



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

September 2024

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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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



Give God the Glory

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

“It’s not the least bit surprising that the first thing Jim Campbell does is thank and credit others for his berth in the Harness Racing Living Hall of Fame,” writes Dave Briggs. “Class and integrity have been integral parts of the trainer’s career from the beginning, along with equal doses of talent and work ethic,” (*Harness Racing Update [HRU], July 7, 2024*).

I asked Hambletonian Society Director of Publicity and COO, Moira Fanning, what she thought of Jim and his induction. “Horse racing is a very tough business,” she replied, “a roller coaster of emotion, stress, endless work and only sometimes, joy. To navigate it successfully, especially over the long run, you need tremendous support and focus.

Moira noted that Jim Campbell “is quick to say how very much he leans on his family—and how he credits them for his success.” His wife and son as well as his extended family “provide emotional balance and unconditional love.” Jim “relies heavily on his faith and belief in God and doesn’t hesitate to reference that support publicly.”

In his introduction at the Hall of Fame event, Jim’s brother John described Jim’s most important trait as that “he always knows the right thing to do and he always does it, no matter how difficult that may be,” recalls Moira. “His faith makes that reflexive.” She added that “John called Jim not just a Hall of Fame trainer but a Hall of Fame human! He is so right about that.”

Dave McDuffee of Rye, NH said, “It took a village to get me in this Hall of Fame. It wasn’t me doing it, it was all of these other people around me” (Debbie

Little, HRU, July 7, 2024).

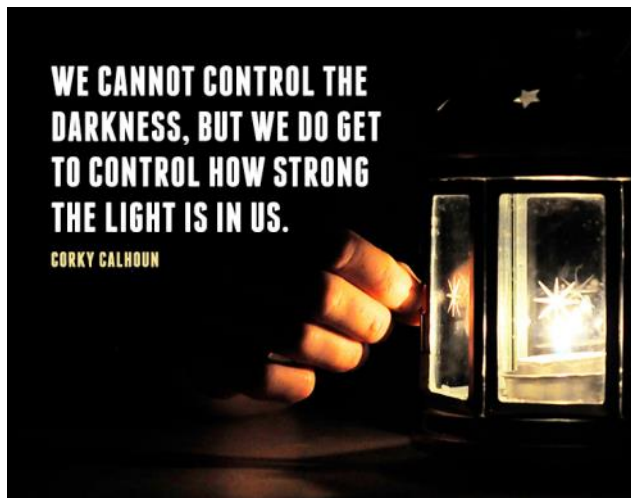
The apostle Paul shares the same sentiment as Jim and Dave, insisting that we Christians are all part of the Body of Christ. It is the same spirit of God working in each of us that brought us all together to accomplish God’s work on earth. In a stable, each one of us has a job to do. If the horse doesn’t get fed and watered, it will not race well. When one person in the shed row gets sloppy about their work, others may follow, thinking the bar has been lowered.

If we don’t do our part by responding to the urgings of God, there will likely be a domino effect as others down the line make poor choices. Following our lead, they may also stop listening to God. “Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ” (Colossians 3:23-24 NLT).

When we love and respect those around us, valuing them for who they are, do all that we do to the best of our ability and put God first in our lives, we offer a good witness. Jesus said, “You are the light that shines for the world to see. [...] You should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14, 16 ERV).

While watching the big races on TV, I am always happy when the winning jockey acknowledges God, giving Him the glory. I’m proud of the drivers who bless themselves or visibly pray while leaving the paddock for the post parade.

Living a godly life sets a good example for those around us. But, it’s not enough. We must also give God the glory as Jim Campbell does.



Psalm 100

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Quote from *If Only It Were True*

by Mark Levy

“Imagine there is a bank account that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening the bank deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course?

Each of us has such a bank, it's name is time. Every morning, it credits you 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off as lost, whatever of this you failed to invest to a good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no over draft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no drawing against ‘tomorrow’. You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success. The clock is running. Make the most of today.”

Note: Let's make good use of our days by listening to God and doing His will. Chaplain Lee

Blessings from God

From Steve Byrd...

I let David Wornstaff know you called, and that we prayed for him and James' recovery. Carl Easterday was there with a story to share with David and me. Three months ago I was at the barn in Crawford County Fairgrounds and they told me that Carl had liver failure and needed a liver transplant. So we all prayed for Carl for a quick recovery. Tonight I met Carl and his wife Chris for the first time. They were never there during my previous visits. Carl said that the doctor said that 70% of his liver had died, and he would need a transplant. He was put on a waiting list. He was scheduled today for the transplant. So his doctor called him in for more tests before the operation. The doctor checked him out, said that his liver had recovered and was working just fine, and that he would not need the operation. The doctor, who had seen many of these cases, said that he had never witnessed anything like this before. Carl said it was a Miracle of God, and he hopes to be with us a few more years. Carl is probably under the age of forty. So it was great for David and me to hear Carl's story and witness one of God's Miracles.

From Greg Gehman

We had a GREAT day yesterday. Sarah's best friends all showed up to celebrate her wedding. Looked like all smiles and no tears. We had fun!! People came from England, Australia, Canada, Tibet, California, Seattle, Portland, Ohio...it was an amazing output of love. She was beautiful too!! Thank you so much for your prayers!



From Julie Manchester...

Julie wanted me to thank everyone who reached out and helped her as she was grieving the sudden death of her mother and best friend. She said, “It has been a tough couple of weeks. I'm trying to close up the house now. Then, I'll go north for a couple of months so that when I come back it is not as fresh and I'll be in a better head position. I really want to thank you for all of your support.” Of course her mom's death is taking its toll. However, it sounds like her plans for the summer with friends in Massachusetts are good ones. She plans to work at a fancy riding stable and take paddocks at Plainridge.

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Please pray for my intentions _____

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Please return to: lecalphen@comcast.net

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CHHA
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



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

Leo "Brian" Clark, 76, of Blissfield, MI, died July 7. One of the Nova Scotia native's many adventures after high school was travelling through the Rocky Mountains on an open box car transporting horses. Leo settled in Ohio, but he trained and raced horses across many states. While his kids were young, he worked at Hamblin Company and later at the University of Michigan in the printing services department.



Francis (Frank) M. Dubreuil Jr, 71, of Rehoboth, MA, died June 24. Frank began his harness racing career in the mid 70's rubbing horses at Foxboro. Then he became an owner, trainer and driver. Decades later, he became the paddock judge at Plainridge and also worked as the assistant race secretary. In recent years, he served as Plainridge's paddock gate security officer and identifier. He was also the presiding judge at Cumberland Raceway.



Jacqueline "Lori" (Archer) Graffam, 60, of Auburn, ME, died June 17. Lori and her longtime partner, Todd Whitney, traveled around the country as Todd drove in amateur harness races. She also owned and bred numerous horses with family and friends. She took great pride in watching her son Nick train and drive horses with great success throughout Maine and Massachusetts. Her daughter Bethany also make her mark in the harness racing industry as a trainer, member of the board of directors for Maine Harness Horseman's Association and spokesperson and volunteer for Pacing for the Cure.



Sharon L. Kirwan, 75, of Meadowlands, PA, died Dec 2. Sharon worked at the Meadows for over 40 years. She was licensed as an identifier with the USTA. She was very involved in helping others especially with Pastor Joe DiDonato and his ministry at the Meadows. She orchestrated fundraisers for families in need, holiday celebrations for children and many other events to help serve her community. She will be missed by her many friends.



Duane V. Mitchell Sr, 67, of Harrington, DE, died June 17. Duane trained and drove Standardbreds at local tracks. In 1980 he was given the most improved driver award by the Delaware Valley chapter of the U.S. Harness Writers Association. He loved kids and helped them to

learn and love baseball. He would restring or adjust their gloves, and practice with them to master their game.

Donna Ilene Manchester, 81, of Oldsmar, FL, went to be with the Lord June 16. Donna owned Thoroughbreds. She loved horses and always visited her daughter, CHHA member, Julie, at the various harness tracks where she worked. She was a home health aide who loved caring for people and everyone loved her. She was always full of fun. Donna went to church every Sunday and was looking forward to getting a new body when she arrived in heaven.



Walter T. Mitchell Jr, 81, of Gordonville, PA, died July 4. Walter, originally from Brooklyn, NY, enjoyed jogging horses at Roosevelt Raceway. He served 22 years as a police officer in Long Island. Eventually he moved to Lancaster County where he enjoyed helping transport his Amish neighbors and friends. Walter belonged to the Intercourse United Methodist Church.



William H. "Bill" Richardson, 91, of Hamburg, NY, died June 26. Bill owned harness horses and even drove some of them at the county fairs. He dedicated over six decades to financial services and helped Trubee Collins & Co. become the only Buffalo-based company to be a member of the New York Stock Exchange at the time. In his later years he served as president of the board of directors of Buffalo Raceway. Earlier, his dad served as a judge at Buffalo Raceway.



Geri Schwarz, 77, of Mongaup Valley, NY, died June 28. Geri was the track photographer at Goshen Historic Track and Monticello Raceway. Terry Harp said, "She was a very kind, friendly and generous person. She would always take requests for special wording that you wanted on your win pictures. Geri also owned and cared for two retired Standardbreds. She is and will be greatly missed by all who knew her."

Susan "Sue" Frances Taylor, 77, of Albion, MI, died May 9. According to Karen Greengard, Sue was, "sweet, smart and sensible. She was an encouraging friend, a beloved nurse, and the supportive wife of 41 years to the popular Michigan 2nd generation trainer/driver, Chuck Taylor. Her son Randy Brown is a successful racehorse blacksmith."

Sources for Obituary information include:

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

Obituaries

Thomas Brown, 59, died June 18. Tom was obsessed with cars (and animals) from a young age and after many years in Standardbred horse racing, decided to get into the car business. Starting in the wash and get ready department, he worked his way up to sales, then management, eventually finding his sweet spot in finance. He was always willing to mentor and teach anyone who wanted to pick his brain.



Obituaries continued on page 4



*Please send Praise reports,
Articles, testimonies, etc.
for the newsletter.*

Wanted

Submissions can be a few words up to 300 words.

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net

Or 157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Prayer Corner

Please pray for all the people on our Prayer List who are battling cancer, especially:

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenaault, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, Dianne Boyken, David Bower, Bob Briley, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Glenn Byrd, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Mike Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Joe Crothers, Danny Daniel, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Brenda Jo Dennon, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Declan Donaway, 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, JC Napier, Howard Niels, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Cheri Stambaugh, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Ellen Taylor, Jack Taylor, Brenda Tippin, Gary Tyron, Brittany 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:

Dennis Albert, Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Ellen Beinbauer, 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, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Richard Dunmire, Anna Farley, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Sarah Gehman, Richie Gillock, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Jones, Kim Hankins,

Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Rich Heffington, 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, Diane Long, Katherine Lonager, Diane Long, 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, Greggie 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 Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Tim Finley is dying.

Sarah Gehman is on chemo for her cancers.

Tony Hall is recovering from a hip injury.

Janice Hankins has memory issues and is recovering from an accident.

Barb Huston has stage 4 cancer.

Nev Ross needs surgery to correct a botched surgery.

Sarah Spaulding has many challenges with her newborn.

Ellen Taylor is on chemo and radiation.

James Wornstaff has been fighting ailments.

Please pray for a woman who is really struggling financially.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Four Scholarships Awarded

The CHHA Scholarship Committee met on July 8, 2024 and found they had four excellent students vying for two scholarships. Since all four candidates had good faith statements, were very involved in harness racing and met all our criteria, the CHHA Board of Directors voted to award each of the young ladies a scholarship. We are not always able to do that, but this year we did.

Lexi Twaddle was awarded the John and Janet Klark Scholarship to continue her studies at Walsh University. She is majoring in biology with minors in psychology and business. Her goal is to become a perfusionist.

Aubrey Schwartz received the Rambling Willie Scholarship to complete her degree in agriculture education.

Ryley Fusco will use her scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where she plans to major in Biology. While her dream is to become a veterinarian, as she begins her studies, her focus will be on nursing.

Jenna Fricke plans to use her scholarship to study Elementary Education at Indiana University.



Lexi Twaddle



Aubrey Schwartz



Jenna Fricke

More about these scholars in future newsletters.



*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 **Yves Breton** by: Lyse Breton
In memory of **Harold and Susan Kelly** by: Linda and Thomas Moyer
In memory of **Donna Ilene Manchester** by: Lyndel Adamsky and Amy Bondon
In memory of **Sam Meagan and Melissa McKee** by: Amy Bondon
In memory of **James Schulte** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
In memory of **Geri Schwartz** by: Terry Harp
In memory of **Arthur Stafford** by: Gary and Corine McCandless
In memory of **Sue Taylor** by: Karen Greenguard
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Jug Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Join us in the Hospitality tent across from the Log Cabin at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 18th for a **FREE** breakfast.

God has given Chaplain Lee Alphen a special message to share with everyone. As Roger Huston says, "Be there!" You don't want to miss this!

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

