



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

December 2020

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
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157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079



Who's Who

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

In the past Harness Racing's annual Sires and Dams publications helped breeders and folks looking at young racehorses study pedigrees to learn who is who, their relationships and accomplishments. Now, www.ustrotting.com and www.harnessracing.com provide online tools with even more valuable information.

The racing facts and bloodlines are important. Of course, we all know, before you buy a horse you have to look at everything. Confirmation, health and soundness are all important as well.

According to www.harnesslink.com, Who's Who won Sweden's 2018 Svenskt TravDerby. That's an interesting name for a horse.

Thousands of publications are available listing biographical information about key people in a given country or notable people in a particular profession or discipline. There are some scams too. People actually pay to be included in a publication of important people.

Luke, was a physician. In the early years following Jesus' return to heaven, Luke wrote his Gospel. He said, "Since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, [...] so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught" (Luke 1:3-4).

Does your doctor do a thorough job examining you? Mine uses observation, family history, blood work, x-rays and other tests as well as reasoning skills to understand my health concerns. The good news is, I'm healthy. Praise God!

As a physician, Luke knew the importance of an accurate diagnosis. He

investigated firsthand accounts of eyewitnesses who knew Jesus. His account is orderly and easy to follow. It begins with the births of John the Baptist and Jesus and ends with Jesus rising up to heaven (Luke, chapters 1 -2 and 24:50).

Kathy Parker tells us in the September *Horsemen and Fair World*, that Juliette winner Party Girl Hill does not have an impressive pedigree at first glance. However, she suggests, trace back several generations and you find Silk Stockings, Ambro Alert and multimillionaires Vintage Master and Great Vintage. It is important to do your homework. That's how you find the treasures. I'm always impressed with Kathy's research. She's brilliant!

Luke did his homework. What did he learn through his extensive research? His report is excellent. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem. He healed the sick, taught the multitudes, suffered, and died for our sins. He rose from the dead and returned to heaven. He is the Son of God the Savior of the World!

We do our homework studying bloodlines, confirmation, and past performances. As Christians it is important for us to study scripture too and understand the messages, the history, the people and all the truths the bible holds.

"I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God" (Luke 12:8-9).

Where do we stand? I'm standing on the promises of God!

Merry Christmas!

Obituaries

Barry Abrams, 66, died Oct 9. Barry trained harness horses from 1978-87. Switching to Thoroughbreds, he worked as an assistant to trainer Roger Stein before going out on his own in 1993. His horse is the favorite in the Breeder's Crown.

Edward "Ed" Boden, 72, of Westbury, NY, died Oct 3. Ed while best known as the founder and managing partner of the Drawing Away Stable, billed as a "no-expenses" Thoroughbred partnership, also owned Standardbreds from the 1970s through the 2000s. Some of his greatest joy came from watching others enjoy their Drawing Away Stable experience. He created Drawing Away Stable with the intention of allowing the average person an opportunity to enjoy the fun and excitement of horse ownership in a tangible and affordable way.

Tony Chamblin, 81, of Lexington, KY, died Sep 27. Tony was a longtime horse racing industry executive and ambassador for the industry. As chief executive of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA), he played an instrumental role in the passage of the Interstate Horse Racing Act of 1978, a bill that has generated billions of dollars in purse money for owners and trainers and racetrack operators over the past 42 years.

Barry Edwin Conrad, 78, of Canal Winchester, OH, died in his home on Sep 30. Barry founded Conrad Photographs and Dark-room Artists photo lab. The photography business encompassed every aspect of portrait, wedding and professional lab work. He became well known throughout the harness racing community as the track photographer at Scioto Downs and The Little Brown Jug. He was inducted into the Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame .

Donald K. "Don" Dean died Oct 1. Don was a former Racetrack Chaplaincy of Ameica (RTCA) President and Board Member and longtime Maryland horseman. For years, Don served the RTCA and His Lord on the national level and helped the chaplains at the racetracks. He owned and bred Thoroughbreds and enjoyed visiting the barns and walking his horses.

John (Jack) DeCrosta, 70, died Oct 19. Jack worked as an accountant for several years before embarking on a career as a Standardbred trainer. His training career included successful stints at Saratoga Harness, The Meadowlands and Maywood Park in Chicago. He spent most of his adult life living in Las Vegas where he met, rescued and adopted Sonny Perez-DeCrosta. He was very proud of raising Sonny as a single father and always viewed this as his most important accomplishment.

Larry I. Draper, 76, of Cheektowaga, NY, died Sep 26. Larry served in the US military in Vietnam. When he returned home, he got involved in harness racing and spent the next 39 years as a harness horse driver, trainer and owner.

Edward Charles "Whitey" Ford, 91, died Oct 8. He was an American professional baseball pitcher who played his entire 16-year Major League Baseball career with the New York Yankees. Whitey owned and bred harness horses starting in 1966.



Anna Freck, 86, died Oct 9. She was the wife of the late trainer/driver Grover Freck and the mother of Chris and Scott Freck who are also own, train and drive harness horses. Anna and her sons, Scott and Chris, are CHHA members.



Obituaries continued on page 4

Blessings from God

From Frank Crouch...

Thanks to God creating such special healthcare workers and physical therapists; I received an excellent report! The surgeon is happy! As a matter of fact, he wants me to continue with PT for the rest of the year (2x a week) to get even more mobility and strength, but the surgeon doesn't need to see me again until May 7th of 2021! That appointment will be the 1-year follow up! God is good!

From Larry Lederman...

Praise God! He just got his latest MRI results. He's still cancer Free. However, he's been experiencing a-fib the last 6 weeks so is going on blood thinners to prevent a stroke.

From Mary Beth Wing...

Her brother's cancer numbers are down, and he is doing well. Praise God!

From Chaplain Ken Carter...

1. Karen's cancer numbers are in the normal range.
2. They are betting more than they ever have. Handle last Saturday was over 3.5 million at Mohawk. Handle at smaller tracks is also up.



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Mae Jean Allen** of by: Amy Bondon, Rick and Regina Beinhauer, Kathleen and Robert Prater

In memory of **Barry Conrad** of by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz

In memory of **Gail Conte** by: Dr James Cummings

In memory of **Don Dean** by: Amy Bondon

In memory of **Vivian Farrington** by: Larry Farrington, James Harris, Country Place, Rich and Sandy Thorstenson, Rhonda and Glen Wright

In memory of **Anna Freck** by: Cindy Truitt

In memory of **Harold Kelly** by: Bob, Christine and Sandra Baggitt, Amy Bondon, Ron and Brenda Dancer, Jake and Rosie Huff, Harold Kelly, Larry Lederman

In memory of **Wally Ross, Sr** by: Jake and Rosie Huff

In memory of **Weldon and Nancy Stockwell** by: Kate Williams

In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Foiled Again Bids accepted at:

- www.chha.net/foiledagainbid
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Please pray for my intentions _____

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Please return to: leecalphen@comcast.net

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OR CHHA
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Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card _____ Security Code _____

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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



Great Gift Ideas



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

Donna Marie Frizell, 81, of Leslie, MI, died Sep 27. Donna enjoyed her long happy life as a trainer of Standardbreds. She was a hardworking, caring, loving and all around wonderful woman. She also loved to garden, plant flowers and cook.

Lon Frocione, 88, of Syracuse, died Oct 21. Lon served for 15 years on the USTA board of directors. He was an owner, trainer and driver. In 2006, he represented the United States in Italy in the World Cup of Amateur Driving. He was also the founder of the Women's International Trot. Lou was inducted into the Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame in 1999 and was named Harness Horsemen International's Man of the Year in 1988.



William 'Bill' Galvin, 89, of Mississauga, Ontario, died. Bill, a member of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame, established 'The Stable That God Loves' as a fundraiser for the Standardbred Racetrack Chaplaincy of Canada. He continued to work with racetrack chaplaincy programs, serving as the Vice-President of the Race Track Chaplaincy of Canada Inc.

Harold Kelly, 85, of Englishtown, NJ, died Oct 19. Harold was raised on a farm in Western, PA and had a passion for horses. When he was 16, he drove his first race. During his 60+ year racing career, he raced all over Western PA, OH and NJ driving and training many great horses. He had the privilege of working with fine horsemen including Stanley Dance and Joe Holloway. Among many achievements, he was inducted into the Jersey Shore Sports Hall of Fame in 1993. Harold was a faithful CHHA member and a friend to many in harness racing including Chaplain Lee Alphen. Most importantly, Harold's eye was on Jesus as he won the greatest race of his life and crossed the finish line into the arms of his Heavenly Father.



Jim Kolnick of Ocala, FL died Oct 15. Jim was a good man of faith and a CHHA member. He came to our Jug Prayer Breakfast a couple of times where we prayed with him for his brain cancer.

Harold Dean Kuebler, 85, of Lake Placid, FL, died Oct 13. Harold and his wife, Kathleen, first raced horses at the Iowa fairs. Harold did the horse driving until he realized Chick had a little better temperament for the handling of the horses. They bought a farm and became heavily involved in all aspects of the Standardbred racing and breeding business. Dawn Allen said, he was the "Salt of the earth, devout Christian, dedicated farmer and family man."



Jerry Landess, 90, of Portland, IN, died Oct 13. Jerry served in the United States Army. He drove a truck for Marhoefer Packing Company for 27 years. He enjoyed an outstanding career as a driver and trainer of Standardbreds. He won the Golden Gloves twice in Muncie, Indiana. Jerry served as chaplain of his American Legion Lodge.



Jerry Lawrence, 81, died Oct 1. Jerry was VP and GM of Yonkers Raceway. Later he became Churchill Downs' GM, Exec VP and COO. Later he became Exec VP at the NYRA. Eventually he retired from the bet-processing company, Autotote. He was active in his church and a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

Jay Todd O'Neil of Petoskey, MI, died Sep 23. Jay served with the American Occupying Forces in Japan. He was a teacher and later became a principal. His daughter, Robyn Rembleski, is a CHHA member.



Michael Joseph Patalan, 78, of Saline, MI, died Oct 19. Michael and his wife, Chris, built a successful horse farm in Saline, The Horse n Buggy farm. He and Chris owned and bred Standardbreds. Michael was also an driver and trainer. He was a member of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church.



Walter "Red" Ross Sr, 80, died Oct 18. A native of Massachusetts, he began his career as a trainer and driver in New England. He raced at tracks along the East Coast before settling into a winter and then year-round routine at Pompano Park. He was inducted into the Florida Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2012. His stable was a family affair with his wife, Pat, and sons, Wally Jr. and Wade.

Joseph Shahan died Sep 3. Joe drove a potato truck, then a taxi before a 27-year career in construction as a heavy equipment operator. Horse racing with his family was the love of his life.

John W. "Red" Shaw, 81, of Mount Vernon, OH, died Oct 7. Red's first jobs were with cattle, first showing them and later for Producers Livestock. He began auctioning livestock at Producers and liked it. In 1968 he started John Red Shaw Auctioneer and has operated it for more than 52 years. He also owned and bred harness horses.



Kevin Delos Smith, 56, died Oct 13. Kevin became an antique broker and after moving to Saratoga, he owned Saratoga Hidden Gardens Florist and Antiques. He was also a co-owner of several Standardbreds with Eugene Kurzrok of Our Horse Cents Stables.

Carol Lynn Shuman, 73, of Plain City, OH, died October 14. Carol, an owner and breeder of Standardbreds, retired from the City of Columbus. She was an avid genealogist, enjoyed gardening, and a true lover of animals, especially horses. Her son, Robert, owns trains and drives harness horses.

Robert Durwood Stiles Jr, 87, died Sep 18. Robert trained and drove Standardbreds all his life, except for the four years he gave to his country in the Marine Corps serving in the Korean War. He loved what he did in his lifetime with those horses and friends.

Gerald Edwin Teis, 73, died Oct 14. Gerald was a former Standardbred trainer and owner and raced at Yonkers, Roosevelt, The Meadowlands and Freehold in the 70s and '80s.

Billie Ray Thomas, 85, died Sep 26. Billie Ray owned and trained harness horses since 1971.

Darren William Turner, 54, died Oct 16. Darren grew up racing horses with his family in Farmington, Maine. Later he worked with Hall of Fame trainer/driver Ted Wing and for Gary Mosher in New York and at Roosevelt Raceway. He also worked at Blue Chip Farms. Ultimately, he retired as a dispatcher for the New York State.



Pat Waldo, 79, of Williamsport, PA, died Oct 3. Pat grew up in a Michigan harness racing family. He worked for Phil Tully at Woodstock Stud and the Garden State Sales Company in the 70s. In the 1980s, he inspected scores of horses for clients advising about potential purchases. Later he began working with Saratoga Standardbreds where he developed the Preferred Equine division. In later years, he served as a bloodstock advisor for White Birch Farm.

Sources for Obituary information include: www.harnessracing.com, www.ustrotting.com

Congratulations! Kim Hankins, MSOA Executive Director and Janice Drew are engaged! Let's pray God blesses them with many happy, healthy years together.



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, Meagan McKee, 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, 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 Aracena, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Rick Beinbauer, 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

Sydney Trotto continued from page 6

Especially as a staffer, I am able to see the Lord work through the kids and counselors.

The Gamma Phi Beta sorority provides endless opportunities to volunteer in the community. The Intersivity Campus Ministry has grown my faith significantly. I am part of a small group that meets once a week. We get to relate to each other our struggles and rejoice with one another in our accomplishments. I have gotten very close with the girls and they constantly point me towards the Lord.



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 Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

Karen Carter's chemo raised her blood pressure. She also has kidney issues.

Greg Coon had back surgery.

Thomas Daniel's prostate cancer has returned.

Art Lisi, Jr has facial pain/neuralgia.

Louis had triple by-pass surgery.

Lynn had a knee replaced.

Tommy Luchento is recovering from surgery.

Mary has back issues.

Meaghan McKee has a tumor at the base of her spine.

Ted Pipper got sepsis after surgery.

Peggy Roper is scheduled for melanoma surgery Nov 16.

Cheryl Street's husband has lung cancer.

Carol Tebo has a small intestine infection.

Lovena Warren had brain surgery.

Lucille Wick has macular degeneration.

Mary Beth Wing is recovering from an eye injury.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



*Merry
Christmas*



Please indicate
Address corrections

Information at www.chha.net

CHHA 2020 Scholars

CHHA Scholarship recipient, Sydney Trotto, is a nursing student at James Madison University. Sydney comes from a mid-Atlantic harness racing family and helps around the barn when she is home. The scholarship committee was really impressed with her many mission and ministry activities.

Sydney says in her essay, "I was raised in the Methodist Church, but it wasn't until I went to Camp Highroad in the summer before fifth grade that my faith really took off. [...] I had counselors that I looked up to and were role models for faith and daily living. I then started to be more involved in my church by going to youth group and Sunday School.

I went on spring break mission trips through my church in middle school and high school. I started participating in the local trips that provided services and physical labor in the Northern Virginia and D.C communities.

My senior year I was able to go on a weeklong trip to Bogue Chitto, Mississippi. We were immersed into the Chocrow Native American Reservation. We visited and did crafts with the elders, restored parts of the local church, and put on a vacation bible school for the children in the community.

Finally, before my senior year of high school I was invited on a two-week long trip to Swaziland, Africa. My Godmother has been helping with a special needs school for 12 years. She provided tools and information to better their education style. I was able to teach the younger blind class for a few days."

I went to Camp Highroad every summer for seven years and then returned as a staff member. [...] I am now able to run daily bible studies for the groups. I am grateful for the opportunities the camp has given me to grow in my faith.

Sydney Trotto Continued on page 5



Foiled Again Posters Signed by Yannick Gingras

Bids are open

9 Foiled Again posters signed by Yannick Gingras have been donated to CHHA for a FUNDRAISER.

Posters are 16 x 24 sticky vinyl.

Great Gift Idea

Bid until Noon Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Posters will go to the 9 highest bids over \$100 and arrive before Christmas.

Bid instructions are on page 2. Please provide bid amount, name, address, email and phone number.

