



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

March 2021

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



*Chaplain Lee Alphen*

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For newsletter questions or  
ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
603-898-1927  
603-401-7271 (cell)

**Wanted**  
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### Claim Your Anchor! By Chaplain Lee Alphen

“Whoa! Look out! Here we come,” I shouted, galloping up the stretch at Rockingham Park, certain the ornery horse running away with me would pull my arms out of their sockets. Finally, I turned the horse into the paddock fence and breathed a sigh of relief.

Another time, I was racing past the three-quarter pole into the final turn in the pouring rain. Quint McKenny was on the inside yelling, “Stay away from me.” Driving with your glasses muddled up and stone dust bullets hitting you in the face while gripping wet leather lines with sopping wet gloves is not for the faint of heart. Have you ever had a scare with the horses?

“When the disciples saw [Jesus] walking on the water, they were terrified. ‘It’s a ghost,’ they said, and cried out in fear” (Matthew 14:26 NIV). Come on now, don’t be too hard on the disciples. We all would have been frightened too!

“God cannot lie when he says something, and he cannot lie when he makes an oath. So, these two things are a great help to us who have come to God for safety. They encourage us to hold on to the hope that is ours. This hope is like an anchor for us. It is strong and sure and keeps us safe” (Hebrews 6:18-19 ERV).

Boats were widely used for fishing and travel in Bible times. Sailors dropped anchors to secure their boats when they reached shore and also during heavy storms at sea.

The early Christian church held the anchor as a symbol of hope. In fact, it was widely used as a symbol by Christians to identify other Christians during the Roman persecution and

through the end of the first century. Christian tombstones were often marked with an anchor and anchors adorned Christian jewelry much like the cross does today. Christ is the anchor of Christians. As such, He assures our safety.

What do we fear today? Paul said, “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love God” (Romans 8:28 NIV). Do we believe this? In 1932 the United States was well into the depression. President Franklin D. Roosevelt said in his inaugural address, “We have nothing to fear but fear itself.” In closing he asked God’s blessing on each American and God’s guidance for himself.



Moses sent spies to scout out the promised land. They came back and showed Moses and the people some of the fruit of the land saying, “It does flow with milk and honey” (Numbers 13:27 NIV). However, some of the scouts said it, “is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like

**Anchor continued from page 1**

grasshoppers" (Numbers 13:32-33 NKJV).

Joshua and Caleb were among the scouts and insisted, "The land that we saw is very good. It is a land filled with many good things. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land. And he will give that land to us. So, don't turn against the Lord! Don't be afraid of the people in that land. We can defeat them. They have no protection, nothing to keep them safe. But we have the Lord with us, so don't be afraid!" (Numbers 14:6-9 ERV).

The people chose to stone Joshua and Caleb. God was not happy and denied the naysayers entrance to the promised land (Numbers 14:22). Because of Joshua's faithfulness, God chose him to lead the charge to defeat the giants and claim the promised land (Joshua 1:1-9).

Sure, we sometimes have the wind knocked out of our sails both on and off the track. And, yes, we are living in trying times with the pandemic, riots, financial challenges and on the political stage. Let's step back and remember God's promises. Jesus is our anchor to hold us in place amid the turmoil.

Things are not always as they appear. For those who love God, and are called according to God's purpose, God brings good from all things (Romans 8:28).

Take heart, "If God is for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31 NIV)? "We are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37 NIV). "Be not afraid" (Isaiah 41:10 NIV). Have faith. Claim God as your anchor.

**Obituaries**

**Beverly Crane** died Feb 2 in Scottsdale, AZ. She was previously married to Roger Hammer and worked in Harness Racing for many years with her father Jim Crane and her husband Roger. Beverly was CHHA member Dennis Crane's sister.

**Eugene "Gene" L. Denney**, 83, of Rome, NY, died Jan 5. Gene retired as a lineman from IBEW #1249 and as a civilian worker from the United States Government. He was a horseman at Vernon Downs and a lifetime member of the Freemasons.



**Normand Dessureault**, 72, of Pompano Beach, FL, died Jan 28. Normand, a native of Ayers Cliff, Quebec, enjoyed a successful career in harness racing that spanned close to a half century. Wally Hennessey reflected on his career and character saying, "He was admired by all of us, not only as a horseman, but as a true gentleman...just a wonderful guy." Normand was a faithful CHHA member.



**Richard Thomas Di Domenico**, 75, died. Richard retired from the Union Pacific Railroad after many years of service. He was also involved with his son, Scott, in their Standardbred business, Triple D Stables.

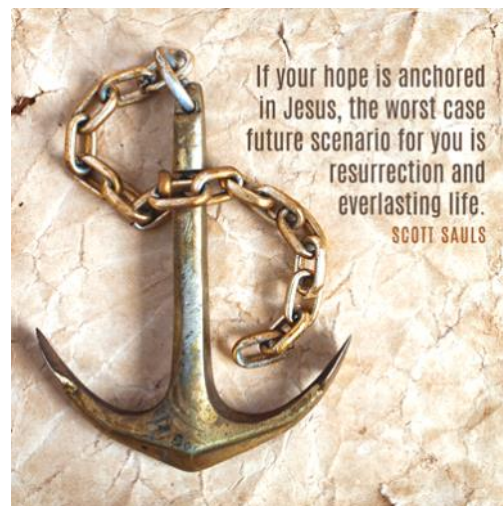
**Gary Ellis**, 74, of Fairfield, IL, died Jan 29. He was a retired school teacher. He was instrumental in starting the grade school Buzzard Bait Campout. Gary was a member of the Zion United Methodist Church and

**Blessings from God**

*From Nancy Lisi...*

Nancy received this from her oncologist: Hi Nancy, I just received your Oncotype which was a score of 0. This is great news because the lower the score, the less there is any benefit to chemotherapy. You still need to discuss with Dr Rodriguez at your upcoming appointment. Have a great New Year.

Nancy says, "Measures chance of recurrence – Everyone is generally grateful for a score of 15 out of 100. Praise God. Love you all, Nancy



CHHA member, Brenda Watson's, brother.

**Hans Enggren**, 91, of the Gettysburg, PA area, formerly of Sweden, died recently. Hans was the owner of Yonkers Trot International winner, Resolve, and also the co-owner of 1985 Hambletonian winner, Prakas. He was a successful breeder under the banner of Meadowbranch Farm. His success in the tourism industry allowed him to invest in some very good trotters included his latest pride and joy, Resolve.

**Richard Arthur Frank, DVM**, 81, died Jan 24. Doc Frank was an equine veterinarian. Most of his career, he was dedicated to serving the needs of the horse owners and trainers at the Saratoga Harness Track and surrounding area for more than 50 years. He was inducted into the Saratoga Harness Racing Hall of Fame & Museum in 2015.

**Susie Helfrich**, 99, of Washington Court House, OH, died Jan 2. Susie and her husband, Neil Helfrich, were quite involved in harness racing for many years racing under the Su Ne Rich Stable name. They traveled to watch their horses race at Brandywine Raceway and Roosevelt with Herve Filion as their main driver.

**Obituaries continued on page 4**  
**Sources for Obituary information include:**

[www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com) [www.harnessracing.com](http://www.harnessracing.com)  
[www.standardbredcanada.ca](http://www.standardbredcanada.ca)

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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



Rambling Willie Remembers

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.

#### Foiled Again Posters Signed by Yannick Gingras

Posters are 16 x 24 sticky vinyl.



Suggested donation \$20 each Qty \_\_\_\_\_

### Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

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Necklace Qty: Red \_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_ Gold \_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_ Fuschia \_\_\_

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

Other colors are available upon request.

Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form  
Orders can also be placed at [www.chha.net/products](http://www.chha.net/products)





## Obituaries continued from page 2

**Keith E. Jackson**, 62, died Jan 2. Keith retired from his career at Perdue Farms Inc. in 1988. He then pursued his dream job of training Standardbreds. He raced primarily raced in Delaware and Maryland. As a young man he respected his elders and learned a lot from their wisdom. On many occasions he would carry an elderly man to Ocean Downs for a night out watching the horse races.



**Robert J. Key**, died Jan 27. He was one of the Standardbred sports most influential breeders. Robert was a practicing attorney who first became involved in harness racing in 1983. In addition to breeding and racing Standardbreds, he founded and served as president of Key Bellevilles, Inc. "Not many have been involved with greater dedication, or with as much success," said Rob Key of his father's legacy in harness racing. "I don't think many realize the impact he has had through racing, breeding and supporting the sport, sometimes quietly but strongly." Rob Key said there are presently about 80 mares at Winning Key Farm, many horses in training and Winning Key Farm will continue.



**Mr Bev Kingston**, 76, died Jan 18. "Mr. Bev," as he was affectionately called, was a native of Owen Sound, Ontario and campaigned at several tracks throughout North America. His career spanned a half-century and, though he never had a very large stable, he was known throughout the industry as a very competent horseman and gentleman.

**James A. Koran**, 84, died Jan 27. After serving in the US Army, James began a 24 year career with the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department. After retirement, he became Fire Chief of Brimfield Township, Ohio. Jim bought a racehorse in the 1980s and for the next 30-plus years. He enjoyed the competitiveness of the sport, and the comradery of his fellow owners, trainers, grooms, drivers and all the people who made the track a special place.

**Robert "Bob" Frank Larkey**, 76, of Maquoketa, IA, died Dec 18. Bob and his wife, Myrna, founded Maquoketa Livestock Sales in 1980 and built a legacy in the livestock sales industry for the next 40 years. Along with his lifelong passions of raising cattle and farming, Bob enjoyed watching his Standardbred horses train and race.

**Patrick J. McCrea**, 75, died Dec 5. Patrick was a longtime owner of a family grocery store. He and his wife Patsy were successful owners of numerous racehorses over the years. His late son, Patrick, was his trainer and driver for a while. Once two horses won on the same day. He credited that to a miraculous medal being held at the finish line by his mother. He was a devout Catholic. He spent 41 years at the Alice Costello School in Brooklawn teaching 8th grade science.



**Shirley Anne Nelson**, 88, of Truro, Nova Scotia, died Jan 11. After raising her children, Shirley spent many years as an insurance adjuster. In 1977, she and her husband, Gerry, moved to California to follow Gerry's love of training and racing the horses. She worked in the office of the Joe O'Brien Stable. Later they moved to Florida where she worked as office manager for the Archie McNeil Stable and the Ron Waples Stable. She also kept busy with The United Methodist Church in Margate,



Florida. Her faith was a great part of her life.

**John "Tate" Pitrello**, 72, died Jan 14. He was a baseball coach at Ray Lee, spent eight years as city alderman and 21 years as a police board member. He most recently worked as a judge for the New York State Racing and Wagering Board.



**Kenneth Roebuck**, 86, of Urbana, OH, died Jan 9. Kenneth was a member of the Grace Mutual United Methodist Church. He was involved with Standardbred racing for more than 65 years and retired from Reiter Dairy in 1998. He loved spending time with family and friends at the Champaign County Fairgrounds and enjoyed vacationing in his native Canada.



**Edna Mae (Gingerich) Schrock**, 76, of Arthur, IL, died Jan 20. Edna's husband, Levi, and son, Kenneth, owned and bred Standardbreds. Edna Mae was a member of the Old Order Amish Faith.

**Patricia Ellen (James) Waddell-Snodgrass**, 77, of Philippi, WV, died Dec 30. She trained a small stable of horses in western New York and was pivotal in publicity for the Canadian Trotting Association. She was always highly regarded in the Standardbred community as well as the West Virginia Miniature Horse Club.



**Fred Street**, 83, of Columbus, OH, died Jan 20. Fred was a Standardbred horse owner, trainer and driver for 30 years. He was also a business owner.



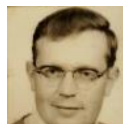
**Willard James "Bill" Taylor II**, 80, of Chillicothe, OH, died Dec 31. Bill retired as the former owner/operator of Taylor's Stag Bar. He also retired as a foreman from Approve Roofing. Bill finished his wife's term on Chillicothe City Council and was elected to four additional terms. He was a professional bowler and owned and trained Standardbred horses under the name of Stag Stables.



**John Joseph Wiley**, 91, of Richwood, OH, died Oct 25. John was a farmer but also worked in real estate and owned and bred harness horses. He served on the board of directors at The Richwood Banking Company, was a Claiborne Township trustee and a member of the Richwood First United Methodist Church.



**Fred Erwin Zanolli**, 92, of Meadow Lands, PA, died Jan 16. Fred was a horseman at a Meadow Lands farm, breeding, delivering foals and training yearlings for harness racing. He was a charter member of the Chartiers Houston Fire Department and Bears Club. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and attended Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church.



**Clayton Smith**, 100, of Yarmouth, ME, died Jan 25. After serving in the US Army during WWII, he and his wife, Marjorie, bought a farm in Yarmouth, ME. He taught at Deering High School before embarking on a career in harness racing. He began as an announcer at the Cumberland, ME Fair and then became a full-time harness racing official at tracks along the East Coast. He also owned harness horses trained by Donnie Richards.



## Scholarships

CHHA will be awarding two scholarships for the 2021/2022 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 April 30.**



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

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky, Melinda Bailey  
 In memory of **Barry Conrad** by: Pastor Joe DiDonato, CHHA The Meadows  
 In memory of **Don Dean** by: Pastor Joe DiDonato, CHHA The Meadows  
 In memory of **Vivian Farrington** by: Jim and Judy Furguson  
 In memory of **George Harp** by: Terry Harp  
 In memory of **Warren Harp** by: Terry Harp  
 In memory of **John and Madeline Long** by: Matt Long  
 In memory of **Bill Taylor II** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

**There is nothing more important than  
Your Eternal Salvation**

Kirk Cameron

## 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, Thomas Daniel, 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, 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, Rick Beinhauer, 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, Winnie Kaminga, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Barbara Kinsey, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Art Lisi, Jr, 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, Frank Profaci, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, 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:**

Omar Aracena has a renal artery aneurysm.  
 Leigh Fitch is recovering from a stroke.  
 Meghan McKee is in a clinical trial for a spinal tumor.  
 Lance Reynolds has inoperable throat cancer.  
 Peter Reynolds has some medical issues.  
 Francis Shasteen has a 2-inch kidney stone.  
 Carol Tebo has been fighting respiratory issues.  
 Daniel Truitt is going through a difficult time.  
 Let's keep praying for everyone with COVID-19.

157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

## Hand God the Lines

*By Terry Harp*

In 2018 I claimed back a horse that was claimed from my husband. He doesn't believe in claiming back. Having my own trainers license I claimed him. I had a feeling he was a useful addition to the stable.

Taking him back to the barn I noticed his breathing, so the next day I started him on a breathing feed supplement. He was 3rd the first start and 2nd the following week.

The following day I received a call from my dad wanting me to come home and care for him in his final

days. I prayed for guidance. That night the answer from God was to go home and care for my dad.

Handing God the lines was for the best. Over the last 2 years he has blessed me in many ways for my obedience.

I believe if we listen to God like we do our horses we will be blessed. Following where God leads us is always the right choice. One last thought, don't just take your troubles to God, always remember to thank Him for the blessings he gives us all.



## CHHA Scholars

*From Sydney Trotto*

Despite not being able to adhere to a normal class schedule this year, the James Madison University, (JMU), School of Nursing, was able to continue labs and clinicals in person for the semester. I am truly enjoying all that I am learning in my classes and labs. We have learned the basics of nursing, such as hygiene, medication administration, and mobility. I would normally be having clinical every Friday, but due to COVID, I will be having 3 (long) days of clinical in November at the nearby hospital. While this was upsetting at first, I am excited to hone my skills more before caring for patients.

Classes are going well, and I have met some amazing friends. While nursing can be hard at times, they make it so much easier. I am blessed with the opportunities that the school of nursing and other JMU organizations have given me. I am currently applying for a study abroad for summer 2021! My Intervarsity small group has pushed me in my faith and my nursing friends even invite me to attend church with them. Overall, this year has gone well



so far, and I am excited to see where it leads.

*From Meadow Twaddle*

Hello! So far I have really enjoyed my college experience. I am currently commuting for the semester because Washington & Jefferson College, (W&J), has some strict rules set in place. I figured staying home this semester would be best until things could get a little better.

Being a Biology major definitely has its hardships, but I've enjoyed everything so far! I spend a lot of time studying, but I have the time to do it because of my schedule. So it all works out.

I'm excited to see what next semester has in store as the end of the first semester is quickly approaching. I have joined many clubs and am excited to meet new people and find what truly interests me.

I want to thank you again for awarding me with this scholarship! It has truly helped me and my family out financially. I appreciate it very much.



**Scholarship applications are due April 30.  
See Page 5.**