsons**, died July 5. Doris was a faithful member of the Early Church of Christ. Doris, Chaplain Waverly Parson's mother, had a great love for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They brought a great amount of joy to her life. She loved teaching them to fish and enjoy Lake Brownwood. She also kept just about any treat they wanted. Nanny had a great love for animals and would help any animal she saw in need. Nanny went fishing with her pearls on.



**Tim Pinske**, 71, of Southern Oaks Training Center in Florida, died July 18. The Pinske family campaigned many top stakes horses over the years. Their most notable achievement was winning the North America Cup with Yankee Cruiser who was trained by their son Brian. In addition to their involvement with harness racing, the Pinske family's main business is Plato Woodworking in Plato, Minnesota.

**Carl L Wade**, 61, of Arcanum, OH, died June 29. He spent most of his life working for the Gene Riegle Stable. He groomed many good horses, among them Western Hanover. He was actively involved with harness racing for more than 30 years.

**William K. Wall**, 97, of Charlottesville, VA, died June 29. Bill served his country in WWII. After years of managing the family owned Richwood Lumber Co, Bill's passion for horses won out. He and his brother, Nick, established Wall Brothers Stable. He raced harness horses for over three decades. In his early 60's Bill joined the Chicago Board of Trade where he traded commodities for 20 years. Bill and Virginia retired to Charlottesville in 2000. There Bill enjoyed trail riding in the beautiful countryside well into his 90's. He also remained an avid dancer throughout his life.



### Sources for Obituary information include:

www.harnessracing.com, www.ustrotting.com and www.standardbredcanada.ca

## Two Donkeys *submitted by Maggie Brant*

Two donkeys were walking in Jerusalem when one donkey said to the other, "Just yesterday I was here carrying Jesus and the people were singing and shouting and throwing their clothes for me to walk on, and today they don't even recognize me". The other donkey replied "That is how it is my friend, without Jesus you are nothing".



## Obituaries

**Deleston "Del" Cote**, 81, of Cream Ridge, NJ, died July 19. Del dedicated his life to harness racing. He began his career in the Maine fair racing circuit at age 16. He worked for trainer Ken Russell in Lewiston, Maine. Then moved on to a position as second trainer/driver to Frank Safford in Pinehurst, NC, where he raced on the Grand Circuit. From there, he moved his wife and family to New Jersey to become the trainer of Joe and Marie Parisi's Jo Mar Stable, currently known as White Birch Farm. He opened up a public stable, where he and longtime friend/owner, Henry Fara-galli Jr, owned and raced horses for more than 44 years. He continued to train horses until his retirement in November 2017.



**Obituaries continued on pg 4**



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*  
Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Donnie Conrad** by: Roselea Conrad  
 In memory of **Sherie Hankins 1st anniversary** by: Kim Hankins  
 In memory of **Euvoia Parsons** by: Amy Bondon and Ed Johnson, Jr  
 In memory of **Andy Wood 3rd anniversary** by: Ken and Betsy Wood

## Prayer Corner

**Please pray for all the people on our Prayer List who are battling cancer, especially:**

Lew Arsenaault, Dan Ater, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Chaplain Bo Bullock, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Paul Fontaine, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna Mclvor, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Marty Woebkenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

**These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:**

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements,

Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Bob Jones, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Barb Jenkins, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss Art LaPlante, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr.

**Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.**

**Please pray for those serving in the military, especially:** John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petrullo, Sgt. David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Lynn Antonelli was just diagnosed with uterine cancer. AJ Keaton has stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Archie Wyatt is hospitalized.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Information at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

Please indicate  
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## Jug Prayer Breakfast Wednesday, September 19

Join us in the Hospitality tent across from the Log Cabin at 7:30 AM, Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> for a FREE breakfast.

Gary Cartwright is sure to inspire us with a great message on the Power of Prayer and Our Legacy. Gary is a true Man of God and a big advocate of CHHA. Our Prayer Breakfasts were his idea. He did all the groundwork for our first one four years ago, and he makes the trip to Delaware every year to be part of our ministry.

Of course, we will praise God with the beautiful music of the Truitt Family. Come and pray with us for good racing and the safety of everyone at the fairgrounds.



## Pastor Joe DiDonato Honored

Pastor Joe DiDonato has been serving the people at the Meadows as chaplain for 25 years. He does a terrific job caring for the horsemen and women and everyone else at the track. When the dormitory closed, he found housing for 25-30 people and even moved them to their new quarters. Vacation Bible schools, weddings, funerals, trips to Steelers games and the movies are all part of his ministry. Graduations, Mother's Day and Father's Day, anniversaries—if there is an excuse for a celebration, it is happening in the Meadows Chapel. Sunday services begin at 11:00 AM.

Lori Romanetti, Kim Hankins, the MSOA and others arranged two wonderful days of festivities to honor Pastor Joe. CHHA presented him with a plaque at our Gaitway Farm event.



Lori Romanetti, Marcy and Pastor Joe DiDonato, Roger Huston and Chaplain Lee Alphen at Pastor Joe's luncheon celebration in the Meadows Paddock lounge Sunday, July 22nd.



Kim Hankins and Janet Campbell present the MSOA plaque to Pastor Joe after the 3rd race Saturday, July 21st.



Chaplain Lee Alphen presents the CHHA plaque to Pastor Joe at our Gaitway Farm event June 12th.