



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

August 2021

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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ideas please contact:

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Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

**THE HEART OF
PRAYER**
IS NOT GETTING THINGS
FROM GOD BUT
GETTING GOD.
DAVID MATHIS

Blinded

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

It's fascinating to watch Thoroughbreds being loaded in the starting gate during schooling hours. Sometimes even with four big, burly starters pushing and lifting, a horse still won't go in. You may have had trouble loading horses into a trailer. Both often take time and patience and sometimes a few props. I've seen trainers put a towel over the horse's head and then more easily lead them into the trailer or gate. On the track some horses race better with blinders, shadow rolls, murphy blinds and closed bridles.

When Moses returned from meeting God on Mount Sinai, his face was radiant from being in God's presence. In fact, his face was so radiant that he covered it with a veil so as not to frighten the people (Exodus 34:29-35).

Every time Moses came out from meeting with God, his face glowed. The Israelites were afraid because Moses' face was so bright. To help the people focus on the message from God, Moses began covering his face with a veil before he went to speak to them (Exodus 34:35).

Some horses are afraid of shadows, puddles, the activity in the grandstand and other horses coming up beside them, so we put equipment on them. This keeps them focused on the enjoyment of running the race.

The Israelites were afraid of breaking God's law. They refer to The Torah, the first five books of the Bible, as the Law of Moses. It contains 613 commandments based on God's Ten Commandments. These rules spell out in great detail what the religious leaders thought was needed to be done

to avoid sin.

It could be that we sometimes don't want to do what we know God wants. Maybe we forget God has our best interest at heart. Or, at times, we are afraid God is not happy with us and try to hide from Him.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians that "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

While Jesus was here, He continuously showed us that the way to God was through love. In fact, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Jesus destroyed the veil separating the people from God. Instead, He gave us His Holy Spirit to help us to develop great relationships with God. We no longer need to fear being in the presence of God. As our relationships with God grow, we learn to focus on what God wants out of love more than the fear of breaking the law or punishment.

If a horse learns to focus on the race without being distracted, they may be able to race without the extra equipment on their head. It is a blessing when a problem horse will follow another horse right into the trailer. It is an even bigger blessing when a sister or brother follows a Christian right into a relationship with Jesus Christ. When we live our lives in close relationship with the Lord, we set a good example for those around us.

Let's take our blinders off and focus on enjoying our relationships with God.

Psalm 34:1, 4

I will bless the Lord at all times;
 his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
 I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
 and delivered me from all my fears.



Blessings from God

From Nancy Lisi...

Please tell your prayer warriors that the prayers have worked and I am getting through recovery very well. Radiation knocked me down, but I am recovering from that also! Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

From Chris McKee...

June update: Meagan’s MRI showed more shrinkage. From 5 cubic cm to 4 cubic cm. We go back for the 4th infusion June 28th. The tumor is now only 1/3 the size it was before the infusions. They will now start working on the core. Let’s pray it evaporates and disappears.

From Linda Moyer...

All went well with my surgery. The doctor told Tom it was tricky but that he got it all. God is good. I am sore, but I know He is with me and will be with me the rest of this journey. And I also know those special angels are here with me as well. I can’t begin to tell you what all of the prayers going up for me has meant to me. You all are a true blessing to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. God Bless you all. Linda.

From Roger Smith...

Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. All positive thus far. My scan last week showed no new growth. Tonight I start a five-day Chemotherapy (double dose) protocol and hope like the last time I have no reaction. Next MRI is August and if clean I may well be the Presiding Judge at Fryeburg Fair which will make my 50th year plus or minus watching the fair grow. God bless all the members of CHHA. Prayers are much appreciated. God bless us all, Roger



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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
- In memory of **Dan Ater** by: Gerald and Cecilia Murkerson, Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Jack Baggitt, Jr** by: Bob and Christine Baggitt
- In memory of **Thomas Burke** by: Tara Burke
- In memory of **Jeff Cox** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association
- In memory of **Lloyd Dalton** by: Marilyn and Carthel Daulton
- In memory of **Dick Finfrock** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Assoc.
- In memory of **Harold Kelly** by: Linda and Thomas Moyer
- In memory of **Terry Lee Kibler** by: Betsy A Brown
- In memory of **Weldon Stockwell** by: Rich and Sandy Thorstenson
- In memory of **Walter Warrington** by: Steven Warrington
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Lynne Myers

Lynne is a very welcome addition to our CHHA Scholarship Committee. She is a wonderful and talented Christian woman. Lynne was a real blessing to CHHA in her role as Marketing Director at the Horsemen Publishing Company.



It was hard to say goodbye to Horsemen. However, we are delighted Lynne is on board and we are happy that Kathy Parker is at the USTA with Hoof Beats.

Jeff Gural

Life has been difficult for people everywhere since the COVID lockdown began. According to www.broadwayworld.com, as the New York City theatre district opens back up, Jeff Gural is working with his tenants at two Ninth Avenue restaurants to “make sure the arts community stays well fed.” From nine until close Sunday through Thursday this summer, Jeff will foot the bill for the actors’ union members’ meals.



Jeff is to be commended for his many generous contributions to the harness racing community over the years as well.

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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

CHHA Hat

Books

Power in Praise by Merlin Carothers

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____

Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form
Orders can also be placed at www.chha.net/products

Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:
Roger Huston · 2249 Grey Oaks · Grove City, OH 43123

Necklace Qty: Red ___ Blue ___ Turquoise ___ Gold ___ Silver ___ Fuschia ___
Keyring Qty: Red ___ Blue ___ Turquoise ___ Silver ___

Other colors are available upon request.



Obituaries continued from page 5

John Arthur Emonin, 73, of Marion, IA, died April 19. John retired from Fairfield International, Inc. He, his wife, Emily, and parents-in-law were part owners in Midwest Speed Sale Company selling Standardbred horses and horse tack. John's first love was his family. His second love included antique farm equipment and World War II history. He and Emily also loved to travel.



Arthur Jewell Erford, 89, of Hamler, OH, died May 15.

Arthur lived his whole life on the farm in Hamler. He owned and bred Standardbreds since 1962, frequently naming them for children and grandchildren. He and his wife, Mary, followed their Erford Stables horses, attending races throughout the Midwest.



He served his country, his community and was devoted to his wife and family. He loved dancing and singing, frequently breaking into spontaneous song. Arthur was a member of St Paul's Disciples of Christ.

Richard L. "Dick" Finfrock, 79, of New Carlisle, OH, died May 28. Dick was an entrepreneur

at heart, founding and operating several local businesses. His passion was his horses and harness racing. His strong work ethic was a legacy he proudly passed on to his children. He was baptized at Asbury United Methodist Church, where he also taught Sunday School. Later he and his family attended Home Road Nazarene.



He took pride in serving his local community and had served as the Mayor of Lawrenceville.

D'Vita L. Franklin, 68, of Xenia, OH, died June 4. D'Vita

worked briefly for the Morris Bean Company before devoting her career to owning and training Standardbred horses. She worked closely with her dad (Robert Peterson), uncle (Michael Peterson), friend and associate (Sam "Chip" Noble), and last but not least her husband of 37 years, Jack Franklin. She was a lifetime and



active member of St. Paul AME Church, Cedarville, Ohio. D'Vita loved her family and was a devoted friend and foster parent to several teens and infants.

Timothy "Tim" Hall, 67, of Flint Township, MI, died June 4. Tim was a longtime breeder and owner of Standardbreds. He owned Genesee Valley Aviation and later became a partner with Flint Air Service. He was a police officer at Bishop Airport in Flint. "Tim was a friend to everybody," remembered Brad Kramer with whom he



owned Ben's Riverdance. "If his horse didn't win the race he was the first to congratulate the other owners. He just loved the game."

Eleanor Rose Poore, 80, of Carmi, IL, died June 18. Rose attended Ashland Christian Church near Mill Shoals, IL and was the secretary at First Christian Church in Carmi. She travelled around and was a speaker at various church secretary organization conferences. Rose owned harness horses with her husband, Harold. For 42 years, she was the secretary and treasurer of the Egyptian Colt Stakes.



Meredith A Roegner, 34, of Crosswell, MI, died June 20.

Meredith worked in the home healthcare industry. She was also a waitress and a racehorse groom. She was awarded Horse Groomer of the Year in 2008. She had a heart of gold and would do anything to help anyone. She loved spending time with her daughter, Anna, family, and friends.



Charles E. Stevens, 69, of Washington Court House, OH, died June 10. Charles owned and bred Standardbreds since the mid-80s. He was a lifelong auto salesman and sales manager, known as "the round man with the square deal." Charles was a very active member of numerous lodges and churches in Fayette County throughout the years and a current member of The Gathering Place.

Richard Wawrin, 79, of Wrightstown, NJ, died June 12. Richard owned several businesses first in partnership with his brother, Jack, and later with his wife, Betsy. In 1981 they started Busy B Stables and raced several tracks on the east coast. They both enjoyed their many horses and training farms.

Ben Webster, 81, died June 7. Ben, a third-generation horseman, began his 47 year racing career under the eye of his father, Faye. He

represented the United States in International Racing Competitions and spent years traveling the sire stakes race circuits.

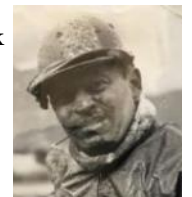
Having his two sons follow in his footsteps was one of his greatest joys. Ben always wanted to help the little guy having been there himself. His respect for not only his fellow drivers and trainers went even more so to the grooms that cared deeply and exhaustingly for the animals.



John (Jack) Williams Jr, 91, of Seal Beach, CA, died

June 19. After working for his father, Jack Williams, Sr, and driving his first win, Jack served as second trainer for Joe O'Brien.

Later, with his own public stable, he drove on the California circuit, in the Midwest and the East. After retiring as a trainer-driver, Jack became a well-respected Steward in the State of California for the Standardbred, Thoroughbred and Quarter horse racing industries.



Obituaries

Clyde M. Burks, 85, of Rural Sycamore, OH, died June 8. Clyde worked as a plumber, pipefitter and welder. He raced and trained Standardbreds for more than 30 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing golf, painting pictures and baking his famous blackberry pies.



James P. Buscarini, 56, died June 6. James was a longtime Illinois horseman. He owned, trained and drove harness horses.



Marvin "Ike" A. Conkright, 92, of Continental, OH, died June 21. Ike, a faithful member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, worked as a Metallurgist for General Motors for more than 45 years. He owned and trained harness horses. He was a Putnam County Special Deputy, Boy Scout Leader and a member of many sports, veterans and church organizations.

Harold Dean Debolt, 77, of Iuka, IL, died June 23. Harold was an engineer for most of his working career. He retired from B&L Machine & Design. He was an avid

outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing and was a harness horse racing fan and owner.

Lloyd Glenn Daulton, 88, of Nancy, KY, died November 18, 2016. Lloyd was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a revered retired harness horseman. Lloyd was a member of White Oak Baptist Church.



Anne Charles Doolin, 61, of Lexington, KY, died June 19. Anne's writing skills gained her a career in public relations and track promotions at the Meadowlands, Scioto Downs and the Red Mile. Later, she wrote free-lance articles for various equine publications until her passing. During the last twenty years of her life, Anne was an activist in animal rescue and care. She received the January Davies Humanitarian Award from the United States Harness Writers Association for her good works.



Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

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, 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, Joe Crothers, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Cohen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, 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, Linda Moyer, 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, Roger Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, Fred Ward, Sr, Roland Wardel, Kate Williams, John Wing, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Arcena, Ken Bartels, Rick Beinhauer, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, 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, Don James, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, 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, Del Richards, 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, Charles Weiss, 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:

Yves Breton has dialysis 3 times a week.
Georgianna Brocco was just diagnosed with cancer.
Karen Carter tested positive for COVID.
Diane Hugel is recovering from heart by-pass surgery.
Jimmy Larente had a mild stroke.
Charlotte Truitt, 88, has sepsis, diabetes and dementia. She says she is ready to go home to the Lord.
Dick Vondenhuevel is recovering from COVID.
Please pray for the safety of member, Brenda Tippin, all fire tower staff and for an uneventful fire season.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

CHHA Scholars

Our Scholarship Committee met June 25th to review the applications submitted by six fine Christian students for the two scholarships we have available this year. All of them are very much involved in harness racing. It was very difficult to chose.

However, after applying our criteria which includes their faith statement, involvement in our sport, personal accomplishments, character and leadership qualities, aspirations and financial need, three students rose to the top.

Since all three young ladies scored pretty much the same, our CHHA Board of Directors voted to offer a third scholarship this year out of our general funds.



Sage Brocco was awarded a CHHA Scholarship to study Nursing at Northern Michigan University.



Aubrey Schwartz was awarded a CHHA Scholarship to continue her studies in Agriculture Education at Wilmington College.



Parker Steck was awarded a CHHA Scholarship to continue her studies in Nursing at Ashland University.



Jug Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Join us in the Hospitality tent across from the Log Cabin at 7:30 AM Wednesday, September 22nd for a **FREE** breakfast.

Breeder Jeff Stacy is sure to inspire us with another great message. Everyone enjoyed his country preaching style at our 2017 breakfast.



Jeff Stacy

Faith Hawes and the Truitt Family singers will help us praise the Lord with their angelic voices. Come enjoy a hearty meal and pray with us for good racing and the safety of everyone at the fairgrounds.



Left: The Truitt Family Singers

Watch for more about these fantastic students in future newsletters.