



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

February 2025

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

Board of Directors

Chaplain Lee Alphen
Racetrack Ministry

Amy Bondon, President

Greg Gehman, Vice President
Knight's Landing Stable

Roger Huston
Ohio Harness Horsemen's
Association and Little Brown Jug

Lori Romanetti
Moshannon Stables

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



Groundhog Day and Learning from Pigs

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Groundhog Day, determining the end of the winter season in the Northern Hemisphere, began with a bear in Ireland and England and a badger in Germany. Observed on February 2nd, it marks the halfway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Originally Groundhog Day was a Celtic festival called Imbolc, meaning “in the belly,” marking the anticipation of the birth of the spring lambs. The day also looks ahead to spring planting.

Groundhog Day “speaks to the triumph of spring over winter—and birth over death. Again, note the appearance of light over dark [...] and, of course, the spiritual light of a holier presence” according to a December 3, 2024 Old Farmer’s Almanac article, “Groundhog Day 2024.”

The Christian churches also mark the halfway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox on February 2nd with Candlemas Day when candles are lighted to celebrate the presentation in the temple at Jerusalem of Jesus, the light of the world. As for animals seeing their shadow or not on Groundhog Day, that’s probably more folklore than science, although it’s rooted in astronomy and the movement of the earth around the sun.

Do you remember the story of the Prodigal Son? “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them” (Luke 15:11-12 NIV).

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had

spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything” (Luke 15:13-16 NIV).

Finally this son comes to his senses and, realizing his dad’s hired men have everything they need, starts back home to apologize to his father and ask him for a job. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him” (Luke 15:20 NIV).

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son’” (Luke 15:21 NIV).

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate” (Luke 15:22-24 NIV).

What lesson do we learn from the groundhog? The solar system, the planting seasons and the animals work in harmony with the universe God created. God is quite the engineer. People may try to replicate His work. However, in all things **God can never be outdone.**

As the darkness of winter fades into spring, let’s learn the lesson the pigs taught the young son and put behind us the dark

[Groundhog cont. on page 2](#)

Groundhog continued from page 1

deeds of our past as we turn to God whose light fills the heavens.

Then there will be much rejoicing in heaven and the light of Christ will come to rest upon us. Let's remember too that all God's creation holds lessons for us when we begin to look for Him in His people and all He has made.



*"The difference between mercy and grace? Mercy gave the prodigal son a second chance. Grace gave him a feast."
Max Lucado*



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Doug Ackerman** by: Ada Jean Ackerman
 In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky, Bob Miller, Jr
 In memory of **Mary Adler** by: Bob Miller, Jr
 In memory of **Dolores Arnold** by: Mary Beth Wing
 In memory of **Becky Ater** by: Bob Miller, Jr
 In memory of **Jack Baggitt** by: Bob and Christine Baggitt
 In memory of **Lew, Mary and Chris Bondon** by: Amy Bondon
 In memory of **Yves Breton** by: Lyse Breton
 In memory of **Jana Brocco** by: Amy Bondon, Lori & Ray Romanetti
 In memory of **Lois Combs** by: Loren and Paul Combs, Joanne White
 In memory of **Beckie Davis** by: Dean Davis
 In memory of **John Deshetsy** by: Ralph and Marjorie Deshetsy
 In memory of **Larry Farrington** by: Debbie Farrington
 In memory of **Larry Ferguson** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
 In memory of **Leigh Fitch** by: Peter Blood
 In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager
 In memory of **Mrs Irene Gill** by: Pastor Stan and Susan Gill
 In memory of **Joan and Warren Harp** by: Susie Salles
 In memory of **Bill Hogue Jr** by: Barbara Hogue
 In memory of **Charles R (Bob) Jones** by: Sam and Ellen Lilly
 In memory of **Harold Kelly** by: Bob and Christine Baggitt
 In memory of **Larry Lederman** by: Alan Lederman
 In memory of **Thomas Malibashka** by: Gary & Corine McCandless
 In memory of **The McKees** by: Amy Bondon, Moira & Tom Fanning
 In memory of **Roger Roland** by: Royal Roland
 In memory of **John Schmiegel** by: Margaret Romano
 In memory of **Lucille Wick** by: Bob Miller, Jr
 In memory of **William Wick and Family** by: Susan Throm White and Family
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Blessings from God

From Lyndel Adamsky...

I am so grateful for you and all of this special family of believers. You have given such meaning to my life, and I thank everyone for your prayers.

From Lorrie Jones

It was the night before Thanksgiving and since Bob could no longer walk, he was kept in bed. As he was lying there, all of a sudden, he started getting very, very fearful and was thrashing around. I saw the look of stark terror on his face. He kept looking up towards the ceiling toward, specifically the corner of the ceiling.

Terrified myself, I asked the Lord what I should be doing. He said, "Go get your friend! She needs to pray!" So, I got a hold of our friend. She came over and the first thing she did was to grab my shoulder and anoint my head. Then she started praying over me. She went into the living room, and she started casting out demons. She was casting demons and telling them to go where they belonged. It was awesome listening to her.

Then all of a sudden, as she was finishing, this look came over Bob's face. It was like a blanket was just gently put over his head and it just fell. It was the most peaceful, beautiful look on his face of just total peace. He was looking around with kind of half a smile on his face, and he wasn't scared. He was looking up toward that ceiling because Jodi had asked God to send angels and that the Angels would surround him. He started talking while looking at the ceiling.

Bob couldn't talk because of the damage to his throat from the stroke. All he could do was kind of mumble. However, His lips were moving, he had a smile on his face and that look of total peace, that one that God talks about surpassing all understanding. I just stood there and wondered if God's grace would protect my wonderful husband from everything. I knew that God was going to be taking him home soon, and even though I wanted to cry for that sadness, I was elated that God sent his angels, and that my wonderful, wonderful husband could see them.

I don't have much more to say but God bless all of you. Just know that the one that you love is being guided right into the throne room of heaven when the time comes. You will grieve a bit, but you'll also be elated that you know where your husband is, and you'll be joining him someday soon. God bless all of you.

Special Honor Donations

In Honor of **Lyndel Adamsky** by Doc Wes Parry
 In Honor of an **Anonymous donor** by Amy Bondon



Please verify or add address on back

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

Email Address _____

Please pray for my intentions _____

Phone _____

Circle one:

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

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

Please return to: lecalphen@comcast.net

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____

OR
CHHA
157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card _____ Security Code _____

[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—blue and gold
- CHHA hat—navy and white
- CHHA water bottle



New

Books

- God Wants You Well by Andrew Wommack
- 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

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

Jack Levine’s print books available with 30% discount code FREEDOM
<https://www.jackalanlevine.com/shop>

New



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

Douglas Lee Bartley, 80, of Richmond, KY, died Dec 16. Douglas bred and raced Standardbreds. He worked for Ford Motor Company and later went to work for the State of Kentucky retiring as a supervisor of surface mining.

Ruel "Dude" Goodblood, 69, of Maine, died Nov 18. Dude was active in the Standardbred industry as an owner, trainer and driver, competing primarily in New England and New York. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing in northern Maine.

Beverly "Joyce" Keeler, 90, of Blackbird, DE, formerly of Smyra, died Nov 11. She and her late husband, Victor, owned Standardbreds. Victor also trained and drove. Their son, Daniel, now owns, trains and drives harness horses. Joyce was a charter member of the Blackbird Community Center and one of its longest living members. According to the USTA, if you knew this amazing lady, you've probably been at her kitchen table talking politics, horse racing, or getting help with something.



Dr. Joseph Lozito, 88, of Wayne, NJ, died Nov 20. Dr Joe owned and bred harness horses. As a physician, he provided expert care, genuine concern and a listening ear. He had a zest for life, which was evident in his love for the casino, the race track, and spur-of-the-moment trips.



Travis Mack, 89, of Holton, IN, died Nov 23. Travis and Janet owned and trained harness horses and for over 40 years participating in races in several states. Mr. Mack also owned and operated a construction and excavating company in Madison. He and Janet attended the Dabney Baptist Church.



Sharon Ann Miner, 59, died Dec 9. Sharon was the owner/operator of Happy Dawg Pet Services and had also worked in the food service and childcare communities as well as at Saratoga Harness Track.

Ronald Dale Oldfield, 78, of Saline, MI, died Nov 26. Ronald owned, trained and drove harness horses. He spent winters at Sunshine Meadows in Florida and enjoyed racing the northwestern Ohio colt circuit. In his early years, he worked alongside his father and brother building successful sand, gravel and trucking businesses.

Frank Fay Quillen, 93, of Harrington, DE, died Dec 1. Frank bred and raced harness horses. He was also an auctioneer, working for himself and Fasig-Tipton. He put these skills to good use raising funds for a variety of non-profit organizations. Frank was a lifelong member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Harrington.

Jack D. Sustic, 95, of Lennon, MI, died Nov 12. Jack owned, trained, drove and bred Standardbreds. He believed that quality horsemanship, hay and oats were the best medicines for a harness horse. He took great pride in working with "problem" horses and getting them to the track. He worked for the Detroit News and the Flint Journal as a printer. He was the founder and editor for Horse Illustrated magazine and ran a print shop.

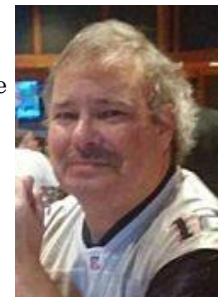


Mike Wandishin, 64, died Dec 15. Mike was the head bookkeeper of Jerry's Home Improvements before venturing out on a racetrack career that included being a charter, program director, and race secretary at several harness tracks. He also had a short stint in Louisiana at the Thoroughbred ovals. When he was no longer able to work, he became a keen handicapper. Mike was very current on all of the harness racing world.

Barbara Ann Wagner, 81, died Dec 20. Barbara was a realtor who brokered the sale of many New Jersey horse farms and training centers. She became an advocate to the horse farm and racing industry. In her last weeks, she received countless phone calls from those seeking her advice and connections to find a way to continue racing at Freehold Raceway. Her knowledge made her the "go to" broker for anyone buying or selling property in the Standardbred world.



Richard E. Wilcox, 96, of Columbus, OH, died Dec 10. Richard trained and drove Standardbreds for six decades. He enjoyed winter training in Pinehurst N.C. He served as Pinehurst Harness Horsemen's Club president for many years. In retirement Richard enjoyed watching his nephew, Hugh "Sandy" Beatty, race in Ohio.



Sources for Obituary information include:

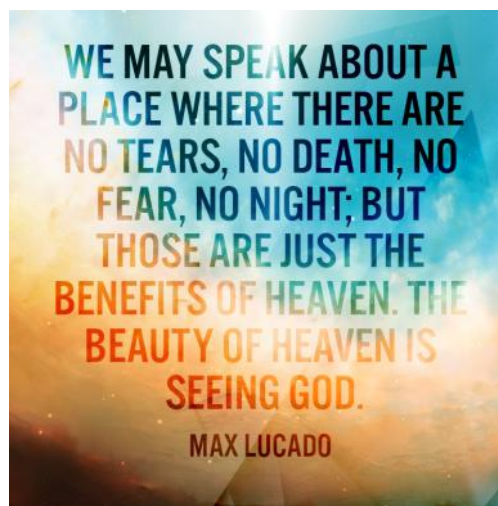
www.ustrotting.com, www.harnesslink.com and
www.Standardbredcanada.ca

Obituaries

Charles Robert "Bob" Jones Sr, 85, of Nokomis, IL died Nov 30. Bob Jones loved to work. He started shearing sheep in his early 20's and then started his own business, Illinois Sheepskins, Inc. of Nokomis, making beautiful items from sheepskins. The factory grew as he began expanding his production to making carnival stuffed toys sold nationwide and poms for roller skates. He established factories in Fillmore and a large-scale production facility in Vandalia. Bob owned a farm near Nokomis where he grew crops and bred and raised Standardbred racehorses. He enjoyed occasionally racing the horses himself, especially at local fairs. Bob and his wife, Lorrie are CHHA members.



Obituaries cont. 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 Arsenault, 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, Tim Finley, 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, Barb Huston, 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, Jacob Moulton, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, JC Napier, Howard Nields, Jay O'Neil, Kim Ortiz, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Ray Romanetti, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Cheri Stambaugh, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Ellen Taylor, 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 Zeasapowski.

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, Janice 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, 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 Ken Wood.

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:

Doug Ballinger has health problems.
Marilyn Bondon continues to deal with health issues.
Loren Combs has a mass on his lungs.
Frank, 85, has lung cancer.
Diane Hugel has a hiatal hernia.
Ellen Taylor's radiation is halfway through.
Ray Romanetti has cancer in his lower right lung.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

New Year Online Bible Study

Welcome 2025 with lessons from Jesus. Join our six-week study of Luke chapters 4 – 6 as we discuss what meaning the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry might have for us as we begin 2025. This study will meet Monday nights January 13 through February 17 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Chaplain Lee Alphen will lead this study.

Register at www.chha.net/bible-studies so we can send you login information and materials.

Blogs

Bible Study Blogs

Share your ideas for future bible studies and experiences with the studies we have already hosted at www.chha.net/blogs.

Praise Reports

Share your praise reports, and please let me know if I can publish them in our newsletter.

Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

What else can CHHA do to help **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!?**



Gina,
Tracy
and Rick
Beinhauer



Janet and John Campbell
Event Organizers



Hannah Beinhauer, Curby Stillings and Ellen Beinhauer

MSOA Annual Banquet and 2:00 Club Charity Auction to benefit Pastor Joe’s ministry at the Meadows.



Dawnelle Mauck
MSOA Executive Director



David and Ann Wade