



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

August 2022

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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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



Photo by Annie Bordenkircher

The Goal Is the Hall of Fame

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Your colt dashes away from you, not wanting to be caught. Frolicking in the field with the other youngsters is too much fun, and he is the leader of the pack. Besides, he doesn't know your plans. This colt has a mind of his own.

So did Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab of Israel. Jezebel convinced Ahab to worship the pagan god, Baal. He built an altar and temple to honor Baal, leading the entire nation into the sin of idolatry, the worship of false gods.

Jezebel had God's prophets killed. The prophet Elijah feared for his life and was looking for a good place to hide. He went crying to God who sent him to confront Ahab. Elijah told Ahab that he was a servant of the God of Israel and that there would be a total drought for the next few years. He said it would rain again when, by the power of God, he commanded the rain to fall (1 Kings 17:1).

God sent the ravens to feed Elijah while he was hiding out by a brook. Then the brook dried up, and God sent him to a widow in Zarephath. When he arrived, he asked the woman for bread and water. She said there was only enough flour and oil for one more small meal for her and her son, and then they would die. Elijah told her not to worry and assured her that her flour and oil would last until the rains came. "So the woman did as Elijah asked, and God kept the promise Elijah made to her." (1 Kings 17:2, 8-16 NIV).

The widow's son became ill and eventually stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?" (1 Kings 17:17-18 NIV).

Elijah took the boy from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the Lord, "Lord my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!" (1Kings 17:19-21 NIV).

God listened to Elijah and miraculously the boy started breathing again. Elijah took him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!" The woman knew then that Elijah was sent by God and spoke the truth (1 Kings:22-24 NIV).

In the third year of the drought God instructed Elijah to tell King Ahab that there would soon be rain. The king called Elijah the troublemaker of Israel. Elijah reminded him that he and his family were the troublemakers who worshipped images of Baal instead of obeying God's commands (1 Kings 18:1-2, 17-18)

At Elijah's request the king gathered all the Israelites and the 450 prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. Elijah asked everyone, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him" (1 Kings 18: 21).

Elijah instructed the prophets of Baal to select a bull, cut it into pieces and lay it on the wood of their altar but not to set fire to it. Rather, they were to call on the name of their god. Then, when it was his turn, Elijah would do the same.

After the prophets prepared their sacrifice, they called on Baal for a good part of the day. Around noon, "Elijah began to taunt them. 'Shout louder!' he said. 'Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is

Goal cont. bottom of page 2

Blessings from God

From Chaplain Fabián Crespo

My daughter Karen ended up having a successful surgery. Praise God it was not Cancer! Thank you all for your prayers on our behalf."

From Lisa Schwartz...

Brendan Johnson is on the mend. His first stop was the barn. Picture



From Jake Huff...

Mindy got to ring the bell. Praise God 😊 That means she has completed her cancer treatments. Praise God!

For 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



Goal (continued from page 1)

deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.' So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention." (1 Kings 18:27-29 NIV).

Elijah then repaired the altar of the Lord and dug a trench around it large enough to hold about 24 pounds of seed. He arranged the wood, cut a bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to the people, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood" (1 Kings 18:32-33).

"Do it again,' he said, and they did it again. 'Do it a third time,' he ordered, and they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench" (1 Kings 18:34-35).

Then Elijah came forward and prayed, "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again" (1 Kings 18:36-37).

Then fire from God burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the soil and even the water. The people cried out, "The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God" (1 Kings 18:38-39).

Later Elijah said the rain was coming and sent the king on his way so he wouldn't get stuck in the mud. When Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done, she was not happy and planned to have him killed (1 Kings 19:1-2).

Elijah fled and hid in the wilderness. While he rested, God sent angels to feed him. They then sent him to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he spent the night in a cave (1 Kings 19:5-9).

God told him to stand out on the mountain to wait for Him. It sounds like it was a very scary night. A powerful wind tore the mountains apart, shattering the rocks. Then there was an earthquake followed by a fire. God wasn't in the wind, the earthquake or the fire. Finally Elijah heard a gentle whisper, prepared to meet the Lord, and left the cave. (1 Kings 19:11-13).

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" and, after listening to Elijah's concerns for his life, God gave him his next assignments (1 Kings 19:11-13). Elijah continued his faithful service to God.

Then, one day, fiery chariots and fiery horses showed up out of nowhere. They were magnificent messengers providing an incredible ride for Elijah straight to the glorious gates of heaven (2 Kings 2:11).



Your colt does not realize the exciting opportunities he has ahead of him at the track or that, if he does as you say, he may one day win many prestigious races, perhaps even the Hambletonian or the Little Brown Jug. He doesn't know that in a few years he could be inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

Jesus says to each one of us, "You are the salt of the earth. [...] You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). God has an important job for each of us. When we follow His plan, we will do mighty things in His name.

We may not think much of God's ideas and may not realize all the good we are accomplishing when we do as He asks. However, God depends on all of us. We are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). We are His hands and feet and mouth. With God as our trainer, let's run a great race, keep the faith and reach our goal, a spot in the greatest Hall of Fame there is, heaven (Hebrews 12:1).

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Gifts for Family and Friends

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

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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

Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines by Edmund R Gager

Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care by ER Gager and Bob "Dusty Rhodes"



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.



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



Obituaries continued from page 5

Melvin R Bartlett, 87, died June 18. After serving in the US Marine Corps, Melvin worked for Continental Baking. He learned about harness racing and Standardbreds from wife, Shirley's, family and became an owner, trainer and driver. His friend, CHHA member, Ernie Lowe, told me the Scarborough Race Secretary put together a race with his horse Rainey Night and a field of horses with other such names to make it fun.



Robert 'Bob' Carss, 85, of Ontario, died May 24. Bob grew up working on the family farm and played hockey competitively until his late 20s. He worked for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. After retiring, Bob focused on raising, training, racing and breeding Standardbred racehorses. Bob served as a director with the Ontario Harness Horse Association as well as Standardbred Canada.



Lynn Fortna, 71, of Hudson, OH, died May 24. Lynn was a Standardbred trainer and driver in the mid-Atlantic and upstate New York tracks. She learned the family business from her father, George, a well-known trainer-driver on the PA fair circuit and at tracks all over the East Coast. She served the industry in many positions, such as, patrol judge, paddock judge, assistant race secretary, stall superintendent and assistant GM. "My wife was the center of our universe, the anchor we thought would never give way. She exemplified the very best qualities that thrive and endure in the close-knit harness racing community. Lynn was born into it, cherished the people in it, and was grateful and proud to be part of it to her dying day" said her husband, Tom Aldrich.

Timothy Dale Heminger, 73, of Hawkinsville, GA, died May 29. Timothy raced Standardbreds for many years and was also a popular blacksmith. He enjoyed spending many winters in Hawkinsville both training and shoeing horses. He managed the Hawkinsville harness horse training facility for several years and then moved on to work as a supervisor of the water treatment plant for the City of Hawkinsville.



Thomas Kemp, 91, of Camden-Wyoming, DE, died May 29. Thomas drove a truck for many years for Wyoming-Millwork. In later years he trucked horses for many local owners and trainers. His true passion was training and owning race horses. He trained them himself until 2011.

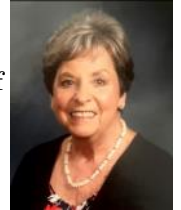
Jerry Michael Monahan, 82, of Lexington and Harrodsburg, KY, died May 31. Jerry worked at 18 different racetracks. He served as Vice-President and General Manager of Buffalo Raceway, Executive Vice-President and General Manager of the Lexington Trots Breeders Association (The Red Mile/Tattersalls) and Senior Vice-President of



Colonial Downs. He established a first-ever horse auction by way of satellite over the North American continent, allowing buyers to bid on horses from coast to coast.

Randy McCown, 63, died May 5. Randy, a USTA member since 2002, was the Farm Manager at Blue Moon Rising Standardbred Breeding Farm in upstate, NY.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Ann Price, 82, of Williamston, MI, died April 28. Jackie was the wife of lifelong harness racing enthusiast, participant and retired harness racing executive Donald R. Price. She worked as the banquet manager of Williamston's Seahawk Restaurant and later as a bookkeeper at Crampton Realty. She was a woman of great faith, a devoted Catholic, and parishioner at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Williamston.



David Robbins, 72, of Windsor, NH, died May 20. Dave was a prominent blacksmith at Rockingham, Foxboro, Pompano, the Meadowlands and Pocono (as was his father). He also trained and drove harness horses. Dave had many friends in harness racing, especially in New England. Dave is survived by his wife, Wendy.

Ronald "Ron" Frank Sobczak, 75, of Oregon, OH, died June 15. Ron was a Longtime Raceway Park track announcer. He started his career as a DJ in Lima, Ohio, and then moved back to the Toledo area, where his voice could be heard on stations WOHO, WCWA, WMIM and WRQN. More recently, he served as the track announcer at Northville Downs from 2015 through 2021.



Paul Vance, 93, died May 30. Paul, born Joseph Paul Florio, was a world-renowned American songwriter, record producer and Standardbred harness racing owner. He was the co-writer of Catch A Falling Star, Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polkadot Bikini. His daughter, Paula Vance, said on her FaceBook page, "As sad as I am today, I have peace in knowing that in my Dad's last days and weeks of his life, he asked God to forgive him and said the sinners prayer with me more than once. His light went out yesterday but when I look up at the stars at night, I will always remember to catch a Falling Star and put it in my pocket and never let it fade away!"



Robert Werkheiser, 79, died June 10. Bob's interest in Standardbreds began as a teenager, and he ultimately trained and drove race horses at tracks from New York to Florida over a span of around 40 years. After retirement, he and his wife, Lisa, moved to Alabama, where they owned a farm and raised beef cattle. Bob was a veteran who served in the United States Army.

There is nothing more important than
Your Eternal Salvation

Kirk Cameron

Obituaries

Natale M. Luchento, 97, of Freehold, NJ, died June 8. Nat was a Marine Raider Sharp Shooter during World War II. He was awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded in battle for his bravery during combat. Natale was a part of the greatest generation who went to war without reservation, didn't look for handouts, worked hard and built this country into the greatest nation in the world. He worked alongside his son, Thomas, in the Standardbred Business- breaking and training horses and then later in life in the kitchen of Luchento's Country Italian Restaurant in Millstone, NJ.



Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.ustrotting.com, www.harnesslink.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, Dianne Boyken, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Joe Crothers, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Katie Folkins, Sarah Gehman, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Cody Greeno, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Jones, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Julie Kerr, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Tommy Long, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Meagan McKee, Nelson Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Dee Parsons, Misti Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Peter Reynolds, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, 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 Aracena, Ken Bartels, 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, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Anna Farley, Jim Ferguson, Scott



*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 **Bob Carss** by: Twila and Stephen Mahar
In memory of **Donnie Conrad** by: Roselea Conrad
In memory of **John Cross** by: Rich and Sandy Thorstenson
In memory of **Harold and Susan Kelley** by: Deborah and Jeff Tillia and Linda and Thomas Moore
In memory of **Wally McIlmurray** by: Clyde Harris
In memory of **Paul Polarra, Jr** by: Paul Polarra
In memory of **Paul Polarra, Sr** by: Paul Polarra
In memory of **Rose Travis** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Assoc.
In memory of **Pauline and Walter Warrington** by: Steven Warrington
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, 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, Dean Miller, Peg 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, Ryan Stahl, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Steve Warner, Reggie Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, Lucille Wick, 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, Chris Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Bob Jones has tongue cancer.

Gregory Lee requested your prayers.

Tommy Luchento has intestinal problems.

Meagan McKee continues the trial cancer program.

Melissa McKee's autoimmune "POTS" flared up.

John Morris is paralyzed and has other medical issues.

Chris Oakes and his family need prayer.

Lucille has some medical issues.

Coy Wiley was in a serious car accident.

John Wing is on Hospice.

Pray for everyone to grow in relationship with God.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Aubrey Schwartz Elected Ohio FAA President

Aubrey Schwartz, one of our CHHA scholars, was elected in May at the Ohio State FAA convention as President for the 2022/2023 year. Last year, she served as secretary. Ohio FAA used to be called Ohio Future Farmers of America.



Her grandmother, Lisa Schwartz, tells us that since harness racing is considered an agricultural industry, it's important to network with the young folks at FFA. We want to introduce them to harness racing if they have not already been exposed to it in their life.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, including brand ambassador Roger Huston, was at the Ohio FFA convention. In their booth they had all kinds of hands-on exhibits for the young folks to get their hands into the harness racing world. They even had a virtual reality setup where they could sit on a race bike and experience what it would be like to actually drive in a race.

Aubrey said in a Facebook post right after the convention. "I am grateful for everything that has been put in front of me. Grateful for an in-person convention with over 9,000 attendees. Grateful for team of 10 of my best friends. Grateful for a team of 10 new individuals who will get to experience what I have this past year. But most importantly, grateful for all of those who made this all possible."

Aubrey, CHHA prays your year will be everything you hoped for and more. Make God proud as you use the gifts He gave you.

You May think...

Author unknown

You may think that you are completely insignificant in this world. But someone drinks coffee from the favorite cup that you gave them. Someone heard a song on the radio that reminded them of you. Someone read the book that you recommended, and plunged headfirst into it.

Someone smiled after a hard day's work, because they remembered the joke that you told them today. Someone loves themselves a little bit more, because you gave them a compliment. Never think that you have no influence whatsoever. Your trace, which you leave behind with every good deed, cannot be erased.

Jug Prayer Breakfast Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Join us in the Hospitality tent across from the Log Cabin at 7:30 AM Wednesday, September 21st for a **FREE** breakfast.



Jeff Stacy

Breeder Jeff Stacy is sure to inspire us with another great message. Everyone enjoyed his country preaching in 2017.



Faith Hawes and the Truitt Family will help us praise the Lord with their angelic voices.

Come enjoy a meal and pray with us for good racing and the safety of everyone.

The Truitt Family Singers