



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

February 2019

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

Board of Directors

Chaplain Lee Alphen
Racetrack Ministry
Amy Bondon, President
Greg Gehman, Vice President
Knight's Landing Stable
Roger Huston
The Meadows and Little Brown Jug
Lori Romanetti
Moshannon Stables

For newsletter questions or
ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor
leealphen@comcast.net
603-898-1927
603-401-7271 (cell)

Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
or
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

God is our refuge
and strength,
an ever-present
help in trouble.

PSALM 46:1

Tragedy and Community

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Five horses trapped in a barn at First Line Training Centre in Ontario died in an early morning fire December 21st. According to a December 23rd *Harness Racing Update* article, it could have been much worse. Darkness, smoke and flames did not deter dedicated horsemen and horsewomen from risking their lives, returning again and again to the burning barn to save horse after horse. Dave Briggs reports in the article, "Scott Lecain, Trev Forgie, Rebecca and Steve Titus and Riley McGilloway are just some of the people credited with going into the burning barn with firefighters to pull horses out."

A series of avalanches in the Rocky Mountains trapped a dozen horses in a ravine in the *Heartland Christmas* episode. Following the example of two young people, the town rallied to prepare a way out for the animals. The horse owner, a hardened old man who estranged himself from family and friends after a tragedy years earlier, kept threatening them with his rifle.

Amy and Ty set out to shovel a path for the horses through the hardened snow. It was an impossible task until the whole town joined them with their shovels and eventually a bulldozer and some plywood. Community was formed. After several visits, a listening ear, and the voice of reason from Amy's grandfather, the owner of the horses put down his rifle, thanked those working to save his horses, and joined the shoveling crew. Eventually he reconciled with his family and neighbors.

John the Baptist's message

echoes the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him'" (Luke 3:4, Isaiah 40:3).

John went to the Jordan to encourage people to remove the obstacles of sin and prepare for the coming Messiah. There at the river, lives were changed. Jesus also came and was baptized by John. Since Jesus never sinned, theoretically He did not need to be baptized. However, since He was both God and human, Jesus wanted to identify with the people. He insisted John baptize Him, and, with the others, was joined in a community of faith.

When we are baptized, we become part of the worldwide family of Christians with Jesus as our leader. When the way is difficult, we are not alone. Jesus never leaves our side and will often send sisters and brothers to help us.

As Christians, we want to be ready to hear Christ calling us and eager to respond with enthusiasm to our divine assignments. The brave people at First Line Training Centre certainly did. God was with them, covering them with a shield of protection from the blazing fire.

There is a strong sense of community in harness racing. Dave Briggs quotes Mark Steacy, "That's one thing about horse racing, [...] when tragedy comes, they are all there for you." Christian community is even stronger. At our racetracks, farms and training centers, let's continue to work together, making pathways for our God with our prayers, example and witness. Thanks for helping to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**

Blessings

From Chaplain Ken Carter...

We went to the hospital for a checkup. Karen's cancer level is down to 30. Normal is 0 to 35. Hemoglobin is low but not enough for a transfusion. They lowered the amount of chemo. Hopefully that helps her energy.

Mothersday Miracle

From Darrell and Amy Baird in June, 2018

In 2014 we bid on a breeding to Allamerican Native in the CHHA stallion auction fundraiser. The resulting foal was born 5-10-15, Mother's Day. It was the mare's first foal and things did not go as planned. The foal was upside down and after much trying we were not able to get her out and the vet was called. We were concerned for the foal's life and becoming worried about the mare's health. With the vet's expertise, the foal was quickly delivered and came out with a grunt. Much to our surprise and delight, our Mothersday Miracle was born alert and healthy.

My father, who got me started in horse racing and my partner in the business, was there to witness the birth. We did not know it would be his last. That September he was diagnosed with cancer and passed in October.

We decided since her birth was a result of the CHHA auction to give 10% of what she wins.

*Note: Mothersday Miracle continues to pick up checks and Darrell and Amy have been very faithful to their tithe to CHHA. **Thank you!***



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*

Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Jess Brinkenhoff** by: Florence and Brad Wallace
 In memory of **David Brocco** by: Lori and Ray Romanetti
 In memory of **Leonard Buckner** by: Florence and Brad Wallace
 In memory of **Donald Conrad** by: Roselea Conrad
 In memory of **Del Cote** by: Harold Kelly
 In memory of **Beckie Jo Davis** by: Dean and Beckie Davis
 In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
 In memory of **Jodi Irvine** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
 In memory of **George Irving, DVM** by: Twila and Stephen Mahar
 In memory of **Susan Kelly** by: Harold Kelly
 In memory of **RE Mairs, DVM** by: Florence and Brad Wallace
 In memory of **Thayer Maxwell** by: Thelma Maxwell
 In memory of **John and Bonnie Schuberg** by: Richard Niccum
 In memory of **Terry Tucker** by: Max Heath
 In memory of **Bill Wick and Family** by: Susan Throm-White
 In memory of **Steve Williams** by: Harold Kelly
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood

Scholarship Recipient Updates

Alexis Schwartz

I am currently getting ready to start the spring semester of my junior year at the University of Kentucky. I have received some good news over the last few months. I will be able to graduate a semester early. So next winter I will officially be a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a degree in Equine Science & Management.



This fall I have been busy working the sales at Keeneland. I worked for Taylor Made Farms as a sales person. It was definitely a busy but very fun experience. I also worked again as a Betologist during the Keeneland Fall meet.

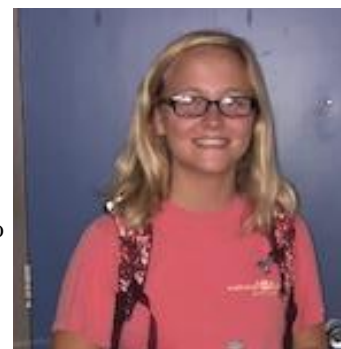
Starting this semester I will be completing my internship for school at a thoroughbred farm called Shawnhan Place. My responsibilities will be prepping yearlings, weanlings and foaling mares. Then I will take them back to various farms to the breeding sheds. I am very excited for this opportunity.

Happy New Year to everyone and good luck this year!

God Bless,
Alexis Schwartz

Parker Steck

As the holidays come to an end, I thought I would give you an update. This past semester was a blast. I finished in a good academic standing, and I'm ready to start my second semester this coming Monday. I have to take my second half of anatomy, my second half of chemistry, my first nursing class, a religion class, and I get to take a ceramics class. I'm so glad the Lord blessed me with such an amazing school and new friends. I look forward to what 2019 brings.



Thank you.
Parker Steck

Please verify or add address on back

Please activate my FREE membership. My address is on the back.

Email Address _____

Please pray for my intentions _____

Phone _____

Circle one:

Please send my newsletter (circle below)
electronically in the mail both

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

Please return to: leecalphen@comcast.net

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____

OR

CHHA
157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card _____ Security Code _____

To Donate Now—Click here

Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation

Gifts for family and friends

- 10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)
- CHHA Blue Hat
- 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



CHHA Hat



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

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

Russell Baldwin, 79, of Plain City, OH, died December 22. His grandfather, Bruce Baldwin, introduced him to harness racing. When he was 17, he began racing. He raced at Scioto Downs and the county fair circuits in the summers and at Lebanon and Northfield Raceways during the winter months. Russ also raced some at Windsor Raceway. After 50 years, Russ semi-retired and became presiding judge at various Ohio county and independent fair races.



Janine M. Grasso, 62, the wife of Horseman John Grasso, of Hawthorne, NY, died Dec 24. Janine was Director of Student Accounts for Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY for 18 years and was also President and CEO of John Grasso Stables, Inc.



Benney Lee Haller, 74, died Jan 1. Benney and his wife, Peg, bought the former Heiby Memorial Home in 1971. Later they built a new funeral home, the Haller Funeral Home. Benny worked hard for the local community holding offices in many organizations. Besides his tremendous sense of humor and wit, many will remember him for his passion of Standardbred racehorses, playing golf, hunting and fishing, and playing cards. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church.



George Albert Irving, DVM, 88, of NB, Canada died Dec 14. After graduating from veterinary school, George began a 31 year career with New Brunswick Department of Agriculture's Provincial Veterinary Service. He was the co-founder of Elmwood Veterinary Clinic and Community Animal Hospital. George's greatest passion was horseracing. He was involved in every aspect of the Standardbred horse industry. He served as director for the Maritimes at the USTA for many years. He drove in his first race at 16 and had a long history in breeding, raising, training, and racing Standardbreds.



Taila Kaponinsky, 15, died a couple of weeks before Christmas. Taila considered Paul Fontaine's son Eric her father. Paul is a horse owner from Rhode Island.

Gerald T "Gerry" Kazmaier, 75, Far Hills, NJ and Pompano Beach, died Dec 4. Gerry began his driving career at Saratoga in the early 1960's and was soon hired by Roger Lareau to drive for his stable. He went on to enjoy success all across North America through a career which spanned thousands of miles and six decades. While much of his success came in the western half of the continent, Mr. Kazmaier captured a training and driving title at Freehold Raceway in the 1980's, snapping Herve Filion's 10-year streak atop the driver standings.

Terry Lee Kibler, 60, of Woodstock, VA, died Nov 26. Terry was the owner of Kibler's Furniture in Woodstock for more than 30 years and ran a successful harness racing business. He was past president and current board member of the Shenandoah County Fair Association, and Secretary of Harness Racing at the Fair. "Terry got involved in every aspect of racing you can think of," said Woodstock based trainer Betsy Brown, who trained and co-owned horses with Kibler. "Over the decades, he's probably worked with hundreds of horses. If someone needed a hand to help paddock a horse, jog a horse, tack a shoe on or anything else, Terry was there to help. Everyone spoke highly of him," she added. "He was an honest and fair man. When Terry got a bill, there was a check in the mail the next day."

James "Jimmy" Landess, 64, died Dec 12. Jimmy was an accomplished Harness Race Driver racing all over the United States and Canada until being injured in a racing accident.

Maurice J. "Maury" May, 92, of Amherst, NY, died Dec 8. Maury was former president of the United States Harness Writers Association and a member of the organization for 55 years. He had a 47-year career at the Buffalo News and is remembered by colleagues as "the aide who ripped the news flash of the D-Day Invasion off the teletype machine. Among his several beats during his News career was the strong harness racing circuit of Buffalo-Batavia in Western New York. He chronicled the local racing and kept his readers abreast of area horses and horsemen who did well on the national harness racing scene. "Maury's Picks" was a longtime feature in the News.

Jan McPherson, 85, of Xenia, OH and FL, died Dec 3. After serving in the US Army, Jan taught high school math for many years in the Xenia Schools. His true loves were math and horses. He trained and drove harness horses, both his own and for Chip Noble Stables.

Obituaries

Mona Therese Alexander, 58, of Belgrade, ME, died Nov 30. Mona excelled at Geiger for 29 years winning various awards for her work ethic and experience. She and her husband, Kevin, owned and raced harness horses throughout the years. She loved the ocean, especially being able to walk along the beach. Her favorite thing was being around her friends and family. She enjoyed all the family get-togethers and parties.



Terry R Altmeyer, 56, of Kittanning, PA, died Dec 17. Terry trained and owned harness horses at Altmeyer Farm and Stable. He also loved listening to the music of The Ramone's.

Marvin Bachrad, 82, died Dec 2. Marvin worked as announcer at Liberty Bell and then as Director of Publicity at Brandywine and later at Dover Downs. He

was a pioneer of pre-race handicapping on the tracks' closed-circuit TV systems. Marvin was a member of harness racing's Communicators Hall of Fame and served as president of USHWA in 1992-1993 and as a director for 35 years. He was also a president of the Harness Publicists Association, winning that group's Golden Pen Award. He was a mentor to many of harness racing's "next generations" of media—three of whom have followed him into the Communicators Hall of Fame. He was the winner of Harness Tracks of America's Dan Patch Award for excellence in communications in 2005, and received a 2010 Special Appreciation Award from the Delaware Standardbred Owners Association. Marvin owned harness horses for over 40 years.

Obituaries continued on pg 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

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

Prayer Corner

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

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Emily Bier, Rev Kelly Blanton, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Chaplain Bo Bullock, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Rolly Day, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, AJ Keaton, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna Mclvor, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kaponinskyi, 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, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Scott Freck, 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, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Louise Pelletier, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Tori Scott, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr., Alice Williams

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:

John Berry has kidney problems.

Rev. Kelly Blanton has squamous cell cancer.

Danny Breton is in rehab for his leg and is in great pain.

Charlie Brigham is failing.

Clara Young-Gordon has three family members with terminal cancer.

Trudy Hite has Lupus.

Terra Mahar has inoperable A-fib and just had a stroke.

Pastor Sue Petritis has pneumonia.

Lloyd Ranger is undergoing tests for medical issues.

Sam Stathis has a punctured lung.

Anne Winters has heart issues.

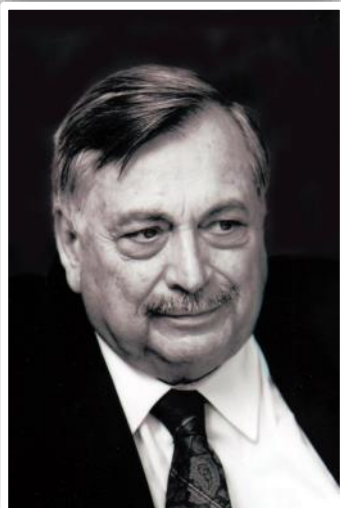


157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections



David Brocco Memorial

Lori and Ray Romanetti made a significant contribution to CHHA in memory of Lori's Brother, David Brocco. David went home to the Lord October 24th. This memorial gift will really help CHHA in its mission to keep **Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**

We are very grateful that our mission is close to Lori's heart. Throughout the year Lori helps finance many of our events and always joins us in Delaware for our Jug Week Prayer Breakfast.

As a board member, Lori offers great ideas and shares her expertise to help us improve our programs. She was very instrumental in ramping up our Racing for Christ program which now boasts 55 members.

Lori is also a big help to Pastor Joe's ministry at The Meadows and shares her talents and insight on the Meadows Standardbred Owners' Association board.

Thank you Lori!

In the coming month's, we will highlight a few other significant memorials.

A Place in His Heart

by Chaplain Sam Spence



I had never heard the particular phrase before, and it certainly was not a part of my brief notes on "God's Love" which I was using in that Sunday track chapel service several years back; however, I suddenly heard myself exclaim, "There's a place in the heart of God that only you can satisfy."

I knew immediately that those words had come from the Holy Spirit . . . they probably had more impact on me than anyone in the congregation that morning. As I meditated on the statement later, I began to realize more fully that each of us brings great pleasure to Father God like nothing else He has ever created. It speaks of the vastness of God's love; at the same time of the individuality of that love and the unique place that each of us has with Him.

"There's a place in the heart of God that only you can satisfy."



This revelation has been great incentive for me to pursue a deeper relationship with my heavenly Father, to better understand His nature of love. I pray it will for you, too.*

Scripture: God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. *Ephesians 1:5 NLT*

**Thank you to everyone
who donated breedings
to our Stallion Auction or
participated by bidding.**

Thank you!