



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983



In God We Trust

Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

Aug 2016

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  
The Meadows and Little Brown Jug

Lori Romanetti  
Moshannon Stables

*For newsletter questions or  
ideas please contact:*

Lee Alphen, Editor

[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)

603-898-1927

603-401-7271 (cell)

Wanted  
Praise Reports  
Testimonies  
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

This edition of  
the newsletter  
is published in  
memory of  
Sharron  
Adams. Rest  
in peace  
Sharron!



## Knowing

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Successful trainers really know their horses. The best parents understand their kids and why they do the things they do. Great teachers study their students and learn to reach them with more than textbook answers.

Relationships mold us into the people we become. How are our relationships with God Who is always there for us? God knows us intimately and God's love, care and concern never waiver. "The word of the Lord came to [Jeremiah], saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you'" (Jeremiah 1:4-5). How well do we know God?

Scottish Pastor Robert Murray McShane, talks about the difference between knowing God and knowing about God. Henry and Richard Blackaby offer a few examples in their book, *Hearing God's Voice*. The Magi followed the star all the way to Jerusalem. They told Herod about the star and asked where the Messiah was to be born. Herod asked the Jewish leaders. These scripture scholars were very smart and immediately answered, "Bethlehem" (Matthew 2:1-6). The Magi, though less schooled in the scriptures, continued five more miles to the stable and greeted the Savior while the scholars remained in Jerusalem. In spite of their "knowledge," the scholars missed the Messiah.

Half a century later, Paul made the same mistake. He was a zealous Pharisee, an expert in religion. Yet Paul did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah as he went about persecuting Christians (Acts 9: 1-2). After his conversion, he confessed that everything he had done before was wrong (Philippians 3:7-8). He said, "I want to know Christ" (Philippians 3:7). His new focus was to serve Jesus Christ and win the prize of eternity in heaven with Him (Philippians 3:13-14).

My niece's blind step-daughter, Daisy, can study all about light in college. Yet her younger brother, Emmett, who has never thought about what light is, knows more about light than Daisy will ever know because he experiences it.

Jesus tells us, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9). What? Are you telling me God has not answered all your prayers?

I read a story about James L Kraft, the founder of Kraft Foods. As a young man he wanted to be the most famous manufacturer and salesman of cheese in the world. He began by selling cheese on the streets of Chicago with his pony, Paddy, and a wagon. After months of hard work, he told Paddy he was discouraged because they were not making any money. Kraft told Paddy they had things turned around and needed to put God first. Kraft made a covenant with God that he would first serve God and then work as God directed for the rest of his life.

The Magi sought Jesus and found Him. Paul, after being knocked to the ground, recognized Jesus and became a great disciple (Acts 9:3-18). Kraft realized his priorities were wrong, put God first in his life and went on to achieve his life's dream.

Horses respond when their handlers really care about them. Kids who are secure in their parent's love do better. Students try harder for teachers who go the extra mile.

Our passage from Luke goes on to say, "the Father in heaven gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13). It is really the Spirit of God present in our lives that helps us become everything God made us to be. God's Spirit living and working in and through us brings God's blessings in every situation.

So, let's all examine our relationships with God. Perhaps they need a little tweaking.

# Blessings

*From Sam and Chris McKee...*

Our daughter Melissa is doing extremely well. It's been 15 months since her stroke. She recently started working again waitressing at a local restaurant on weekends and working in a surgical center three days per week. She also was accepted to a program at Morristown Hospital to earn her heart catheter certificate which is what she was studying in Florida when she had her stroke last April.

It's been a long and difficult journey for her personally but thanks to some great doctors and without question plenty of prayers, she seems to have turned the corner. She wears special prism glasses which have alleviated the headaches and vision issues from her eyes remaining dilated. Her medications have been regulated thanks to some excellent work by various doctors. She has learned to cope with her memory issues thanks to some excellent work by various rehabilitation programs. She will still slur her words when she gets tired but here stamina seems to be getting better and better each week. Perhaps most importantly, her mental state is so much more positive and she feels like she's on the right tack again both career-wise and in life.

There is no question all the prayers, the e-mails, the texts, the thoughts and the support she's received have made a world of difference. Thanks for the support of everyone connected with CHHA for helping our family through this difficult time. SAM & CHRIS MCKEE

## Wanted

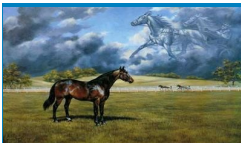
### Praise Reports – Testimonies – Articles

Praise reports, testimonies and articles 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



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*  
Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Sharron Adams** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz ;  
Lexington Selected Yearlings Sales Co, Ltd.

In memory of **Leo McNamara** by: Cathy McNamara

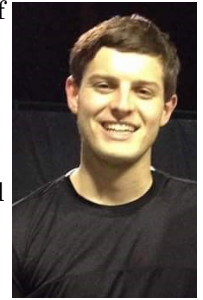
In memory of **Rev Nick Salios** by: Rev Joe DiDonato, CHHA, The Meadows

In memory of **Weldon and Nancy Stockwell** by: Paul Russell

## Scholarship Recipients (continued from back page)

**Jonathan Hallett** was awarded a CHHA Scholarship to continue his studies at the University of Central Florida.

Thanks to help from friends, family and God, I go into second semester with a new prospect. My friends and family motivated me to work hard and try to succeed at anything I put my mind to. God gave me the strength to pursue my goals. I decided to change my major and now I am enrolled in Mechanical Engineering.



From a young age, my parents taught me work ethic and value through hard work at the barn. Through my parents' business I have witnessed first hand the hardships and battles, the victories and the triumphs. I learned that not every day is a win but not every day is a loss, either. I know that in the end, all that matters is not the grade or the mark, but the effort put in.

Religion taught me to extend my horizons and pursue other goals, that not only affect me but others around me.

**Jenné Venier** was awarded a CHHA scholarship to pursue a nursing degree at Lourdes University.

My character has been shaped around Jesus, my values and the qualities that I possess are because of Him. He blessed me with wonderful parents that have loved, nurtured and taught me how important God and family are. I give Him all the glory for my accomplishments and I thank Him for allowing me to have a wonderful life.



I will be attending Lourdes University in the fall to study nursing. After receiving my BSN degree, I plan to apply for a nursing position in the pediatric unit at Toledo Hospital. After establishing my career I plan to volunteer as a medical missionary.

**Alexis Schwartz** was awarded a CHHA Scholarship to study Equine Science at the University of Kentucky.

I have been involved with the Fayette Christian Athlete program throughout my high school career. This has helped me create a better bond between myself and God. We volunteered as a group to work at the Sunnyside Well to help work the soup line.



I feel like giving back to my community is a very big thing and when I get finished with college I plan to come back to my roots and hopefully work and manage a Standardbred horse farm nearby so I will be able to give back to my community.

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: [leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

OR

CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

[To Donate Now—Click here](#)

**Choose a Free Gift with your donation**

**Gifts**

- 10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)  (\$20) donation
- Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rigs—see below
- Black Tie with harness horse—boxed  (\$20) donation

**Books**

- Live A Life That Matters for God* by Jack Levine  (\$20) donation
- My Addict Your Addict* by Jack Levine  (\$20) donation
- Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God* by Jack Levine  (\$20)
- Don't Blow It With God* by Jack Levine  (\$20) donation
- Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care* by ER Gager and Bob “Dusty Rhodes”  (\$20) donation (description on page 4)



*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**

Roger Huston is selling them to benefit the Christian Harness Horsemen’s Association. The cross necklaces are available in red , blue and turquoise and the keyrings in red, blue, turquoise and silver. They make great gifts for a donation of only \$20. Complete and mail the order form to below to Roger and he will send you your crosses.

100% of the proceeds of these beautiful crosses will go to the Christian Harness Horsemen’s Association.

**Horseshoe Nail Cross  
Order Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Necklace Qty: Red \_\_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_\_

Keyring Qty: Red \_\_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_\_



Mail with \$20 ea + \$4 shipping to: **Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317**

## Obituaries

**Sharon Joan Finn**, 54, of Newton, IL died July 1 at her residence. Sharon and her husband, Fred Finn, Jr owned, bred and raced many Standardbred horses during their time together. They raced mostly on the fair circuit in their state of residence where Sharon relished her time with the horses and doting on her grandchildren. She was also a CNA.



**Ronald "Mickey" Foster**, 82, died on May 11 in Yarmouth, ME. Growing up in Standish, ME, he was a standout baseball player and later participated on a local all-star Triple-C team as pitcher and much feared left-handed batter. He attended the Jack Rossiter Baseball School, and was one of the few to be signed with the Washington Nationals farm league in 1953, moving up to the Piedmont League in 1954. In 1956, Mickey joined the US Army. Then, he and his wife, Cathy Dawes, raced harness horses at all the local fairs, Scarborough Downs, Foxboro, Mass. and Hinsdale NH. On his passing, a Memorial service officiated by CHHA member, Ernest Lowell, was held at the Dolby Funeral Chapel in Windham, Maine.

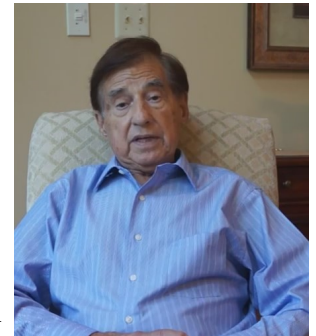


**Leo C. McNamara**, 60, a third-generation harness horseman and executive administrator of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey died June 12. In addition to his duties at the SBOANJ, Leo owned and managed Two Gaits Farm in Columbus, NJ, named after his family farm in



Carmel, IN. His grandfather stood Hal Dale, and bred the great pacer Adios at Two Gaits Farm. As farm manager at Holly Lane Stud and later Almahurst Farm in Lexington, Leo managed Nihilator's first years at stud, raised Laag and Leah Almahurst, among others. He came to New Jersey to be farm manager of Dreamaire Stud in Columbus, where he raised Camtastic and Fake Left, managed part of Cam Fella's stallion career and then started the new Two Gaits Farm.

**The Rev. Nicholas Salios** of Worcester, PA died May 15. Nick spent his life serving God as a chaplain. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Service after 20 years as an Army Chaplain. The next 20 years he spent as Chaplain at Penn National for Race Track Chaplaincy of America. Nick also served on the staff of American Baptist Churches and National Ministries. His mission assignments took him to Haiti, Nicaragua, Managua, El Salvador, the Middle East, and Rome.



**Benjamin C. Stafford Jr**, 45, of Felton, DE, died July 6 following a wood tick bite. Ben was partners with his father for nearly 30 years, owning, training and driving Standardbreds, where he was well known and liked in the racing community. He won 693 races in his career as a driver and piloted quality horses such as Delaware Standardbred Breeders Fund champion Badlands Jenna, Good Bet, Badlands And Art, Mudslide and Scout Hanover. He also enjoyed playing golf, ice hockey, rooting for the Philadelphia Flyers, and hunting.



### SOUND MOUTH - SOUND HORSE, THE GAGER METHOD OF EQUINE DENTAL CARE

by E. R. Gager and Bob "Dusty" Rhodes



Emerson Publishing Company  
P.O. Box 2056  
Vincennes, N.J. 08858

## Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care

Learn how to:

1. Safely inspect horses mouth
2. Recognize dental care needs
3. Judge quality of dental care
4. Treat mouth injuries
5. Recognize tooth related performance problems
6. Use dental tools
7. Save money on feed bills
8. Determine horse's age

## new book

Ed Gager donated some of these books in memory of Harold "Sonny" Dancer.

See page 3 to order a copy.

## Prayer Corner

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

Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Ginny Chudoba, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Janet Dehart, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mira McKnight, Mrs. Miller, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Daren Richner, Del Smart, Alice Samartis, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Beverley Sweeney, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Butch Ward, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Alice Wardman, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woebkenberg, Joyce Zeasapolowski

*These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:*

Joe Adamsky, Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Danny Breton, Gaetane Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Dale, Dennis Drenth, Bill Emerson, Jeff Frizzell, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Sherie Hankins, Harry Harvey, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Doug Haskell, Nancy Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Don James, Kenny Kane, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Larry Lawter, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Tom Malibashka, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Gordon Murphy, Margaret Nields, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Peternel, Rita Polese, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr.,

*Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.*

*Please pray for those serving in the military,* especially Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruccio and Elizabeth Welch

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Joe Adamsky is really struggling with his Parkinsons. Please pray for him, Lyndel and Lyndel's Mother.

## WHITE HORSE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Do you know a hero disguised as a worker within the horse racing industry? Race Track Chaplaincy of America (RTCA) is currently seeking nominees for our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual White Horse Award.

The WHA was established to honor unsung heroes of horse-racing. This year's nominees should have:

- ☞ Performed a heroic act on behalf of human or horse
- ☞ Performed heroism between **Sept. 1, 2015—Aug. 31, 2016**
- ☞ Performed an act that was either headline-grabbing or of the quiet and not-so-obvious kind of heroism

We are also seeking nominations for other honors presented at the White Horse Award Luncheon:

- ☞ **Tribute to Excellence**
- ☞ **Community Service Award**



## Obituaries on page 4



Karen Carter is almost done with her chemo, and her blood work was improving, but they just found another lump.

Rhonda Cobbitt is battling cancer.

Joe Crothers has lung cancer.

Karen Crothers is struggling after an accident from a fall.

Barbara Dinning is undergoing radiation after having a brain tumor removed.

Barb Hathaway, 90, has dementia and has been in and out of the hospital.

Evelyn Johnson and Greg are all moved into their new place and ready to start renting stalls and offering riding lessons. Please keep them in your prayers.

Barbara Kinsey broke her ankle and had surgery. She is in the rehab.

Cheryl Mauran's dad is hospitalized following a stroke.

Fran Merchant has Alzheimers. Please pray they find the "right" caregivers.

Michael is dealing with some big medical issues.

Taila Kapo Rinski, 12, has an aggressive malignant brain tumor.

Janice Sarnie is recovering from back surgery.

Let's pray for all our friends in horse racing who are struggling with the high heat, floods, fires, tornadoes and every kind of natural disaster.

Please pray for relatives of our members who are struggling with drug addictions.

Please pray for families of our member who are struggling with relationships.

Please ask God to encourage all our family members in their faith.

Pray for the ministry to the harness racing folk at the Neshoba County Fair July 23-29 in Mississippi.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Information at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

Please indicate  
Address corrections

## Join us at Gaitway Farm Monday, August 8th at Noon

### CHHA Scholarships

Five Scholarships were awarded by CHHA this year—Praise God! When I told one of our members about all the wonderful students who had applied, he made a sizeable donation so we could help more kids. We received many applications from well qualified Christian students of our harness racing families. Recipients were chosen based on their faith statements, academic and leadership achievements and financial need.

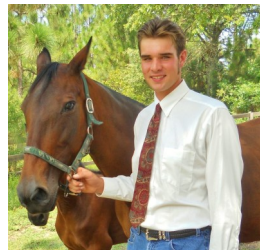
Below and continued on page 2 are photographs of this year's scholarship recipients and excerpts from their essays.

**Matthew Hess** was awarded the John and Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship. He will be attending Oklahoma Horseshoeing School.

I believe in the truth of Jesus Christ and the Bible is nothing but truth.

I have really studied this season at the Harness track of different characteristics of horses and how they, in many ways, resemble humans both in male and female. It's so interesting on how our pride can be seen in the attitudes and characters of horses. To be able to help and care for them, but more importantly to take care of Gods creatures. That's why I would like to go to blacksmith school; to obtain more knowledge of the horses & to care of them to the best of my abilities and to learn to be more conscientious in my understanding of the horse's hoof & teeth care.

I am hopefully applying for two scholarships and especially wanted to apply for Rambling Willie with this application. He was the horse that God touched. If I am not able to get a scholarship, I will have to take more time to work and earn the money myself to go to school in 2017. I hope my statement seems in earnest and that you see, in me, that there are people in the world that not only want earn a living at a trade...but also work to give back (pro bono) and to help ALL Horses, not just the ones who have owners. Each creature counts: consider the sparrow.



**Casey Hite** was awarded the Rambling Willie Scholarship. She plans to study Biology at Bethany College.

One of the most important things in my life is faith. I have always been taught to be a strong Christian and also spread my belief by teaching others. My involvement with my church, Grace Methodist, has shaped the character that I have become.

I enjoy volunteering my time with the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association. I give tours to visitors who don't know much about my family business, harness racing. I love watching them light up as they get to see things from the backside of the racetrack. It makes me realize how blessed I am to be part of this business every day.

Without God by my side, none of my goals would be possible to achieve. Whenever I feel like giving up, God and faith are right there pushing me forward. **Scholarships cont. page 2**



### New Jersey Event Monday, August 8th



Sam McKee at The Meadowlands

CHHA will be at Gaitway Farm in Englishtown, NJ Monday, August 8th. Join us for lunch at noon and an inspirational message from Meadowlands announcer, Sam McKee. Music will be provided by Marybeth DiAngelo and her friends.