



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2023

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
603-898-1927
603-401-7271 (cell)

Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles
Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
Or
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Come, Lord Jesus.
Revelation 22:20



Riding the White Horses

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Excitement builds when the starting gate opens, freeing the horses to fly down the track. Fans listen attentively as the announcer's calls guide them around the oval.

A beautiful white Art Major colt brought excitement to the 75th anniversary of the Harrisburg Sale in 2013. Congilose Racing and Peter Paul Venturini let Asa Sjoberg take White Bliss home to Sweden for a bid of \$240,000.

One day heaven will open revealing a rider on a white horse who is called Faithful and True. His robe will be dipped in blood. The armies of heaven will follow on white horses with clean white clothes. The rider is also called Word of God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:11, 13, 14, 15).

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God [...] Through Him all things were made" (John 1, 3 NIV). We know the Word is Jesus (John 1:14).

Jesus and His army have white horses signaling victory because Jesus has already won the war. Those who believe in Jesus, follow Him, and acknowledge Him as their God will be free to go with Him. The price has been paid.

The Jerome Biblical Commentary suggests the armies with Jesus are likely His called and chosen faithful followers. Perhaps we will recognize friends and relatives in this army. Are we ready and willing to ride into the battle against evil with Jesus on His white horses?

Jesus is called Faithful and True. According to Dr. Jeff Myers, in the past the battle was between seeking the

truth or believing our own truth. He contends that since the Truth already exists as Jesus, when people look for a different truth, they get confused and caught up in the evil of the world.

The followers of Jesus believed in Him as the Truth and changed the world for the better. Myers says, "It is Truth in Jesus that changes everything."

Will we recognize Jesus and be excited to see Him when He comes on His white horse? Or will we be caught up following the beast of the earth and the false prophet looking for truth where there are only falsehoods and lies?

If we want to visit the white horses in heaven's stables and maybe ride them in a celebratory lap with Jesus as He destroys evil, now is the time to develop good relationships with Him and to strive to keep His commandments. I'm sure none of us want to end up in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).

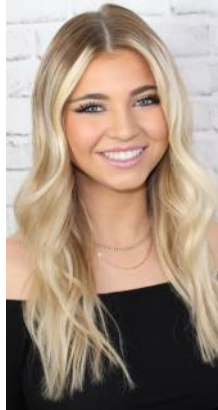
Perhaps when we think of the starting gate opening, we can think of heaven's gate opening and Jesus coming on His white horse for us. Let's be ready.



White Bliss in the Harrisburg Sales Ring

CHHA Scholars

Meadow Twaddle, our Rambling Willie Scholarship winner, has this to say, "I am very honored and humbled to receive this scholarship again! In August, I will be entering my final year at Washington and Jefferson College. I have earned my minor in Spanish and I am working to finish my bachelor's degree in Psychology. This upcoming semester, I will be completing an independent study under the supervision of one of my professors, Dr. Timothy Klitz.



"I will be studying consumer psychology and behaviors within the entertainment industry. I hope to use my research findings and work experience to land me a job in the harness racing industry, working to market and advocate for the sport." Meadow currently works under the Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association.

Meadow and her family are active members of the community at the Meadow's Chapel. She has led the children's church several times and says, "Seeing faith grow right before your eyes is something you do not forget." Even when college is in session, Meadow sets Sunday mornings aside to go to church with her family. She volunteers often to help Pastor Joe DiDonato with various activities.



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Larry Aker** by: Brad and Florence Wallace
 In memory of **Dottie Brinkerhoff** by: Brad and Florence Wallace
 In memory of **Tom Brinkerhoff** by: Brad and Florence Wallace
 In memory of **Lois Combs** by: Loren and Paul Combs
 In memory of **Tim Dempster** by: Shirley and David Dempster
 In memory of **Harper Finn** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **Sue and Harold Kelly** by: Linda and Thomas Moyer and Deborah and Jeff Tillia
 In memory of **Steven High** by: Kim Rinker
 In memory of **Charles Lane** by: Sam and Ellen Lilly, Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **Dr R.E. & Fran Mairs** by: Brad and Florence Wallace
 In memory of **Meagan McKee** by: Amy Bondon, Moira and Tom Fanning, CHHA—The Meadows, Pastor Joe DiDonatto
 In memory of **Chris "Chico" Rogers** by: Jo-Dee Brown
 In memory of **Tim Tetrick** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Assoc.
 In memory of **Bob Twaddle** by: CHHA—The Meadows, Pastor Joe
 In memory of **Cynthia Willis** by: Sam and Ellen Lilly
 In memory of **Waylon Winters** by: Kim Rinker
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Blessings from God

From Linda Condon...

Grandson Tyler Robert Condon was born today, Thursday 7/27/23.



From Chris Coyle...

The Lord blessed us with a beautiful baby girl named Sloane Willa Davis 5 lbs 2 oz, and she is home in New Canaan, CT. Georgia has been up there for a month and will probably stay up for another month to help daughter Carrie. Our oldest granddaughter, Cameron Elizabeth, 20 months, doing well, so no worries about any jealousy so far.



From Greg Gehman...

16 months ago Mike McLain suffered a severe brain injury from a fall on a construction site. We started praying for him when his prognosis was to be a vegetable. The following came from his Dad...

All prayers have been answered update for my son Michael. As of about a week ago with the hard work and dedication of his speech therapist's at Kessler, his sisters and I, Michael is actually talking. Yes you read that right he is actually talking, granted slowly and with very distinct enunciation, but you definitely understand him. He has told his mother he loves her on the phone. He has told me I love you dad multiple times, at my request of course, because you can never hear it too many times in total disbelief. I told him I have been in touch with a dealer who has a 7.3 diesel like his old truck with only 7,000 miles and I asked him do you think we should buy it. One of his responses is to vigorously raise his eyebrows like the Jeff Dunham puppet Achmed. I have him practicing saying, "I think we should buy it now." FYI I will close with this, when I asked him what would he say to the surgeon who said he would never walk or talk again his response (I can assure you it was) not thank you, one issue down one to go.

All this would not have been possible without the constant vigilance over the last sixteen months without the continued support and dedication of his sister Abbey and all of our prayer partners all over the country. God Bless you son, there's a lot of love for you out there. If I haven't told you I'm very very proud of your progress, love you son. 🙏🌸🙏

Don't tell me that prayer doesn't work!!!

From Teresa Hubbard Givens

Just a little update regarding my breast cancer diagnosis, I started chemo last Wednesday. Have 4 total treatments to complete. Chemotherapy is no joke, however, God will see me through this. It's in His hands, AMEN. Continued prayers requested. Thank you, praise God.

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Please activate my FREE membership. My address is on the back.

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Please pray for my intentions _____

Phone _____

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Please send my newsletter (circle below)
electronically in the mail both

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

Please return to: lecalphen@comcast.net

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157 North Main St.
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
- CHHA Hat
- Foiled Again Poster



Books

- Daily Oats* by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence
- 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
- 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

Jack Levine’s books are also available FREE as downloads at:
<https://www.jackalanlevine.com/ebooks>



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.



Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:
Roger Huston · 154 Vista Drive · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

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



Obituaries continued from page 5

Harper Finn, 5, of Altamont, IL, died August 2. Harper was the daughter of harness racing's Richard and Bethany Finn. Harper loved life. She was a brave and adventurous princess who adored all things pink, wearing dresses and painting her nails. She also enjoyed running and playing outside with her brother and cousins and jumping in bouncy houses. She loved to be read to and playing with her horses and other animals. She was looking forward to kindergarten. She especially loved being with her mom, dad, Lincoln and their three dogs, along with the rest of her family and friends.



William A. "Bill" Gilliland, 84, of Port Royal, PA, died Aug 9. Bill raised Standardbred horses at his Hickory Hill Farm in Port Royal. He was a Co-Owner of the former Leidy Chevrolet-Olds Car Dealership in Mifflintown; former Owner and Publisher of the Juniata Sentinel; former Owner of Juniata Printing; the former President of Swank-Fowler Publications. Bill was a member of the Port Royal United Methodist Church.

Sabrina Booth Hitchcock, 44, died Aug 5. Sabrina worked as a large animal vet technician at Dr Kurt Lutgens of Battenkill Equine for over 20 years. She was well respected by clients and her colleagues for her calmness under pressure and her work ethic. She was much loved in the Saratoga, NY area, especially at the harness racetrack where she cared for so many of the horses.

Cheryl Etta Holmen, 63, died July 31.

Cheryl worked with harness horses her whole life. She had great compassion for all living beings. Her infectious smile, sharp wit and intelligent humor kept everyone around her laughing.



Charles L Lane, 71, of Frankfort, OH, died Aug 7. Charles worked as a groom for the Ater Stables for a long time and owns some harness horses. He was also a farmer. He served in the US army during the Vietnam War and was active in several veteran's organizations. His son TC trains harness horses and serves as a presiding judge at the fairs.

Frank N. Mastrodonato, 64, of Rochester, NY, died Aug 3. Frank owned and trained harness horses. He was active in the Western NY Harness Horsemen's Association for many years.



Lewis R Miller, 92, of Pittsfield, NY, died Aug 10. Lewis owned, trained and bred harness horses. He purchased Blazing Dayan for \$600 from someone who had this horse pulling a manure spreader and turned him into a winner. He took over the family farm, increasing it to 100 milking cows. He was



active in livestock auctions and was an auctioneer at the New Holland Sales in Pennsylvania, and in Delaware, Ohio, Morrisville, and Sugar Creek. Lewis also raced ponies, dogs and cars and owned a snowmobile business.

James H. (Jimmy) Murray, 82, of Dover, DE, died July 20. Jimmy drove and trained race horses all over the eastern United States for over 50 years before retiring.



Elsie L. Romano, 90, of Barnegat, NJ, died Aug 5. Elsie and her husband, Anthony Sr, owned Standardbreds since 1980.

Early on she would volunteer to sit with the family horses receiving Lasix at the track. Elsie and Anthony Sr. enjoyed afternoons at the races. She enjoyed traveling, cooking, and hosting her family.



Jerrold "Jerry" Spitzberg, 83, died recently. Jerry owned many horses over the years with his longtime partner, Robert Cohen, under the name Ribbonsips. Together, they owned babies, older racehorses and broodmares including stakes winners. He loved Saturday mornings mingling with horsemen at the farm followed by afternoons sitting outside watching the races at Freehold.

Robert 'Bob' Twaddle, 96, of St Catherine's, Ontario, died Aug 1. Bob enjoyed owning some Standardbreds with his son Tim Twaddle who races at the Meadows. He was a lifelong fan of the sport, an avid golfer, played hockey at an elite level and pitched on the Brooklyn Dodger's farm team. Tim's daughters, Meadow and Lexi, received CHHA scholarships this year.

Donna P. Warner, 86, died Aug 5. Donna was a member of the founding family of Batavia Downs.

She became involved in the track in the 1980s. The family held complete ownership from 1984 – 1997. Donna enjoyed raising her children, nieces and nephews and watching them become involved in harness racing in all different aspects of the day-to-day operations.



Cynthia Kay Willis, 74, of Beecher, IL, died July 31. Cynthia owned over 200 Standardbreds in her life and also bred some. Her husband, Nelson, was a trainer and driver. She formerly owned the Water N Hole in Wilmington, Illinois.

Michael Reid Woodward, 77, died July 11. Michael bred and owned Standardbreds for many years. He held various leadership roles during his 35-year tenure with IDS, American Express Financial Advisors and retired as a Senior Vice President of Ameriprise Financial. At one time, he supervised half of the nation's financial advisors and field managers. He was dedicated to conservation efforts .

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.ustrotting.com, www.harnesslink.com and
www.Standardbredcanada.ca

Obituaries

Martha Nichols Brown, 85, of Hillsboro Beach, FL, died Aug 13. Martha owned and operated Dunroven Stud in Lexington, KY. Her parents, Harold and Katherine Nichols, owned and operated Walnut Hall Farm for many years. She was active in industry leadership positions, serving on the board of the USTA and several other industry boards. She was inducted into the Kentucky Harness Horsemen's Association Hall of Fame. Martha also bred Charolais cattle, was involved in the arts and taught school.



Robert "Papa Deck" Decker, 86, of Atwater, IL, died Aug 12. Since 1958, Robert has been training and driving Standardbreds. He owned and operated Decker Racing Stables in Atwater. His horses held numerous track records at many county fairs over his lifetime.

Anthony M. Domino, Jr, 78, of Middletown, DE, died Aug 5. Tony owned, trained, drove and bred harness horses throughout the Mid-Atlantic. He loved racing and caring for his horses, he was a true animal lover.

Obituaries continued on page 4

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, Dianne Boyken, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Mike Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Joe Crothers, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Barbara Dinning, Scott Dube, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Katie Folkins, Teresa Hubbard Givens, Holly Graffam, Pastor Bill Grant, Cody Greeno, Margaret Groce, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Audrey Henry, 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, Kim Maples, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Nelson Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Bob Montane, Lalya Mosley, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, 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, Brenda Tippin, Gary Tyron, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, Roland Wardel, Lucille Wick, Teresa Willabus, Kate Williams, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Ellen Beinhauer, Gary Bennett, John Berry, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Melisa Cino, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Anna Farley, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg



Gehman, Richie Gillock, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Kim Hankins, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, Joyce Hollingsworth, 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, Lowell Lockhart, Katherine Lonager, Ernie Lowell, Sharon Lowell, Tommy Luchento, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Dean Miller, Peg Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, John Morris, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Frank Profaci, Loyd Ranger, Del Richards, Donnie Richards, Denis Rogers, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Lynn Silver, Delma Smart, Rev Edward Smith, Madisyn Smith, Ryan Stahl, Caryn Stellino, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, Myra and Al Terwilliger, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, 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, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Betsy Krantz is being treated for colon cancer.
 Korwin Hinshaw had his hip replaced.
 Teresa Hubbard has begun chemo for breast cancer.
 Bob Jones is recovering from a stroke.
 Canada's John McMillan has a brain tumor.
 John McMullen has Parkinson's disease.
 Sharon Maharg had a major stroke.
 Paul Molnar has bladder cancer.
 Vincenzo Villante has congestive heart failure.
 Pray for the recovery of everyone struggling with addictions.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Plainridge Park Racecourse

Up and Coming New England Drivers

I found two fine young gentlemen sitting on the bench in the Plainridge Race Course paddock waiting for their horses. Their driving colors were very familiar.

Brett Beckwith designed his black, white and red colors to look similar to his father's, CHHA member Mark Beckwith, grandfather, Bert Beckwith and the rest of the Beckwith clan. Bert is still celebrated as a legend in New England harness racing. His other grandfather is Hall of Fame trainer, Jerry Silverman. Given Brett's racing performance since he was 18, the 20-year-old is in a good position to join the ranks of his ancestors.

Paddock Judge Greg Brewster sang Brett's praises calling him a polite, hardworking young man. I called Mark to tell him how impressed I was with Brett, and that he seemed to have the same work ethic and drive as his dad. Mark agreed saying he was very proud of Brett.

Kris Andersen was outfitted in a suit resembling his Uncle, CHHA member Ralph Andersen, and the rest of the Andersen clan's Red, Blue and White colors. Ralph was inducted into the New England Hall of Fame in 2021. Ralph came to find me in the paddock to tell me how proud he was of his nephew and his accomplishments.

Kris will graduate in December from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in accounting. His dad is an accountant. Kris said he would likely follow his dad with an accounting career and race horses on the side. His mother, Dale Andersen, owns and trains harness horses. This smart young man is very polite and has a good way about him that will serve him well with his business clients and also at the track.



Brett Beckwith and Kris Andersen

Big Aspirations

When I spotted Channa Gorton in the Plainridge paddock, she asked if I remembered her daughter, Kiana. She is a junior in high school now. The last time I saw Kiana she was a toddler, and I was assisting at her Baptism. By the way, I also assisted at her mother's baptism when she was a child.

Kiana is a bright young lady who has aspirations to be a veterinarian. We talked for quite a while about school and her plans for the future. She earns good grades, likes to study and works hard helping her mother in the barn. Perhaps we will see her treating horses and providing medical advice at our farms and racetracks in the future. I can say, "I knew you when."



Channa Gorton and Kiana Mass

CHHA Scholar

Meadow Twaddle is highlighted on page 2. Still to come: Lexi Twaddle.