



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

November 2019

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Wanted  
Praise Reports  
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Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
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### DNA and Relationships

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Watch out ancestry.com! Here comes the USTA. Foals must now have a DNA sample sent to the USTA as part of the registration process to insure they are registered with the proper pedigree. In addition, the USTA has a leg up on Life Lock and the other identity protection services. Starting this year, all foals are required to have microchips implanted in their necks. I guess that's to prevent imposters and to avoid stolen identities.

"What did you buy," someone might ask you at the Harrisburg or Lexington Yearling Sale. Your answer will generally include the name of the sire and possibly the dam. Breeders and buyers study bloodlines, knowing relationships are an important indicator for great racehorses. Bettors also consider progeny information, especially at the big races like the Hambletonian and the Little Brown Jug.

The Lord sent Samuel to anoint one of Jesse's sons to be king. A feast was prepared and, one by one, Jesse brought his seven oldest sons to Samuel. Each time the Lord insisted this was not the one. Jesse never thought God would be interested in his youngest, David, who was out tending the sheep. Finally, at Samuel's urging, Jesse sent for him (1 Samuel 16:6-11).

When David was brought in, "The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; this is the one.' Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David" (1 Samuel 16:12-13). It didn't matter to God that David was a young shepherd boy. God knew exactly who David was. He had a key role in God's

plans.

David is known as being a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). He wasn't perfect and certainly had his share of ups and downs. Sometimes David trusted God. Other times, not so much. God was not looking for the perfect person. Rather, someone with faith who would listen and do as God asked. Yes, David gave in to temptation and sometimes committed very serious crimes, but he always repented, turned back to God and asked for forgiveness.

David loved God. In the psalms David's hymns of praise have encouraged many to turn to God. Actually, Jesus is a descendant of David. Mathew begins his gospel with the genealogy of Jesus. Trace David's lineage forward 28 generations and we come to Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17). Yes, asking Samuel to anoint this particular son of Jesse as king was part of God's divine plan.

Speedy Bonnie 1969

Speedy Count 1961

Bonnie Lobell 1961

I was excited to see Father Patrick's heritage traces back to Speedy Count, the sire of my mare, Speedy Bonnie. She had a foal, Peppermint Snip, by Nevele Diamond, a son of Nevele Pride. Snip holds the Rockingham Park record for 2-year-old trotting fillies on the half-mile track. Yes, family relationships do make a difference. Since the land where

DNA continued on Page 2

## DNA continued from page 1

Rockingham Park once stood is being transformed into the Tuscan Village, a residential and shopping community, Snip's record will stand for eternity.

Jesus said, "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:50).

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "Your will be done" (Matthew 6:10). Is God's will really what we want? Sure, we all stumble like David. Well, maybe not that bad. However, if our goal is to do the will of God in heaven, Jesus considers us among His closest relatives. He will vouch for us at the pearly gates. DNA, tattoos and microchips will not be required. We won't have to show our badges or be fingerprinted either. David was known as a man after God's own heart. How will we be known?



## Blessings from God

### *From Annie Bordenkircher...*

My brother, Lloyd had a favorable doctor's report last week. We praise God for giving him another year of life to enjoy all his grandchildren!!

**Amy Bondon** is out of the hospital and on the mend. Praise God! Her surgery went well and all systems are working. Praise God!

### *From Denise Riley...*

Praise report, I just got off the phone with the genetic doctor and I don't have the toxic/ovarian cancer gene. Praise God again and again. Thanks Denise.

### *From Maddy Wright...*

Thank you for praying for me on this journey and for all the CHHA membership. What a blessing! I am now cancer-free...thank you, Lord! He has been so good and we have learned and gained so much during the last 2 1/2 years! Hopefully I have used this cancer journey in ways that will honor God and bring Him glory. I will still have biannual checkups with both the surgeon's and the oncologist's offices and annual mammograms but so far everything looks great, for which I am so grateful. In His name, Maddy Wright .

## Jug Week Highlights

Meadows chaplain, Pastor Joe DiDonato, told us how Jesus came and taught us to replace fear with faith, ignorance with illumination and guilt with the grace of God at our Jug Prayer Breakfast. Faith Hawes and Phil Truitt helped us lift our hearts and minds to praise the Lord with their beautiful country gospel music. God's people gathered in the hospitality tent made God smile.

Roger Huston, Jason Settlemoir, the radio show people and others also brought God to the minds of many folks in the grandstand, stable area and around the fairgrounds with announcements about our prayer breakfast. We are very grateful to T Thomson for his support and to Art Strozewski and Pig Foot BBQ.

Doctors insisted over and over again that Jaxon's mother should abort him. She didn't. We prayed for Jaxon at our 2018 breakfast and throughout the year. Katy and Harold Hylton brought a happy, healthy, 2 year old Jaxon to this year's Jug Prayer Breakfast and shared some of the miracles surrounding their grandson's life.

Many horsemen and women visited Rich and Sandy Thorstenson and me at our booth. Others we saw around the stables, in the stands and the hospitality tents. It was a blessing to be able to pray with many for specific needs.

I was happy to hear from Dot Morgan, "at the end of Jimmy Takter's Hall of Fame induction, Tom Thomson laid hands on Jimmy and prayed for him, the upcoming surgery and his surgeons." A few days later, Harness Racing Update reported that Jimmy Takter's doctors decided to hold off on the surgery and first try treating him with medication. Praise God! It sounds like God is listening. By the way, Dot Morgan looks great! God is helping her beat the cancer.



**Katy and Harold Hylton**



**Junior Batson**



**Thom Pye**

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[To Donate Now—Click here](#)

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## Gifts for family and friends

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

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



### 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 \[www.chha.net/products\]\(http://www.chha.net/products\)](#)

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 continued from page 5

**Joseph A. Amico Sr**, 96, died August 22. Joseph had a career as a builder. He was also heavily involved in harness racing in western New York for more than 55 years.

**Claudean Cone**, 73, of Georgetown, KY died September 11. Claudean was a well-known Bluegrass horse breeder. In recent years she operated Millstream Farm in Kentucky and in Allentown, NJ, in partnership with her daughter, Christine.

**Robert A Gabettie**, 81, of Dumont, NJ, died September 1. Robert was a trainer for many years at The Meadowlands, Freehold and Monticello. He loved the sport of horse racing, was a great trainer and loved handicapping. He was also an avid New York Yankees fan, loving husband, father, "Poppy" and friend who never missed his children's or grandchildren's games or events.



**Linda Jones**, 74, died September 3. Linda was the widow of Michigan Hall of Fame horseman ,Larry Jones. According to her daughter-in-law, Kari Neale Jones' Face Book page, "Linda worked many years at the Spring and Fall meets at Jackson Harness Raceway. She also worked taking horse entries at the Michigan Summer fairs. She loved working the fairs with her bestest friends! At home, she cleaned horse stalls, horse equipment, racing colors, and did everyday barn work."

**Gerald D Kelly**, 81, of Warsaw, VA, died August 15. Gerald had been in the harness industry as an owner and trainer for more than 50 years. He was campaigning his two horse stable at Ocean Downs at the time of his death. Gerald was considered a class act by everyone who encountered him at the track and will be missed by all.

**Janelle Diane Miller**, 19, of Shipshewana, IN, died August 13. Her parents, Wayne and Sue Miller have harness horses. Janelle was working in housecleaning for the Farmstead Inn & Conference Center, Shipshewana and was a member of the Old Order Amish Church.

**Del Pletcher**, 89, died August 15. Del was a Standardbred horse owner, trainer and driver. His career spanned eight decades at racetracks throughout the Midwest. He served his country in the US Army during the Korean Conflict.



**Eugenie R. Ceklarz Prescott**, 91, of South Portland, ME died August 31. During World War II her father led the local Polish resistance movement in France. When she was 14, Eugenie worked the coal mines and transported coal riding her bicycle to nearby Belgian farms in exchange for food. She was aware her father had hidden messages in the handlebar of her bicycle but was unaware of what the messages said. She carried the messages across the Northwest corner of France twice a month for two years staying at various farms along the way. She later learned the French Resistance group was also harboring paratroopers from England and helping the town's Jewish Community acquire identification papers. She was recognized as an Allied Veteran of the United States and awarded Veterans Benefits. Eugenie's son, Rev John Prescott, serves as chaplain at Vernon Downs.



**Ronald Randall**, 76, died September 7. He was a retired chemistry teacher at Roosevelt High School, where he taught for more than 20 years. Ronald was a proud Standardbred owner and trainer for more than 20 years. He spent more than 50 years racing horses. He was well known throughout Ohio for his stakes winners with "Rose Run" in their names.

**Terry Reid**, 55, died August 29. Terry raced horses with his father, Frank, for more than 30 years in Canada and the United States. He always had a joke or two to tell and a big heart. He treated all his horses like pets, giving them nothing but the best of care.

**Ramona Smith**, 83, of Auburn, ME, died August 30.

Ramona worked as the Secretary at Lewiston Raceway and for the telephone company. She was involved in and enjoyed Harness Racing for many years, owning and training race horses until 2018. She was very active, living in and maintaining her childhood home as well as working with her horses. Her family was most important to her. Her daughter Donna also races horses at Scarborough. In recent years, Ramona attended our Bible Studies at Scarborough Downs.



**Phil Wentworth** died September 1. Phil began grooming, training and driving horses in 1956. After attending USTA Officials School in 1967 he became identifier at Pocono. He served as Assistant Racing Secretary, Racing Secretary and Associate Judge at 22 different tracks. After many years as Associate Judge at Ocean Downs and Colonial Downs, he retired in 2009. He was also involved with pedigree reading at horse sales over the years.

## Obituaries

**Roland "Roly" Alfred Day, 65**, of Franklin, NH, died September 3. As a child, Roly enjoyed playing baseball, spending time with family, helping his father, New England Hall of Fame Driver, Bucky Day, taking care of racehorses, and as the only boy, teasing his sisters. He was his mother's favorite, and he knew it. Training and caring for harness horses up and down the eastern seaboard was his profession until retirement.



**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, Donna McIvor, 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 Aracena, 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,



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*

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

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **John Cross** by: Blooded Horse Sales and Rich and Sandy Thorstenson  
In memory of **Tim Dempster** by: Pastor Joe DiDonatto and CHHA, the Meadows  
In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins  
In memory of **Harold Linkeman** by: Sharon Teefey  
In memory of **Dr Bob McGaughey** by: Max Heath  
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

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 Petruccio, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Jana Brocco's breast cancer is back with a vengeance.  
Ron Carbone has a life threatening health concern.  
Karen Carter has some ups and downs with her cancer treatment.  
Dan has esophageal cancer and also cancer on his back.  
George has dementia.  
Dorothy Greer had a lump removed last month.  
Ross Hankins had gall bladder surgery.  
Warren Harp is undergoing radiation.  
Jim is undergoing tests for some health issues.  
James Kolnick's cancer has returned.  
Dan Luxton is hospitalized with Samonella.  
Lenny and Brook Maniceno are battling many health issues.  
Cheryl Mauran has health issues.  
Jimmy Nickerson has multiple injuries from a bad car accident.  
David Powers, 30, has cancer.  
Jimmy Takter has a tumor on his spine.





157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



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

Please indicate  
Address corrections

**Please donate a breeding**  
Auction January 30—February 1, 2020

**Jug Week at the Delaware, OH Fairgrounds**

— Story on page 2



photo by Chris Tully

**Jug Prayer Breakfast**



**Catie Cross** (John Cross’s daughter)



**Rich and Sandy Thorstenson**



**Rick and Donas Martindale with  
Jim Shasteen**



**Joe Spadaro**