



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

Apr 2024

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

Cashing Big Tickets

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Standing on the rail outside the winner's circle, you can't believe the fractions your longshot is posting. Surely, he's doomed. The driver never should have cut the mile, let alone maintain such a pace. Oh well, it was a longshot anyway. You thought he had a chance and, if you cashed a big ticket, you would have been able to buy that home you want.

The fellow on the middle cross died after shouting out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46 NIV). The skies darkened. There was a big earthquake. A few of the crucified's followers were there by his cross. Others watched from the distance. What was happening? They believed in this man. He was their hope (Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:40-41).

Rounding the upper turn, your horse is still hanging on but it is not looking good. Several horses are moving to the outside and gaining on you coming down the stretch. You are neck-in-neck, then nose-to-nose. It could be a dead heat. At least you would get something.

"The earth shook, the rocks split, and the tombs broke open. [...] When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified and exclaimed, 'Surely He was the Son of God!'" (Matthew 27:51-52, 54 NIV).

Wow! Your horse broke free and is flying! The photo finish flashes. You won!!!!

Three days later Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to the tomb and found it empty with an angel sitting by the open entrance. "The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know

that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said'" (Matthew 28:5-6 NIV). "The women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell His disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. [...] Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me'" (Matthew 28:8-10).

Perhaps you got a "hot tip" on the long shot that came through for you—this time. However, we know all too well that many times hot tips don't pan out—on the track or in life.

Jesus told his disciples three times that he would be killed and after three days he would rise again. He also told them that He was going to prepare a place for them where they would be with Him for all eternity. In fact, he included us in this promise too! (Matthew 17:22-23, John 14:2-3).

We read about this place God has ready for us in the Book of Revelation, "God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. [...] He said, "I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:3-4, 5 NIV).

Cashing a big ticket may help us to buy a house where we can live while we are alive here on earth. However, putting our faith in Jesus and His Resurrection will give us a home for all eternity in a beautiful place where everything is perfect. Jesus even has lots of horses (Revelation 11:11,14). We do well when we spend more time building a relationship with the Lord and

Cashing cont. top of page 2

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ideas please contact:

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Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

leealphen@comcast.net

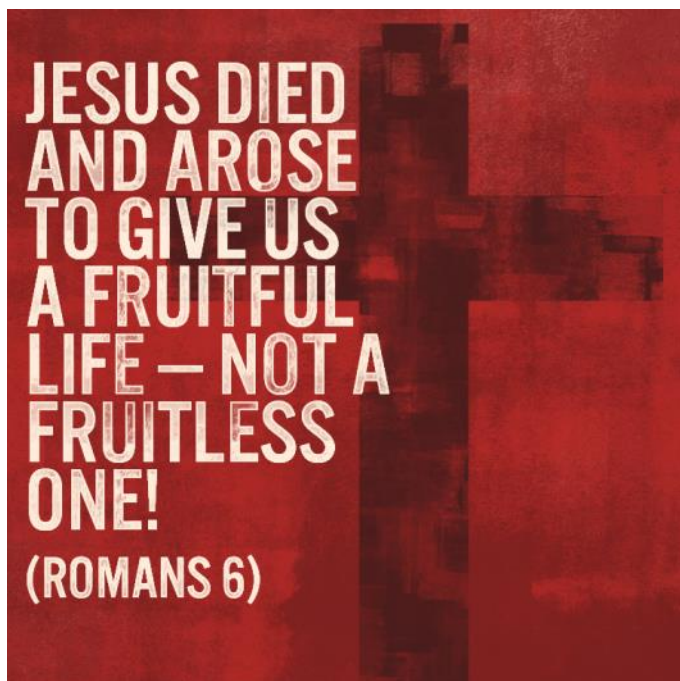
Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079



Cashing continued from page 1

preparing to spend forever with Him than on the pleasures of this passing world.
Let's cash our big tickets at the pearly gates of heaven.



Horse Racing Related Educational Opportunities

The Harness Horse Youth Foundation has a publication *Careers in Racing* available through their website at www.hhyf.org/careers.

Pre-Veterinary and other horse related programs
Lindsay Hagemeyer is now a veterinarian! She completed her Pre-Vet studies with help from CHHA Scholarships. Many colleges and universities offer pre-vet and other horse related programs.

University of Kentucky offered a one-day program to explore pre-vet programs at the Kentucky Horse Park this past February. Maybe they will have others. <https://news.ca.uky.edu/article/university-kentucky-host-inaugural-pre-veterinary-experience-day-feb-17>

Blacksmith programs

David Justice used his CHHA Scholarship to attend the Troy Price Horseshoeing School last year.

Matthew Hess used his 2016 scholarship to attend Oklahoma Horseshoeing School. If you search for Blacksmith programs will find lots of options.

Marketing

Blessings from God

From Brenda Jo Dennon...

Just a short note of thanks for the prayers and CHHA. God gave me my 76th birthday the 18th of February. I'm so blessed and grateful. I ate cake and ice cream like a kid – so good! By the time I talked to all my siblings, kids, grandkids, cousins and friends I was hoarse but still laughing. God has been very good to me. Sincerely, Brenda Jo Dennon.

From Greg Gehman while in the recovery room...

Thank you!!! Everything went well. My last words before I went under was "God Bless You All." I must have thought I was Tiny Tim.

From Cheri Stambaugh

I'm doing well so I know your prayer chain works!
Note: we prayed for Cheri when she had cancer. She was proclaimed well last fall. Praise God!

From Rich Wojcio...

My sister Denise continues to do well and is celebrating her 25th wedding anniversary today to her husband Layne. My Love and Prayers to all. Rich

Wanted

Praise Reports – Testimonies – Articles

They can be a few words or up to 350 words.

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net

Or 157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

CHHA scholar, Meadow Twaddle, wants to use her Washington and Jefferson College degree to market and advocate for harness racing.

Other

Alexis Schwartz received a CHHA Scholarship to study Equine Science at the University of Kentucky. Aubrey Schwartz is pursuing an Agricultural Education degree at Wilmington College. She has been very active in FFA (previously known as Future Farmers of America). She even served as the President.

Thoroughbred Educational Opportunities

Bob Holet suggested these great Thoroughbred options. Some of them could translate to Harness Racing.

Bluegrass Community College www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu/about/nara/

Godophil Flying Start Thoroughbred Leadership program <https://www.godolphinFlyingstart.com/>

University of Kentucky has some great programs that would likely apply to Standardbreds as well. <https://equine.ca.uky.edu/>

University of Arizona has a Racetrack Industry program www.rtip.arizona.edu.

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[To Donate Now—Click here](#)

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

- God Wants You Well* by Andrew Wommack **New**
- 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.

Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:

Roger Huston · 154 Vista Drive · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Necklace Qty: Red ___ Blue ___ Turquoise ___ Fuchsia ___ Green ___

Keyring Qty: Red ___ Blue ___ Other cross color _____

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



Obituaries continued from page 5

Michelle Mae Conard, 61, of Nicholasville, KY, died Jan 27. Michelle's husband, David Conrad, is a blacksmith in Lexington, KY. He also shod horses at Hoosier Park.



Owen Lawrence Julius, 81, of Millstone Township, NJ, died Feb 6. Owen shared a love of horses with his family by trail-riding and racing. He owned, trained and drove harness horses and also was a licensed Presiding Judge for the fairs. He served as board president of the Hawkeye Colt Stakes Association and was inducted into the Iowa Harness Hall of Fame.



Terry Lewis, 76, of Townsend, DE, died Jan 31. Terry enjoyed a long career training Standardbreds at Rosecroft Raceway. After a break to help help with her family in Saratoga Springs, she returned to Delaware where she cheered on her daughter, Diane, and her horses.



Michael A. Lotano, 85, of Glenville, NY, died Feb 6. Michael owned, trained and drove Standardbreds. Over the years, he worked at many independent pharmacies and regional chains, and he owned Albert's Drugs in Colonie, NY, from 1978 to 1988.



Charles E. Marsh Jr, 75, died Jan 29. Charles was a lifelong horseman who also spent time as a Rehoboth Beach Detective. He established his own stable at the family farm where he raised, trained and raced his horses. In 1992, he leased Angler's Restaurant on the Lewes Canal, which he renovated and operated successfully, and then sold to Irish Eyes.



Stanley W. Miller, 77, of Etna Green, IN, died Feb 1. Stanley was an accomplished Standardbred trainer. He owned 156 Standardbreds at the time of his death. He was a longtime faithful member of Fairview Mennonite Church.



John Roberts Reese, 73, of Corning, IA, died Jan 29. John was a well-known driver and trainer in Iowa. He was inducted into the Iowa Harness Horseman's Hall of Fame in 2009. His late father, Raymond, raced harness horses and his brother, Jim, still does. John earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Northwest Missouri State.



George Reider, 64, of Sacramento, CA, died Feb 15. George was a longtime Standardbred owner and trainer. His sister and brother-in-law, Colleen and Bob Rosen, got him into the business.

Howard Beau Ridenour, 94, of Waynesfield, OH, died Feb 3. Howard was the proud founder of Howard Starting Gates, which for many years, manufactured virtually all mobile starting gates around the world. Today his gates are in use at many tracks, including the Meadowlands. According to Dan Coon who worked as a starter along with this father and brother, Chuck and Greg, Howard "has had an enormous influence on the sport."



Guy Franklin Rion, 69, died Jan 25. Guy hit the road with the Standardbred industry's Grand Circuit after high school and worked for Glen Garnsey and Bill Popfinger. In the mid-1980s to early-1990s, he operated a successful stable of Standardbreds. In 1984 he embarked upon a successful career as a senior equine sales representative at Milburn Equine/Webster Veterinary/Patterson Companies.



Jerry Silverman, 88, of Lake Worth, FL, died Feb 5.

Jerry, while growing up in the Bronx, often looked for ways to sneak into Yonkers Raceway. Eventually he became an owner, trainer and driver of Standardbreds and at the age of 31 won the 1966 Pacing Triple Crown. He was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. In a 2019 *Hoof Beats* interview he said, "I just got lucky, that's all. All I can say is that I tried my best, did what I could. I was a little Bronx boy that had no experience, and luckily, I had the right people with me. That's basically it in a nutshell."



Sources for Obituary information include:

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

Obituaries

Daryl Scott Bier, 57, of Endicott, NY, died Jan 24. Daryl is a second-generation harness horseman. He made his career training and driving Standardbred racehorses beginning in 1987. He raced at tracks on both coasts of the United States, before establishing a home base on the Delaware circuit. He was forced to retire in 2021 as a result of complications from a fractured pelvis and spine sustained in a 2014 racing accident at Pocono Downs.



Obituaries continued on page 4

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, 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, Joe Crothers, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Barbara Dinning, Scott Dube, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Katie Folkins, Sarah Gehman, 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, Betsy Krantz, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Tommy Long, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Kim Maples, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Nelson Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Paul Molnar, Bob Montane, Lalya Mosley, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, 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, Cheri Stambaugh, 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, Alan Wroblewski, 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, Lillie Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Robin Cino, Melisa Cino, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Richard Dunmire, Anna Farley, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Sarah Gehman, Richie Gillock, Bob Goth, Barbara and



*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 **Matt Aubin** by: Jake and Rosie Huff
 In memory of **Daryl Bier** by: Jake and Rosie Huff
 In memory of **Lois Combs** birthday 2/23 by: Joanne White
 In memory of **Phil Cunningham** by: Cynthia Clark, David and Tara Clark, Virginia Clemons, Kathleen Neds, Mary Poeschel, Joseph and Carla Reinhard, Pam Swingle, Rich and Sandy Thorstenson, James and Marlene Vandre,
 In memory of **Randy Manges** by: E.C. and Margie Larkin
 In memory of **Meagan, Melissa and Sam McKee** by: Amy Bondon
 In memory of **Lise Turcotte** by: Jake and Rosie Huff
 In memory of **Gerald Walker** by: Joanne White
 In memory of **Vincenzo Villante** by: The family of Harold Kelly
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Jones, 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, 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, Dick Terien, Myra and Al Terwilliger, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Vincenzo Villante, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Steve Warner, Reggie Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, Alice Williams, Pat Wilson, 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 Petruccio, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

John Gazzero has Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

Sarah Gehman has a rare form of cancer.

Janice Hankins is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Kim Hankins still has some mobility problems.

A Maryland CHHA member is in need of a new small house on her land.

Bob McClure broke his femur.

Alan Wroblewski has neuropathy along with cancer.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

From Racing to Wedding Chauffer

Jenny Schandel & Deadwood X8917



I so enjoy reading your monthly newsletter and hearing about the horsemen. Many years ago, I was very active in harness racing but after getting married and starting a family, I had to step back.

In the late 90's I was a horse crazy kid. In 2001 a

Scholarships

CHHA will be awarding at least two scholarships for the 2024/2025 school year. These are 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 are available at www.chha.net and are due May 31.



pace colt was born that I had my eye on! I prayed to God many times, If I could get him and if he made it to the races, he too would tithe his 10%.

Fall 2002 he was mine! After many mistakes on my young part, he qualified!! It was a rocky start as with many, but we figured it out and became a great team. He raced for years and made many of my dreams come true. He always tithed his 10% no matter how big or small it was. At my church someone once asked where these random large checks came from.... It was him!

He retired around 9 years old and became a full-time trail pony and pasture potato on the farm where he earned the down payment for my husband and I. A few summers ago he and I joined a carriage driving club. This has snowballed into being hired to do carriage rides for many local events and weddings!! He is 23 and myself at 43, we are back to work. I couldn't think of a better Christian organization to tithe our first check to than CHHA! We are looking forward to 2024 and the exciting blessings that are on this new adventure for us. Sincerely, Jenny Schandel & Deadwood X8917

Harness Horse Youth Foundation

offers a variety of exciting, hands-on programs around the county for anyone 11 years old and up.

Participants will get to drive a racehorse, learn about equine behavior, anatomy, equipment and more! They will come away with horse dirt under their fingernails as well as a great introduction to harness racing's excitement! Check out www.hhyf.org for the summer program schedule and more information about HHYF resources..



Horse Racing Related Educational Opportunity Ideas—see page 2.