



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2019

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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2018 Jug Photo Finish

Photo Finishes and Dead Heats By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Courtly Choice pulled ahead of Lather Up coming down the stretch to win the 2018 Little Brown Jug by a neck in a four-horse photo finish. In 1989, once Park Avenue Joe and Probe hit the stretch, they were racing as if harnessed together all the way to the wire in the two-horse Hambletonian race off. The race was declared the first and only Hambletonian dead heat.

Jesus tells of a landowner going out at dawn to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed to work for the usual daily wage. Every three hours he went out and hired more workers. At the end of the day, he told the foreman to summon the workers and pay them, beginning with the last. The first workers were ticked off when they found out everyone got the same pay (Matthew 20:1-16).

Do we race in cheap claimers, stakes races or the triple crown in this race of life? Who is the competition? Our race is more of an obstacle course. Instead of driving colors we do well to don "the full armor of God." The "belt of truth" and "breastplate of righteousness" with our "feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace" will be more of a help (Ephesians 6:13-15).

Life isn't a clear journey around an oval or a well-marked dressage course with fences, hedges and gates or a corral full of barrels one must negotiate with tight turns. No, life is full of surprises, mysteries, and trials that we often don't understand.

Miles and miles of jogging and training Standardbreds builds up speed and endurance while identifying equipment needs, proper shoeing and

preferred racing strategies. Practice in the show ring and around the barrels hones the skills of horses and riders as they learn to understand each other.

Prayer—that's talking with God—helps us to build a strong relationship with the One best able to guide us through life. As we read our bibles and spend time with good Christian friends, giving thanks and praise to God, we learn to understand God and recognize God's messages. This in turn brings peace and fulfilment to our lives.

Courtly Choice, sired by Art Major, and his driver, David Miller, made an impressive team. Park Avenue Joe with driver Ron Waples and Probe with Bill Fahy in the bike certainly had an advantage as well. Of course, God made you and me in God's own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). Then Jesus paid the price for all our sins by dying on the cross. You can't beat our heritage!

A good, happy, fulfilled life comes from knowing God. There are no photo finishes in heaven and dead heats don't matter. Everyone receives the same pay, eternity with Jesus. Heaven is the finish line where Jesus will be waiting for us. Everyone who recognizes Jesus and knows Him as their Lord and Savior is welcome to step into the winner's circle through the "pearly gates" (John 3:16 and Revelation 21:21).

Racing for Christ!

Wilda McDanel enrolled two year old, Rockme Victorious, in our Racing for Christ program. We will pray he becomes a great sound, healthy racehorse. Wilda is also one of our Prayer Partners. Praise God! By the way, Wilda's 93-year-old mother, Winnie Kaninga, reads every word of our newsletters then makes sure Wilda reads them too. Thanks ladies!

Blessings from God

Jean, who we prayed would find God, found Him and has become a disciple. Praise God!

From Chaplain John Prescott...

The good news today is that Valerie's pet scan proved negative for cancer. She will go one more chemo treatment just to make sure and then possibly have an evaluation for radiation. The Doctor said three times, "this is good news. Valerie knows the Lord has placed her on this path and we are trying to understand it all. I just want to thank all the prayer partners for their prayers. Thank you.....John

From the grandmother of a 6 year old...

We received a prayer request from one of our members that they were rushing her granddaughter to the hospital with a high fever. Quickly she emailed for prayers from the prayer partners before rushing to the hospital. We prayed. A few days later she emailed saying, "Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer over me and my family. Within hours of the prayer request, her fever started going down and with one exception (which I spoke against in Jesus' Name) has stayed down. We have to see a neurologist and a couple other specialists this week so some root causes for this should be exposed and dealt with promptly. She's back home as of last night. I surely want to thank you and all my brothers and sisters in Christ for faithful prayers that God heard. For myself and on behalf of my little family we appreciate all of you. Anonymous

It turns out **Kay Reid** does not have a broken leg. Praise God! She insists this is thanks to prayer. She does have some issues so please continue to pray.



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*

Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Tim Brown** by: Joe-Dee Brown
 In memory of **John Cross** by: Amy Bondon and Lee Alphen
 In memory of **Tim Curtin** by: Rondney Pinske
 In memory of **Timothy Dempster** by: Lori and Ray Romanetti
 In memory of **Ed Duregar** by: Harold Kelly
 In memory of **Walter Gower** by: Paul Wojtowicz
 In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
 In memory of **Dorothy Haughton** by: Larry and Joan Martin
 In memory of **Ron Jellis** by: Peter Blood
 In memory of **Sue Kelly** by: Harold Kelly
 In memory of **Jerry Knappenberger** by: Jim Buchy, Vernon Downs, Rick and Marlene Martindale, Jack and Irene Anders
 In memory of **Harold Linkeman** by: Sharon Teefy
 In memory of **Dr Bob McGaughey** by: Max Heath

Dot continued from page 6

I found Charley in the bathroom shaving and said, "God just gave me a word about this cancer: ADVENTURE! Listen to the definition." I read it to him and said, "The risk and danger part is obvious, and the exciting and remarkable part will be my closer, more intimate walk with God." My outlook improved immediately. I was inspired with this personal revelation from God. I would look at the road ahead as an adventure with great rewards along the way.

A couple of weeks later, God gave me confirmation. I really like my oncologist, Dr VanDeusen, and his most capable assistant, Melissa. They stayed very positive as they went into great detail describing the chemotherapy drugs, administration schedule, side effects and treatments for the side effects. I likened Melissa to Mary Poppins and told her so. She is full of Grace. After an hour long consultation, when Charley and I felt that all our questions had all been answered, Dr. VanDeusen got up to leave the room. Then he stopped and turned back around and said, "Consider it an adventure!" Then he turned and left. Charley and I looked at each other and I said, "God just winked at us!" I truly wonder if any Oncologist has ever called chemotherapy an Adventure! But this one sure did! And it was a heavenly confirmation that God knows exactly where I am and has me in the palm of His Hand!

I'm on weekly chemo until September 10, then once every three weeks until next June. The side effects are humbling and uncomfortable, but not devastating. My body struggles to correct itself amidst the punishment being dealt. I have learned the tremendous power in thanking God in the midst of the storm, and I truly feel the pain and discomfort subside as I do. I can absolutely feel the energy and strength flowing through my body from the love and prayers of so many family and friends. Charley is being a saint and we have grown even closer to each other and in our walk with the Lord. The prognosis is excellent with the prescribed treatment. I appreciate your prayers of THANKSGIVING as I know I am healed and safe in God's Loving Arms.

Memorial Contributions—Continued

In memory of **Joanne Plant** 6th anniversary by: Art Plant
 In memory of **Paul Polarra, Sr** by: Paul Pollara
 In memory of **Calle Rankin** by: Twila and Stephen Mahar
 In memory of **Kay Caras Spitaliere** by: Amy Bondon
 In memory of **Rich Suda** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
 In memory of **Sal Velente** by: Harold Kelly
 In memory of **Fely Villas** by: Jo-Dee Brown
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables
 In memory of **Wilbur Zendt** by: Harold Kelly

I forgot to include the memorial gifts in last month's newsletter. Please forgive me. Thank you!

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—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 Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions

Key Ring: Horseshoe nails are bent into a cross and tied together with colored wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.

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

Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form—Orders can also be placed at www.chha.net/products

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

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

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Necklace Qty: **Red** ____ **Blue** ____ **Turquoise** ____

Keyring Qty: **Red** ____ **Blue** ____ **Turquoise** ____ **Silver** ____

Other colors are available upon request.



Obituaries cont. from page 5

Gary Lee Cook, 76, of Fremont, OH, died August 13. Gary was a longtime owner of Standardbreds. In addition to horses, he was also into late model cars, sprint car racing and loved playing cards.



Timothy Dempster, 58, of Meadowlands, PA, died August 12, 2019. Tim was a graduate of Red Tomlinson Horse Shoeing School and had been working as a farrier at the Meadows. He had been a part of the Meadows since he was a young child. According to Lori Romanetti, "Not only was Tim an excellent blacksmith but he was one of the kindest, soft-spoken men you would ever meet. There wasn't anyone that didn't love Tim. Our entire Meadows community is grieving over Tim's untimely passing." Please pray for his mother Shirley and his brothers Dave and Chris.



Ralph Henry English, 75, of Marlborough, MA, died August 7. Ralph began training harness horses in New England in the 1970s and was honored by The New England Harness Writers Association. He has been training for more than 30 years at The Meadowlands.



Joe Kroll, 61, died August 8. Joe had success with Florida Stakes winners. He also played a huge roll in the success of big name stables and trainers such as Continental Farms and Team Nordin. According to the Florida Standardbred Owners Association, Joe was one of the highly respected and likable horsemen in harness racing. In his typical and humble style, he said, "I won the lottery the day I met my wife!" Joe worked until he was satisfied that every horse in his care was satisfied to his high standards. "

Harold (Junior) Howard Limkeman, 81, of Mt. Sterling, IL, died July 24. Harold served his country in the US Army. He was a foreman for Mobil Chemical Company in Jacksonville, Illinois for over 20 years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Mt. Sterling. Harold also loved harness racing and had owned and trained Standardbred race horses since 1966.



Donald G Ratchford, 75, died August 8. Donald came to the United States with Joe O'Brien and later worked with other top horsemen. He was a successful trainer-driver and farm manager and was a partner and operator of the Highland Farm, a breeding and training facility for about 15 years.

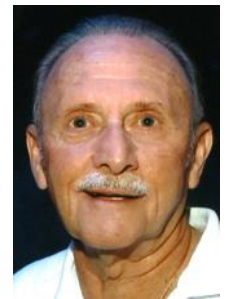
Dr Robert H McGaughey, III, 76, Murray, KY, died June 14. Bob was a great friend to many and a lifelong harness racing fan. He owned claimers with Eddie Morgan, Jr at Louisville Downs, in First Amendment Stable partnership with Max Heath and other newspaper types, and later with VIP Stable. "Doc," as he was known, was head of the Department of Journalism at Murray State University and kept in touch with students on a lifelong basis.



Anthony J. Parenti, 87, died August 1. Anthony was a longtime former police chief of Fanwood, NJ and former president of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey. He was a career police official for 60 years. He also became involved in harness racing as a horse owner. He was elected to several three-year terms on the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association Board of Directors. His colleagues elected Anthony as president for 14 years of the SBOANJ.



Daniel Tuccillo, 78, of Prospect, CT, died recently. When he wasn't earning a living running his business, Daniel loved harness racing. He raced all over New England. With the help of his wife and son, Dan Jr, he built a small but competitive stable and even trained the 1984 Massachusetts Sire Stake 2-year-old pacing filly of the year, Wynn's Mabel By. Daniel retired from full time racing in the mid-1990s but, when Plainridge Park opened in 1999, an amateur driving club was formed, and he couldn't wait to get back in and compete. As a charter member of the New England Amateur Harness Driver's Club, he campaigned several horses each year including right up until the time of his passing.



Fely Villas, 77, of Windsor, Ontario, died April 14. Fely was a devout Catholic and an active parishioner at Holy Name of Mary Church and was a member of the Filipino Choir. She worked as a medical lab technician at Grace Hospital and retired from Hotel Dieu Grace. CHHA member, Jo-Dee Brown, trained horses for Fely's husband, Rene.



Dale Williamson, 76, died July 17. **Benjamin Todd Williamson**, 65, died July 22. Both men were nephews of CHHA member and prayer partner, Clara Gordon. Both died of cancer. Three more family members are battling cancer. Please keep Clara and her family in your prayers.

Obituaries

Matthew K. "Ken" Bencic, 77, of Westlake, OH, died July 21. Ken was head of capital markets at UBS (formerly Paine Webber) for more than 30 years. He was an avid owner of racehorses for more than 40 years and enjoyed watching his beloved trotters and pacers. His trainers, Sam and Jodi Schillaci, posted on Facebook, "He was a great friend, owner, and like a father to us. He did things for us in this business that normal owners never do for anyone. His loyalty to us was second to none."



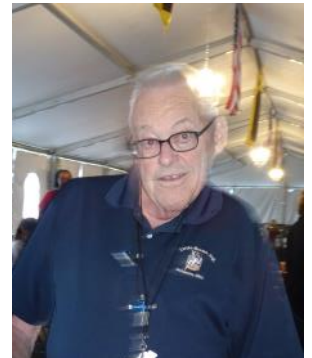
Tim Brown died August 9. Tim followed in his father's footsteps as a proud driver and trainer of harness horses. He leaves many friends in both Canada and the USA.



Janis Clements, 89, of Sacramento, CA, died August 13. Janis worked first as a model for hand and foot wear then at McClellan AFB. In 1978 she went to work at Golden Bear Racing in the gift

shop and later as a pari-mutuel clerk. Janis was a horse owner in the early 1980s at Cal Expo where her daughter, Robin Clements, trained horses.

John Williams Cross, 78, of Delaware, OH, died August 11. John was the face of CHHA in our booth at the Delaware horse sales for the last few years and attended all our Jug Prayer Breakfasts. He ran the Little Brown Jug staking office and distributed all the purse checks. After graduating from Ohio State University he worked for the Galbraith Real Estate Co for 20 years. John was a very kind man with a great sense of humor. John will be missed.



Obituaries continued on page 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, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, 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, Mrs Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, 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 Arcena, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Charlie Brigham, 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, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, 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, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Louise Pelletier, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Alice Williams, Anne Winters.

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 Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

Arlette Beaudette has pancreatic cancer.

Bud Bourque has breathing and sight problems.

Nancy Clark has colon cancer.

Dot Morgan is undergoing chemo for breast cancer.

John Morris has an infection.

Phil Terry has some health issues.

Phillip Truitt is recovering from an industrial issue.

Sally just had an MRI for breast cancer.



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Salem, NH 03079
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Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

See you in Harrisburg!

Hambletonian Reflections

Lewis Weitzner’s first bible was a paperback CHHA New Testament. Given his enthusiasm for God’s Word, I can confidently say, the seed fell on excellent soil. A few years ago we upgraded his duct taped companion to a complete Bible. He loves it! Lewis always stops by our Hambo booth for a visit and to tell us about his walk with the Lord.

Sally Schaffer donated our first 2020 Stallion Auction breeding to her Ohio stallion, Victory Sam.

It is always good to see Jess and Michelle Hallett. Jess is amazing. She is now a junior with a dual major of medicine and law and continues to write great articles for www.harnesslink.com and Hoof Beats.

Frank Profaci was very eager to help CHHA and our members. He is now our newest prayer partner and takes his job very seriously. Praise God! Actually, several new prayer partners came on board recently. Danny Daniel, Clara Young Gordon and Dora Lee. If you find God answering your prayers more quickly, you can thank them for their prayers.

Greg Gehman and his daughters, Danielle and Jess and I enjoyed speaking and praying with the many folks who stopped by. The three Gehmans were a blessing. I sure appreciated their help!



Above left: **Jamie Morgan and Greg White**



Above right: **Meryl and Mark Rodriguez**



Right: **Mary and Gary Grant**

From Dot Morgan...

In mid-April, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was the worst mental roller coaster of my life, but it sure drove me to the Throne! One morning prior to surgery, as I was sitting quietly next to my tabletop water garden praying about this cancer situation, God very distinctly gave me a Word: “Adventure.” And I immediately questioned, “Adventure? REALLY? I like adventures, but THIS is not an adventure that I would have ever signed up for!” I quickly Googled “Adventure” on my phone. Miriam-Webster said, “1. An undertaking usually involving risk and danger 2. An exciting or remarkable experience.”



Dot continued on page 2



Diane Dunn



Chuck DeRosa