



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

September 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

Oh, let none
think his labor is
lost because the
fruit does not
immediately
appear

Hambletonian's Brightest Star By Chaplain Lee Alphen

The notorious Beautiful Jim Key, a Standardbred born in 1889, can trace his pedigree back four generations to Hambletonian. His trotting ability didn't make him famous. The spindly-legged colt was an ugly, clumsy orphan who bonded with his trainer, self-taught veterinarian Dr. William Key.

Jim Key saw Doc playing with his dogs and felt left out. He watched them and learned to fetch, roll over and play dead. Eventually he realized the dogs slept in the house at night. One day he followed the Doc to the door and demanded the same privilege. From then on, Jim and the Doc were inseparable. They slept side by side every night with Jim on blanket-covered straw beside the Doc's bed. When they were on the road, Doc had a cot next to Jim's stall. Yes, Jim was housebroken.

Jim humbled himself enough to learn how the dogs got the Doc's attention and followed their example. He did his best to do all he was asked. Over time, Jim earned the privilege of following the Doc everywhere he went. Jim was a brilliant horse and lived a good and happy life.

CHHA member Lyndel Adamsky encouraged me to listen to Andrew Womack's *Biblical World View* teachings on his TV show. He had a great teaching on Psalm 119. The psalm stresses the importance of living our lives according to what the Word of God says. Can we say to God, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105)? Jim, by his actions, said that about Dr. Key.

The Doc's horse training philosophy was simple: use patience and kindness—

always. He didn't train Jim with a whip, saying, "the whip makes horses stubborn and they obey through fear and can't be trusted" (*Beautiful Jim Key*, page 39). Rather, using apples and sugar as rewards, Doc trained Jim to recognize letters, names and numbers. Traveling by train to a wide variety of venues, Jim spelled the names of people in the audiences, made change from a specially designed cash register and signed his name on a blackboard using his nose. The Doc even taught Jim to cite the bible passages mentioning horses.



Jim Key Spelling

Reading about Dr. Key makes me think of these scripture passages: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains" (James 5:7).

A poet in response to the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon says, "I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.' The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to

Jim Key cont. on page 2

Jim Key continued from page 1

the one who seeks him" (Lamentations 3:24-25). Eventually Jerusalem was restored to the Israelites.

When we are patient, humble ourselves, try hard to understand God's will and live as God wants, our God who loves us will take all our worries and anxiety and fill us with peace (1 Peter 5:6-7). We will say with the psalmist, "Lord, our God, be kind to us. Make everything we do successful. Yes, make it all successful" (Psalm 90:17). Our lives are blessed when we do our best to follow God and do God's will.

Source: Rivas, Mim Eichle. *The Beautiful Jim Key*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2005.

Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary. (Isaiah 40:31)



Just a Closer Walk

By Chaplain Sam Spence

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee" has for many years been one of my favorite hymns. One morning I was quietly singing this old tune to myself as I got dressed to go to the track..."just a closer walk with thee, grant it Jesus is my plea..." As the word, "plea" rolled off my lips, I very distinctly heard the Lord say, "It can be just as close as you want it to be."

He got my full attention with that statement, and as I began to meditate on it, I realized that the only limiting factor to a *closer walk* was me.

God is fully willing, even very desirous, of a mighty *tight* relationship with each one of His children...you and I are no exceptions.

But a most interesting trait of our Father is that He will never *force* Himself on us. In fact, I'm not sure that the word, *force*, is even in God's vocabulary. God is love, and according to 1 Corinthians 13, God's kind of love is patient, kind, never overbearing, yet never gives up and never fails. Yes, the Holy Spirit will bring strong conviction to your heart, but the final decision is always yours; you will never be *forced* by God nor have your personal will violated by Him.

Getting back to that closer walk, the writer of Hebrews tells us that *God rewards those who diligently seek Him*. (Hebrews 11:6) That tells me I have a very important part to play in this relationship with my Creator. It's up to *me* to seek *Him*. Not that He's hard to locate; after all, He promised in His Word that He would never leave us nor forsake us. In fact, He makes His home right on the inside of us. Yet, it seems that His m.o. is to never barge-in or horn-in on us, but rather to manifest by invitation only...i.e., prayer, meditation or quiet time.



Blessings from God

From Danny Daniel...

I just got the good news that Betty Ann Peoples has been diagnosed as in remission. Praise and thanksgiving to our Merciful Savior Lord Jesus for His healing her no matter what the future holds and His will is for her. Please let all of our members know and how much I appreciate all the prayers on her behalf. I know God heard all of them and was moved to help her. God Bless you for putting her on the prayer list. Thankfully yours, Danny

From Joan Harp...

Joan is moving in with her son for a few weeks. Her daughter is building a new house in South Florida with space for Joan. The new house won't be ready for a few months. She says, "Sending my regards to the whole CHHA family." Please keep her in your prayers during this transition.

Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you." Appears to me God is making Himself readily available, but He has put the ball in our court – *you ask, you seek, you knock*. Notice, however, He did not say, "you perform, you do, or you earn." No, indeed, this relationship comes about by faith – simply by your believing that He has already accepted you, forgiven you, and loves you unconditionally.

So, unlike the old hymn, we really don't have to *plea* for a closer walk; we simply invite, receive, and enjoy it...and He keeps us right on track. What a deal!

Scripture: *Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Proverbs 3:6 The Message*

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Author unknown

I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be



Walk With Me
by Greg Olson

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)
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 · 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

Allen J. Cook Jr., "Cookie," 78, of Smyrna, DE, died July 13. After retiring from the State of Delaware, Department of Transportation, Cookie became Associate and Presiding Judge for harness racing at Dover Downs and Harrington Raceway. He also owned, trained and drove Standardbreds.



Rudy Evangelista, 86, of Toms River, NJ, died July 16. Rudy labored as a union representative for many years. Later he became a harness horse owner and became a field representative for the Standardbred Owners Association of New York. It was a perfect fit, and he did a great job far exceeding expectations.

Jim Frick, 68, of Sweden, died July 25. The Swedish Hall of Fame horseman's racing career ended in 2010 when he suffered severe injuries in a Solvalla racing accident. However, he continued to follow harness racing and stay in touch with friends.

Lester Lawrence Hollenback, 97, of Deltona, FL, died July 16. Lester was a blacksmith who shod harness horses at Ben White Raceway in the winter. Summers he went to tracks in Chicago and the northeast. He served in the U.S. Army and was a lifetime member of the Barberville Pioneer Settlement. His hobbies included Blacksmith and Wheelwright.



Richard B. Karp of Wilmington, DE, died July 13. Richard was a trainer and driver and owned the Rugby Stable with his father. Later he served at Brandywine Raceway as paddock judge. Then he became associate judge on the Harrington and Dover Downs circuit.

Mary Kelly, 89, died July 9. Mary ran Monterey Farm's racing business side-by-side with her husband, Neil, for over 30 years. Their first farm was in Illinois. In 1973, they sold that property and moved 79 horses to California where they also ran a breeding farm until the 1990s. Mary was a style icon, always with a smile for everyone in the paddock and throughout the track.



Robert "Bob" Miller, 90, of Cohocton, NY, died May 24. At 33, Bob began attending AA and turned his attention to his business, his family and racehorses. He and his wife, Alverna, built the Roberts Miller Co servicing many of the farmers in the area. Later they established The Beehive, an antique consignment shop. He was a confirmed atheist until at 52, Bob gave his life to Jesus



Christ. A few years later, he, Alverna and two other couples established the Cohocton Assembly of God where he worshipped until God called him home.

Ron Peacock, 86, of Medina, OH, died June 19. Ron was an animal lover. He was also CHHA member, Jodi Peacock's dad. Jodi owns, trains and drives harness horses.



Charles "Chick" Trossbach, 73, of Saratoga Springs, NY, died July 5. After serving in the US Army, Chick began traveling the country with the trotters from the George Sholty stable. He eventually returned to Saratoga Springs where he trained a small stable. In 1986, Chick was involved in a tragic automobile accident that left him partially paralyzed and wheelchair-bound for the rest of his life. In 1991 he moved to North Port, Florida where he lived with his retired parents.



Kelly (Schoeffel) Rader, 34, of Evans City, PA, died July 27. Kelly earned her Masters of Science in Criminal Justice Administration and served as a family and children therapist. Later she turned to training the family stable, the Kelly Rader Racing Stable at the Meadows. She was a long time member and church elder at Crestview Community Church in Callery.



Marie Sager, 81, of Florence, NJ, died July 22. Her passion was family, good friends and of course, the horses. She would say, "Horses always had to come first." This was her husband, Mel Sager's, philosophy which has been passed down to the next generation.

Michael Taub, 66, of Boynton Beach, FL, died July 25. Michael was a successful Standardbred trainer for nearly 50 years. It was his entire world. He raced and won at all east coast tracks and was a regular at The Meadowlands. He stabled in New Jersey for many years and his friends always referred to him as a great guy with a grand smile who always was willing to help others.

Richard J. "Dick" Welch, 80, of Scipio Center, NY, died July 20. Dick began working with harness horses at the age of 19 and went on to become a trainer, driver, owner, and racing official. He raced throughout the east coast. He worked as a starter and judge at every Standardbred racetrack in New York State.



There is nothing more important than
Your Eternal Salvation

Kirk Cameron

Obituaries

Richard "Gibby" Betts, 97, formerly of Barnesville, PA, died July 16. Gibby was a decorated World War II veteran with two bronze stars and a Purple Heart. He was a small business owner and trained Standardbreds. He was a member of the Barnesville First United Methodist Church and attended Pastor Joe's services at the Meadows Racetrack Chapel. He also enjoyed traveling the Grand Circuit with friends and family. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed spending time with his grandsons.



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, 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, Carol Parker, 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, John Wing, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, 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, Vivian Farrington, 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, Phillip 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 Lamiq, 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. Let's pray too for an end to all the out-of-control violence. Jim Arledge is recovering from Covid-19. Zacory Deskins, 30, is hospitalized with kidney failure. Gerald Flannery had major surgery. Jana is having stereotactic radiation and chemo. Olga Lane has Covid-19.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Jug Program Auction

See below

God Gently Awakens Us

By Danny Daniel

I thought about this when I woke up this morning.

The Lord God gently awakens us slowly with the dawn and rising of the sun, He gently rocks us to sleep like a loving parent by ever so slowly darkening the skies so we can drift off to sleep in His arms. In between, He feeds us with all manner of fruit, vegetables, grains, meat and refreshing water from His heavenly well. What a caring and loving God we have in Him. Slow to chide and quick to bless. Those that say there is no god, let them open their eyes and see. God Bless all.



Joy comes in the morning

Psalm 30:5



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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
- In memory of **Ron Peacock** by: Carol Reynolds
- In memory of **Paul Pollara, Sr** by: Paul Pollara, Jr
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables



Little Brown Jug Program Fundraiser

Name _____ Bid _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Little Brown Jug Programs

Bids are open

Little Brown Jug programs have been donated to CHHA for a FUNDRAISER. All are in good shape. The special edition is like new.

50th Year Special Edition (1946 to 1995)
'83 to '87, '91, '92, '94, '95, '96, 2000 & 2002

Bid until Noon Jug Day, September 24, 2020

- www.chha.net/jugprogramsbid
- chha1.net@comcast.net
- CHHA 157 North Main St Salem, NH 03079
- CHHA booth at the Jug—if we are there

The entire set will go to the highest bidder. Opening Minimum Bid is \$200.

Please provide bid amount, name, address, email and phone number.