



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

May 2020

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Have  
Faith  
in  
GOD

### How to Win By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Thirty-seven horses died at Santa Anita during the 2019 racing season. We knew trouble was brewing as the media stepped up its coverage and more intense investigations began. Yet some high profile trainers, owners and veterinarians never expected their doping schemes to be exposed. Many in the industry knew this was happening but did not know how to stop it. Not wanting to drug his horses, and tired of the skewed playing field, a good friend stopped training horses several years ago. I'm sure others have left the business for the same reason.

Dave Briggs has it right in his February 13 *Harness Racing Update* article, "Judgement Day is Upon Us". As of that date, four harness trainers were among the 28 Thoroughbred and Standardbred horsemen indicted. The number of indictments continues to grow.

King Solomon went against God's command, marrying foreign wives and taking concubines from nations who worshipped other gods. Solomon even had shrines built to these false gods and offered sacrifices himself (1 Kings 11:1-8).

God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to exile first Israel and later Judea to Babylon because God's people "did what was evil in the sight of the Lord" (2Kgs 23:32 et al). The Israelites knew they would be blessed for doing as God commanded, "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn from the

way that I am commanding you today, to follow other gods" (Deuteronomy 11:26-28).

After 70 years in exile, King Cyrus allowed the Israelites to return to Jerusalem to rebuild God's temple. However, soon after they began construction, they succumbed to pressure from their pagan neighbors and halted their work, disobeying the command of God (2 Chronicles 36:23; Ezra 4).

Sometime later, after a severe drought dried up crops and water sources, causing widespread famine, the people finally turned to God. They listened as God spoke through the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, chastising them for living the good life in nice houses and enjoying good food and wine while the temple lay in ruins (Haggai 1:1-11).

As they again took up the construction of the temple, the rains came. When challenged again by their neighbors and the local government, they chose to listen to and continue to follow God. Then God told them what to say to plead their case. The Babylonian government backed them up and even commanded the local government to provide the resources. God provided (Ezra 5-6).

Harness racing has had many wakeup calls already. How will we respond to this one? Is it too late to turn things around? What ideas might God have for us? I am sure there are some. Will we seek God's will? Are we ready to listen to the advice of the One who has our best interests at heart? Or will we continue to worship drugs and other forms of race-fixing and animal abuse?

God blessed us with beautiful horses that we love and provided a way for us to enjoy them

Win cont. on page 2

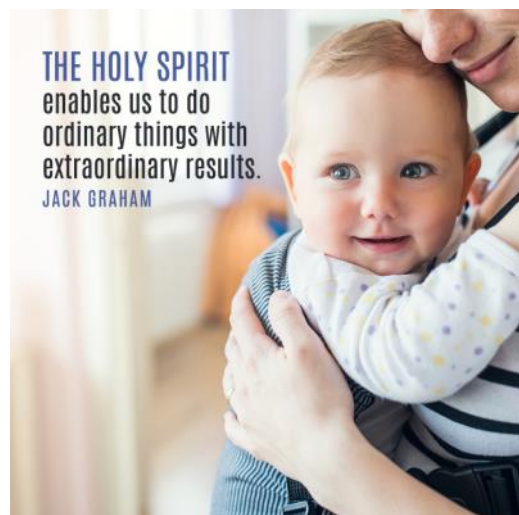
## Win continued from page 1

and earn a living at the same time. Let's not laugh in God's face and choose to follow the evil one instead.

Last month I wrote about Dan Leary's idea of Crisis Communication, widely communicating changes for the good. How about a huge media blitz on God intervening to bless our horsemen and women who choose to listen and turn our sport into something God will bless big time?

This same lesson holds true for each of us in our personal lives and in our families. Are we listening to God? God's ideas really are best. Just like the Israelites, we reap blessings by following the commandments of the Lord. My friend who quit training is still involved in other aspects of harness racing. His life is much richer as he spends time with family and in other sports.

Please send me your praise reports for the newsletter. Getting the word out about God working in our lives and our industry is a sure bet to help us all win the race of life.



## The Holy Spirit Lives in You By Gary Cartwright

We all desperately want salvation for ourselves and those we love as it is eternal. What we don't think about is how God provides us with an advocate that lives within us and guides our daily life- the Holy Spirit. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:19, "don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?" In Acts 2:38-39 Peter replied, "each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children and to those far away- all who have been called by the Lord our God."



## Blessings from God

*From Amy Bondon...*

By God's grace, I had an "all clear" MRI! You all have been my champions throughout this journey. Words cannot aptly express my love for and appreciation of your generosity, empathy encouragement and support. Every time I go to Moffit, my Doctors tell me how "lucky" I am to be alive and how I shouldn't have survived. We know luck had nothing to do with it. By the grace of God, to the end of my days, I will prayerfully be committed to bringing to others what you all, in my time of dire need and being without family support, brought to me. I love you all and I lift you up always to Him, that His grace abounds in your lives and your joy in witnessing His miracles, like my survival, is full and compelling and rewarding. Thank you and God bless and hold you all, my beloved ones in Him. Amy

*From Kate Walker Williams...*

Right now I am in Chapel hill at the Women's Hospital. I had my Cancer surgery February 25 for stomach removal, lower esophagus removal with re-connection directly to the bowel. THANKS TO ALL for the continued prayer in my behalf. Everything went SUPERBLY in surgery and I am UP & walking 2 miles a day. Thank You my prayer partners and Jesus who loves us and is in touch with out infirmities. Love in Him, Kate

## Scholarships

CHHA will be awarding two scholarships for the 2020/2021 school year. Available to graduating high school seniors and/or students enrolled in an educational institution of higher learning. Students who demonstrate a strong commitment to their Christian faith and are involved in harness racing are encouraged to apply. Students must be full-time and may be enrolled in degree or certificate programs. Graduate students are not eligible. **Applications available at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net) are due July 31.**



This is comforting to those of us who believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We must listen and obey what the Holy Spirit is directing us to do. This is real to me. I was walking and had moderate pain in my left chest area in January. My human side wanted to ignore it since I had never had any heart related issues. However, the Holy Spirit was speaking to me clearly to go home, get my wife and go to the hospital. Two days later I had quadruple by-pass surgery. If I had followed my human side I would be with Jesus now! As it is, I can enjoy my grandchildren and continue serving our Lord.

I am very thankful for the Holy Spirit and my awareness is stronger as time passes. Billy Graham said "The Holy Spirit illuminates the minds of people, makes us yearn for God, and takes spiritual truth and makes it understandable to us."

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### Gifts for Family and Friends

- CHHA hat (pictured to the right)
- 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



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

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

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

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

Roger Huston · 2249 Grey Oaks · Grove City, OH 43123

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

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

Other colors are available upon request.





## Obituaries continued from page 5

**John Brennan**, 69, died March 10 of Coronavirus. John worked as a steamfitter for four years before he began his career in harness racing at Saratoga. He trained horses for more than 40 years, racing stables in New York and New Jersey. Mr. Brennan was on the board of the SOA of New York for more than 30 years and an HHI delegate for more than 20 years. At the time of his death, he was the horsemen's representative at Yonkers Raceway.

**Daniel W Camac**, 83, died Feb 10. After his service, in the US Army, Daniel became a Dover police officer and a graduate of the FBI Academy. He was a longtime owner, trainer, driver and breeder, managing the family stable with his wife, Flo, on their farm in Magnolia, DE. He was very active in horsemen's politics. As one of the founding directors of DSOA, Daniel was part of a core group of directors who established DSOA as the voice for Delaware harness horsemen and women. He worked tirelessly throughout his life to promote harness racing, racing integrity and equitable oversight of the industry.



**Rita Fusco-Jackson**, 55, of NJ, died March 13 from the Coronavirus. She was a religious education teacher at Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine. Her brothers Carmine and Vinnie Fusco and mother, Grace Fusco also died of the Coronavirus.



**Carmine Fusco** died March 18 from the Coronavirus. He was Rita and Vinnie Fusco's brother and a New York and New Jersey-based trainer. Carmine trained about 20 horses in in Wind Gap, PA, where he co-owned a training center.



**Grace Fusco**, 73 also died March 18 of Coronavirus. She was the mother of Carmine, Rita and Vinnie.

**Vinnie Fusco**, 53, of Manalapan, NJ, died March 18. Seven members of Vinnie's family were hospitalized with Coronavirus. As listed above, his sister brother and mother also succumbed. He was an owner, trainer and driver.



**George D Harp**, 89, of Vernon, NY, died March 14. George was honorably discharged from the US Army after receiving the Purple Heart and Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. George's passion was harness racing. He trained and drove some standout horses. As a result of his successful racing career, he was inducted into Florida Harness Horse Hall of Fame. He attended the Vernon Methodist Church. Two of his



sons, Ron and Richard, race in NY. His brother, Warren, a life-long owner, trainer, driver, trained at Glicrest Training Center.

**Hal H. Hewitt**, 82, died March 23. Hal, a 1960 graduate of Michigan Tech., was a Mechanical Engineer for Clark for 32 years and owned Standardbred horses for 17 years.



**Richard M. "Dick" Neville**, 75, of Mt Sterling, OH, died March 24. Dick was a longtime farrier who plied his trade for more than 60 years from Indiana to Ohio to Florida. He began shoeing his own ponies at the age of 14. He reached the pinnacle of his profession as he worked with some of the greatest horses in harness racing, many of which are enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

**Eclée "Chubby" Scott**, 74, died March 14. He was a resident of Yonkers, NY, at the time of his death. Eclée was a harness trainer. In later years worked as a caretaker for trainer Mike Forte.

**Joseph E. Sullivan III**, 68, of Swanzeey, NH, died Nov 12. After working in the family business, Sullivan Brothers Printers, one of the country's largest sports printing firms, he began a long career in the pari-mutuel racing industry at Rockingham Park. He later went on to manage Foxboro Racetrack and was the longtime owner and operator of Hinsdale Greyhound Park. However, he found his true calling in recent years through his work as a direct support provider with Chesco, Inc., which provides services to those with disabilities. He cared deeply about every one of his clients and had recently been nominated for direct support person of the year for the Monadnock Region.



**Richard "Rich" Allen Wagers**, 77, died Feb 23. Rich worked as a manager of Pickwick Farms for many years. He loved training and working with racehorses. He was a member of Moreland Methodist Church.



**John Francis Wayne**, 65, of Egg Harbor Township, NJ, died Feb 26. John grew up around racing and worked part time for the New York Racing Association (NYRA). He was hired as a TRPB (Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau) detective in 1976, in 1978 became a TRPB agent and was Lead Investigator at 28 of the top tracks in the United States and Canada. He also headed Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Racing Circuit security at Churchill Downs. In 1999, John was appointed Executive Director of the Thoroughbred Racing and Harness Racing Commissions for the State of Delaware.

**Lindsay W. Wright**, 58, of Morton, IL, died March 1. After law school, he was a practicing attorney for several years before recognizing that his first passion was to teach history. He graduated from Illinois State University with a teaching certificate and he then taught at Morton High School. Lindsay was the son of Bill and Maddy Wright. They assure me he was a believer in the Lord, Jesus Christ.

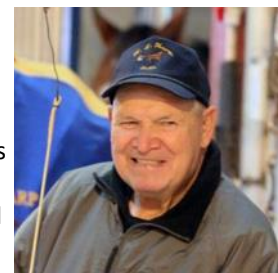
## Obituaries

**Marc Aubin**, 86, died February 28. He was so passionate about horses and fought to the end to live but was finally able to have the rest he deserved. Marc was a member of the FSBOA, USTA & Standardbred Canada and also a past FSBOA Board of Director. He was inducted into the Florida Chapter United States Harness Writers Association and the 2012 Hall of Fame. He trained horses most of his life in Pompano Beach, FL.



**Frank J. Bellino**, 85, of Bronxville, NY, died March 17. Frank founded a successful construction firm and also owned commercial real estate throughout the United States. He started in the harness racing industry in 1982 and has owned a number of top pacers and trotters by himself and in partnership with his sons, Joe and George. "He loved harness racing more than any business he was ever involved with," said his son, Joe Bellino.

**Warren Harp**, 83, of Bell, FL, died March 28. Warren grew up in and remained in the harness racing industry his whole life. At 16, he drove his first pari-mutuel race for his father, George Harp Sr. At 19, he went on the Grand Circuit with noted trainer Harry Fitzpatrick to learn the ways of training Grand Circuit colts .



At 24, he went to work for Delvin Miller and drove some of his best horses at that time. In 1968 he opened a public stable in New England with his wife, Joan. Warren was an important part of the ministry at Rockingham Park. He received the Stanley Dancer Award from the Florida USHWA chapter and was inducted into the Florida Harness Racing Hall of Fame .

**Obituaries continued on page 4**

**Sources for Obituary information include:**

[www.harnessracing.com](http://www.harnessracing.com), [www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com) and [www.standardbredcanada.ca](http://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, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Cohen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Dorothy Geer, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Jeff Hurst, Donna Ingram, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Tommy Long, 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, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, Betty Ann Thomas, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward, Sr, Roland Wardel, Kate Williams, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, 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, Jim Ferguson, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, 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, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Louise Pelletier, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, 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:**

Please pray for an end to Covid-19 and for all affected by it.

Jana Brocco's cancer surgery is on hold due to Covid-19.

Joe Faraldo has Covid-19.

Harry's cancer surgery has been cancelled due to Covid-19.

Tommy Long has an infection following cancer surgery.

The Negri family is in Italy.

Julie Schwartz is battling colon cancer.

Anne Yurenka's mom is battling cancer.

Lucille Wick is still battling health issues.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Your horse can too

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

Please indicate  
Address corrections

# Update

Scholarship Applications due July 15  
See page 2 for more information

## Amy and Stacy Butewicz Feed Struggling New Jersey Horsemen and Women

Two angels are helping New Jersey horsemen and women whose income has been impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak. Amy and Stacy Butewicz launched a program to deliver food to struggling harness racing individuals and families in the state with the help of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ).

"The more you give the more you receive," Lili Butewicz drilled home to her granddaughters who want to continue her good work. Lili was in a concentration camp at Dachau, Germany during WWII. Living through the brutality and hard work in the severe overcrowding of the camp strengthened her faith in Christ. Her faith was the catalyst that carried her during that time. A strong desire stayed with her to give back in thanksgiving to God for getting her out of there alive. Faith passed on from their grandmother is at the root of why Amy and Stacy look for ways to help others.

Amy and Stacy work together at Butewicz Equestrian Lifestyle Real Estate – Keller Williams Princeton. Their work takes them all over the state. In their travels, they are happy to drop off a food assistance bag, every other week to those New Jersey residents registered in their program. Included are non-perishables, canned goods, household products and more. Trainers, veterinarians and others in harness racing donate money, grocery store gift cards and food.

To register for the program, please use either of the following methods, and include your name, address and training center/stable location. Requests will be kept confidential.

**TEXT "ASSIST" to 732-887-5649.**

**EMAIL "ASSIST" to [albutewicz@gmail.com](mailto:albutewicz@gmail.com)**

Items will be delivered directly to individuals/families or placed in a secure location for pick up.

If you would like to donate dry goods or supermarket gift cards, please contact the above number or email address to make arrangements.



Amy (left) and Stacy Butewicz (right) are stepping up for horsepeople during this time of need (Image courtesy Susanne Kovacic)

Amy's boyfriend, Jeffrey Smith, who trains at Gaitway Farm, in Englishtown, NJ, let her jog a horse a few years ago, and she was hooked on harness racing. Stacy's boyfriend, Joe Delapaz, is a farrier for Blue Chip Farms in New York. Stacy and Amy both have had hunters and jumpers since they were very young. Neal Shapiro is Stacy's riding trainer. He is an Olympic show jumper and is also involved with harness racing.

Lili always said, "Life goes so fast." Amy and Stacy try to remember that and focus on the things that make the difference. Both women try to volunteer as much as possible. They are often at the Rise in Hightstown, NJ, a food pantry and thrift store. I know their Grandmother Lili is proud of them. I am.



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

### Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Donnie Conrad: Birthday** by: Roslea Conrad
- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
- In memory of **George Harp** by: Joan and Warren Harp
- In memory of **David Hazelwood** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables