



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

July 2020

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
Ohio Harness Horsemen's
Association 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 bless the USA
God bless Canada!
Happy Independence Day!
Happy Canada Day!



Sires, Dams and God By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Horses have sires and dams. We have mothers and fathers and God. *Hoof Beats* ran an article in January 2019 titled "What Makes a Great Stallion." Rich Fisher interviewed top breeders, trainers and agents. Winbak's Garrett Bell said, "Good breeding helps but is not essential." He also reminded us, "Great pedigree does not mean a great stallion." And, he said, "Many successful racehorses who are now stallions started with mediocre pedigrees."

Dr. John Mossbarger of Midland Acres said, "I do not believe it's (a great pedigree) totally essential in order to become a good stallion. I think what's important is that the stallion passes on his traits. If a stallion is going to the breeding shed, he probably had some good racing traits on the track or he wouldn't have the opportunity to go to the breeding shed."

Since all our parents come from God, they must have some good traits to pass on to us. In the First Letter of John we read, "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God" (1 John 5:1 NLT). Some of the traits we receive from our parents may be mediocre. However, as children of God we inherit outstanding traits.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). Below are some thoughts I've had while praying this beautiful prayer. When you pray it, pause and let your mind wander, thinking about the meaning of the words.

Our Father: God, the One who made us designed and created this entire incredible universe and

He knew exactly what
he had in mind for your future
when he formed you.

BRIAN HOUSTON



everything in it. After putting the physical space we call the world in place, God made all the animals and plants. Then God formed Adam and breathed life into him. With the breath of God, men and women came alive. You may want to think about the beautiful trees and flowers God created. Or see horses running in a clover filled field with squirrels and chipmunks running up and down the apple trees.

Who art in heaven: God's throne is in heaven (Isaiah 66:1; Revelation 4:1-2). Christ will return from heaven riding a white horse, with His armies mounted on white horses, to judge the world (Revelation 19:11, 14). John explains in part of his vision, "Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants

Sires cont. on page 2

Sires continued from page 1

will worship him" (Revelation 22:1-3). Heaven sure sounds like a place I want to go!

Hallowed be thy name: God's name is holy. The second commandment says, 'You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God (Exodus 20:7). We keep God's name holy by using it to address God and to tell others about God, not in idle chatter. It is best to think of something else to say when we hit our finger while hammering nails in the shed row.

Your kingdom come: God's kingdom and will are perfect. Heaven is a beautiful place. God is there and when we join God, "There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone" (Revelation 21:4).

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: We are happy here on earth when we are doing God's will. When we do nice things for others, we feel good about ourselves and when we say no to temptation we enjoy a sense of accomplishment.

Give us this day our daily bread: When we ask, God will give us everything we need for today (Matthew 7:10-12). God provided quail and manna for the Israelites to feed them in the desert (Exodus 16:16:11-18). Everything good comes from God (James 1:17).

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us: Think about this one. Do we hold grudges? Jesus said we must forgive seventy-seven times (Matthew 18:22). That means always. We must, forgive our brothers and sisters from our hearts (Matthew 18:25). We are asking God to forgive us the same way we forgive others. Let's be reconciled to everyone so God can forgive us (Matthew 5:24, 6:14-15).

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: The devil tempted Jesus three times in the desert. The Gospel of Luke tells us Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and led by the Spirit. Communication with God, doing God's will and the help of the Holy Spirit saved Jesus from falling into temptation (Luke 4:1-12). Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to everyone who loves Him and keeps His commands (John 14:15-16). The Holy Spirit will also help us to avoid temptation.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever: Everything really belongs to God. Remember, God made it all from nothing. David rejoiced as gifts were brought for his son, Solomon, to build the temple of the Lord. He prayed the beautiful prayer printed below in front of the whole assembly, praising God (1 Chronicles 29:10-13).

Remember, "We are God's masterpiece. God has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good

Sires continued middle of next column

Blessings from God

From Royal Rolund...

I am happy to report that racing will begin in Iowa this Sunday at What Cheer Iowa. Racing is permitted without spectators. Thank you for your prayers.

From ustrotting.com and harnessracing.com...

The Antonacci Family Foundation has donated \$125,000 to launch the Millions of Meals food drive with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Antonacci family owns and operates Lyndy Farms and several other businesses in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut.



Sires continued from previous column

things planned for us long ago" (Ephesians 2:10).

When we select a sire for our mare, we are hoping the good traits of both the stallion and the mare will pass on to the foal, creating a great racehorse. Friends, the outstanding traits of God have already passed on to us. Let's use them and become everything God made us to be.

"David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

'Praise be to you, Lord,

the God of our father Israel,

from everlasting to everlasting.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom;

you are exalted as head over all.

Wealth and honor come from you;

you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name."

(1 Chronicles 29:10-13).

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: lecalphen@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

- 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

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

Cris Caldwell, 63, died May 15. Cris has been part of the auction team at Tattersalls and Keeneland for more than 40 years as a fourth-generation auctioneer. Cris worked this past January's Tattersalls Mixed Sale at the Meadowlands. He also ran the family's Gavel Ranch in Eagle Point, OR.



Forrest William "Bill" Carroll, 85, of Pinebluff, NC, died May 10. Bill learned to be a horseman from his parents. He proudly cared for the famed pacer Hillsota; together they captured the inaugural American Pacing Classic at Hollywood Park in 1955. He also served as a director for the PHHA for several years.

Lester Clemmons, 74, died May 9. Lester trained Standardbreds for many years at the Warren County Fairgrounds. He was the first trainer and previously a part owner of the current Ohio sire Pet Rock.

Jack D Cobb, died March 21. CHHA members Jack and his wife, Dena, stabled at Spring Garden Ranch. Jack bred, owned and trained Standardbreds since 1966.



Jean E. Edwards, 85, of Bucyrus, OH, died May 13. Jean was a groom for Standardbreds her entire life, working with her husband.

Joe Figliulo, 77, died May 3. Joe was a longtime employee of Batavia Downs working in the Racing and Mutuels departments. For several years he worked for the George W. Starling Horse Trucking Company. Then he was the Racing Secretary at Scarborough Downs from 2003 until his retirement in 2013.

Giovanni Finateri, 79, of Flint Township, MI, died May 4. Giovanni grew up in the interior of war torn Italy at the end of World War II. He overcame adversity, becoming a trainer, driver and owner of Standardbreds. He also owned multiple pizzerias and became a successful business owner.



Bernie Hanley, 84, of Batavia, died May 7. Bernie served in the US Army and was a longtime member of Resurrection Parish. He was well known harness racing owner/trainer for many years. Bernie and his wife, Mary Ann, were the owners and operators of Hanley's Restaurant just across the street from Batavia Downs.



Carlson D. Mancinelli, 83, died May 12. He was a carpenter for the Board of Education in Buffalo and an owner/trainer/driver of Standardbreds racing at Buffalo Raceway and Batavia Downs.



Rick Marchese, 63, died April 27. He was a lifelong horseman. He suffered some ups and downs related to injury and finances. In 2014, he attempted another comeback after catch-driving at Bluegrass Downs and then Colonial Downs.

Walter G. McIntire, Ph.D. died April 22. Walter taught at the University of Connecticut and later at the University of Maine. He worked as a racing official at Maine fairs and Bangor Raceway where he was Presiding Judge from 1995 thru 2013.



Tex Moats, 76, of Fairfield, IL, died May 1. He was a well-known trainer, who was inducted into the Illinois Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2005. Tex always said he "just wanted to be remembered as that dang ole coon hunter."



Chad Allen Moore, 22, of Washington Court House, OH, died May 4. Chad was involved in the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, the USTA, Fayette County Harness Horsemen's Association and the Above and Beyond 4-H Club where he excelled in rabbits, hogs and dairy calf.



Darcy R. Pletcher, 60, of Howe, IN, died April 29. Darcy's livelihood was racing and training Standardbreds, which began at the age of 14. He also enjoyed golfing and spending time on the lake.

William V. "Bill" Rowland, 62, of Trotwood, OH, died May 12. Bill retired from AK Steel (Armco) in 2007 after 30 years of service. He was an owner, driver and trainer of Standardbreds since 1986.



James P. Samberg, 85, died April 29. In 1983 James became the Batavia Downs Director of Publicity. Eventually he became Vice President of Operations until the track's initial closure in 1997. James convinced Western Regional Off Track Betting with a proposal to buy the track. The re-opened under its new ownership in 2002.

Ruth Stern died May 1. Ruthie and her late husband, Artie, spent their summers at Monticello Raceway every weekend. She was larger than life and everyone at Monticello loved sitting down and talking to her. She got the nickname Ruthie Carrots by bringing huge bags of carrots to the barn and eventually named a horse she owned Ruthie Carrots.



Brian Wessells, 59, died May 10. Brian was a longtime Delaware trainer/driver who raced on the Eastern seaboard. He fought numerous medical battles over the years but he kept on coming back. His love for the sport of harness racing made him never give up.

Sophia Valkanoff, 94, formerly of Pompano Beach, FL and Pearl, MS, died April, 29. Sophia and her husband, Chris, owned the Midway Cafe in Lansing, MI, for 20-plus years. After retirement, they moved to Pompano Beach where owning Standardbreds became their passion and hobby. In 2009 the Valkanoffs were the Standardbred Breeders of the Year in Florida.

Sources harnessracing.com and ustrotting.com

Obituaries

Donna Kay Ingram, 73, of Davenport, IA, died May 18. Donna and her husband, Jay, owned many harness horses over the years and were CHHA members. She was a master gardener and it was her passion tending to her beautiful landscaping and flowers. Donna will be remembered for her sense of style and beauty. She was very generous in giving to several handicapped children's and special needs organizations.

Thelma Klark, 94, of Woodsville, NH, died April 13. Thelma had an interesting career retiring in 2010 from St Leo College in Florida where she was as an executive



secretary and enjoyed taking art classes and attending cultural events. She raised two wonderful children, John Klark and Joanne Mann. John was the New England CHHA director before his death in January of 2012. Joanne was our scholarship coordinator for several years.

Ronald "Ronnie" Bencal, 77, died May 24. Ronnie went to work for the WR Haughton Stable after serving in the US Army. In 1972, he began working for his brother, Bob, as a second trainer at Roosevelt Raceway. When Roosevelt closed, Ron bought a Baskin Robbins franchise in Florida. In the early 1990s, Ron went back to helping Bob with the training until 2012 when he retired because of health issues.



Obituaries continued on page 4

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 Niels, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, 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, Reggie 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 Lamiq, Chris Petruccio, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

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

Amy Bondon is recovering from hernia surgery.

Jockey Patrick Canchari has some serious complications from a car accident. He is not speaking yet.

Frank Crouch had a total shoulder replacement.

Vivian Farrington is back in rehab with another compression fracture of the spine and pneumonia.

Ex-jockey Ralph Garcia has liver disease.

Tony Hall has broken ribs and discs and a punctured lung.

Mary has back pain.

Al Moor had heart surgery.

Hunter Myers has a fractured jaw.

Don Pelling is scheduled for his first of two spinal surgeries.

Art Plant is waiting for a Bronchoscopy to diagnose the cause of his severe breathing issues.

Don Russell is in a nursing home awaiting foot amputation.

Betty Ann Thomas has contracted a blood infection.

Phillip Truitt has more health issues.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Scholarship Applications due July 15

Carpe Diem (Seize the day) By Boston Celtics Chaplain Bob Gray

At \$1500 an ounce, if I gave you a 10 oz. bar of pure gold, I am quite sure you would take care of it very differently than you would your sports watch, headphones or tooth brush. Why?



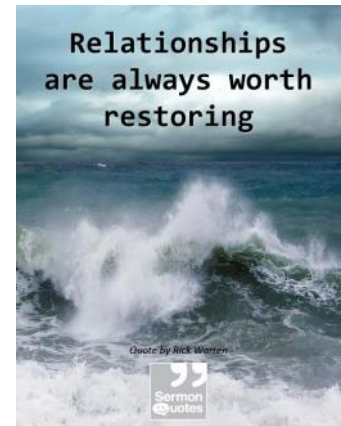
Because the \$15,000 gold bar is worth much more than the other items combined.

We take care and give extra attention to those things that we deem precious to us and of great value. We go the extra mile for them and demonstrate by our actions that they are special to us. The same should be true with our

relationships. We often take for granted those relationships with people that we love and care about. We don't tell them, and more importantly don't show them how much they mean to us because we assume they already know. We promise ourselves that we will say the right words and do the right things tomorrow. Tomorrow is not promised to any of us and all we have is today. So, today, send a text, an email, Make a phone call, Facebook, Instagram or talk to someone face-to-face and let them know how much you appreciate the fact that they are in your life. Don't assume they already know, tell them. Be a blessing to somebody.

Make sure that today, you Live On Purpose!

Chaplain Bob spoke at some of our Suffolk Downs revivals.



Congratulations to Johnathan Hallett

CHHA is proud of Scholarship recipient Johnathan Hallett who recently eared a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with a Computer Science Minor from the University of Central Florida.



"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' (Jeremiah 29:11).



May the angels lead you into paradise
Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Jack D Cobb** by: Dena Cobb
- In memory of **Bob Farrington** by: Vivian Farrington
- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
- In memory of **Warren Harp** by: Chris Coyle, Joan Harp, Miller and Hannah Cole
- In memory of **Donna K Ingram** of by: Franklin S Mitvalsky & Califf & Harper PC
- In memory of **Tex Moats** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables