



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

April 2017

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net

or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079



Water

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Much of our work with our horses involves water. In the barns, we fill the water buckets several times a day. Here in the north, when it is cold and the water in the buckets is frozen, we chip or melt the ice. We may have automatic waterers out in the pasture, but we do have to check to make sure they are working properly and that the water is good. Sometimes the algae builds up or they freeze or break down.

John 4:5-42 is a gospel story about Jesus talking with the woman at the well. Jesus was sitting by a famous well in Samaria. Jews generally steered clear of Samaria because they did not like the people. 2 Kings 17 tells how the Israelites sinned by worshipping other gods. Then, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, brought in foreigners to live there and deported the Israelites to Assyria. Later the king sent some Jews back to Samaria who eventually intermarried with the non-Jews creating a mixed race despised by the Jews. Jesus did not bother with the grudges and took the shortest route right through Samaria.

The women generally came in the morning and evening to draw water. However, at noon a certain Samaritan woman came to draw her water. After some conversation, Jesus offered her living water. The woman was thinking Jesus had some fresh water as opposed to the stale rainwater from the bottom of the cistern.

This woman had three strikes against her. She was a Samaritan, a member of the hated mixed race. She was an outcast because she was living in sin. And, she encountered Jesus in a public place where a good Jewish man would never be seen speaking with such a woman. Jesus was not interested in prejudice, condemnation or public opinion. His concern was for the people and their relationship with God.

She came to the well at noon to avoid the stares and the gossip. Jesus understood her pain, and He knew her heart. Recognizing her as a child of God, Jesus compassionately talked her through her struggles. She tried to change the subject when it became uncomfortable, but Jesus gently helped her to see that the attitude of believers was what really mattered.

We are good about making sure our horses have food and water and I don't think many of us go hungry or thirsty. How about our souls? Do we have all the spiritual nourishment, living water, we need? Jesus said, "True worshipers must worship in the spirit and in truth" (John 4:23). This means to worship God with knowledge and love. "The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life" (Proverbs 13:14). Jesus said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them" (John 7:37-38).

The Samaritans had the Torah, the first five books of the bible. The Jews had –and still have– the Hebrew Bible, what we call the Old Testament. We have the Gospels, the life and words of Jesus, and the entire bible. We also have the Spirit of God living within us (John 14:26). Just as Jesus was there for the Samaritan woman, He is there for us in our struggles. We can have the living water, the Spirit of Christ, too. As soon as the woman recognized Jesus as the Messiah, she ran back to the city to tell everyone about Him. Perhaps Jesus is nudging us to encourage others to the find living water.

Let's let Jesus capture our minds and hearts as we worship Him in spirit and truth so that we will never thirst again. Join me as we drink freely of the waters of eternal life (Revelation 22:17).

Blessings

From Kathie Baitzel...

We prayed for Sofia Oaks at our Jug Prayer breakfast. Kathie and her daughter were devastated that Sofia was diagnosed with colon cancer when she was only 27 years old. Sofia has now received three cancer free reports - Praise God! She has even returned to her work as a para-medic. Sofia is a Godly woman who adopts families at Christmas and keeps new clothes with her when she goes out on calls to give to those in need.

New Vocations Race Horse Adoption Program celebrated their 25th anniversary. God bless Dot Morgan and her team for their continued dedication and hard work in finding homes for our retired racehorses. Please pray for their continued success.

Lifetime Wells for Ghana—Ken Wood drilled his 1,700th well in Africa February 15th. Praise God!



<Before
After >



Scholarship Applications due April 30.
Application and information is available
at www.chha.net.

Speed Minister Miracle by Kim Rinker

A week ago I lost a trusted friend and loving little racehorse named Speed Minister.....while he wasn't what most would consider a champion, he was champion of my heart and typified the "little horse that could." Speedy didn't know how small he was and always gave 200% every time he hit the racetrack.

In any event, he died in a tragic accident and because of work obligations, etc., or maybe shock, his death didn't affect me until nearly a week and a half later, and then, I couldn't get the images surrounding his accident out of my mind, and they festered there.

The impact hit me hard and I felt completely worthless for not being able to protect him better from harm. I was angry at life, angry at the world, and most of all, angry at myself. I drove home from work with the heaviest of hearts.

And then, a miracle: when I got home, there was a bright yellow envelope in my mailbox, which read: "To Neighbor Horse Woman" & inside, a lovely card that read:

"Hope this helps lift your spirits. I just wanted to let you know how very, very sorry I am about the loss of your beautiful gelding! I touched his star and told him I was so

Scholarship Recipient
Alexis Schwartz

Hello all, first off I would just like to thank everyone for allowing me to be one of the recipients for the scholarship. I'm currently in my second semester here at The University of Kentucky studying Equine Science & Management. I absolutely could not have chosen a better school to go to. I love everything down here and let's not forget that it's in the middle of horse country, so I'm in heaven.



Although I love being down here at school, I cannot wait for it to be summer, so I can get back to working in the barn. I'm very excited to get this year's racing season started with the babies we have in our barn back home. I also cannot thank my family enough for all the love and support they give me no matter what I'm doing.

My father Bret Schwartz and my grandfather Robert Schwartz have been nothing but role models to me and make me want to follow right in their footsteps. They are what has inspired me to continue in this industry. Thank you all again and good luck to everyone this racing season!

Blessings,
Alexis Schwartz

sorry that this happened to him and may he be at peace in Heaven now. I am keeping you in my thoughts and prayers!"

~A Horse Lover & Horse Neighbor, Brenda Griffith
It's amazing what a random act of kindness can do for your soul.

Brenda's address was on the card, so I drove to her home and told her what her card meant to me and that it brightened my world that afternoon. We had a lovely visit, and I now have a new friend I can share horse stuff with, especially memories of a little black gelding named Speed Minister.

Thanks & God Bless, Kim Rinker



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

New on-line store: Check out our new on-line store at www.chha.net/products to select a free gift for your \$20 donation. More items will be added later. Credit card and PayPal donations are accepted.

Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation

Gifts

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

Bracelets are new



Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings and heart bracelets—see below

Books

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

Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care
by ER Gager and Bob "Dusty Rhodes"

Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines by Edmund R Gager **New Book true story**



Rambling Willie Remembers

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.

Horseshoe Nail Heart Bracelets and Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions

Bracelet: Horseshoe nails are bent into a heart and tied together with coordinated wire and attached to a leather strap.

Key Ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.

Necklace: Key ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire.

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

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

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Bracelet Qty: Black / Silver ____ Rawhide /Gold ____ Rawhide / Turquoise ____

Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Silver ____



Obituaries continued from page 5

James "Jimmy" H. Kennedy, 65, of Pompano Beach, FL died March 9. Jimmy trained harness horses for many years including the grand dam of Always Be Mickey. He winter trained his stable at the Pompano Park training side and had many friends on the backstretch. He was the starter at Pocono Downs.

William C. Kraner, 79, of Columbus, OH died March 9. William developed, owned and operated 13 companies. Following the death of his daughter, he was instrumental in the creation of the Sheryl L. Kraner Behavioral Health Campus in Newark, OH, and became the driving force behind the creation of the State of Ohio license plate dedicated to Ovarian Cancer Awareness. William owned and bred Standardbreds and later become a trustee of the Little Brown Jug.

Gary R. Luft, 72, of Verona, NY, died Feb 5. Gary was an owner, trainer and driver at Vernon Downs and, along with his wife, cared for many good Standardbreds throughout the years. The family favorite was Hayden Collins. He enjoyed fishing and caring for his other animals.



Samuel (Sam) A. McKee, 54, died unexpectedly from stroke complications, March 8. Sam grew up on a farm where he trained and raced horses with his father and grandfather. He was calling races at county fairs by age 14 and in 2012 he was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. Most recently, Sam was the announcer and Director of Simulcasting and TV Production at The Meadowlands Raceway. He was also the announcer at the Red Mile and handled interviews and TV Production at the Little Brown Jug. His immense passion for the harness racing industry goes unmatched to the love of his family. Sam enjoyed nothing more than spending time on their small Blairstown, NJ farm, riding and caring for the horses.



Dean E. Miller, 72, of Archbold, OH, died Jan 27. Dean retired as president of MBC Holdings (Miller Bros. Const.) in 2012 after 45 years of service and dedication. He was a former member of the board of directors of F&M State Bank and Chairman of the building committee at St. John Lutheran Church. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, harness racing, golfing, watching sports, summers at the lake and winters in FL.



Maurice (Moe) Negrini, 94, died Jan 21. Moe raced at Foxboro Raceway in the 70's. After retirement, he worked at Plainridge Raceway selling programs and escorting winners to the Winner's



Circle. Moe is the late Uncle of Janice Sarnie of Pompano Beach.

Walter Parsons, 70, died Feb 18. Walter believed in the power of the Word and lived true to it in everything that he did. He loved so many things but always had his priorities in order from his faith, his love for his wife, Dee, and his family. Walter's brother, Chaplain Waverly Parsons, is a member of CHHA.



Anthony J. "Tony" Salvaro Sr., 70, the longtime announcer at Maywood Park, died Feb 10.

Charles W. "Bill" Smith, 78, of Gambier, OH died Feb 19. Bill was a Peoples Bank manager for several years, and retired from Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities-New Hope Industries. He owned and drove several harness horses over the years.



Dr. John R. Steele, 91, died Feb 24. He was a pioneer in sport horse medicine and had a distinguished career as an equine veterinarian. Dr. Steele specialized in treating Standardbreds and later Show Jumpers.

Christina Talley, 50, of Salisbury, MD died Feb 10. She cared for her father, Jack Talley, renowned Delmarva, MD area harness race caller. Later Christine owned her own horses. 2001 Ocean Downs Horse of the Year, Go Nurse, was her favorite.



Elmer M. Wilson, 95, died Jan 28. Elmer owned, drove and trained harness horses for over 60 years. In his younger years he was considered one of the best local drivers racing.



Rollie Wilson, 96, or Galion, OH died Feb 16. Rollie received a Purple Heart and Silver Star for his service in the United States Army Air during World War II. He was part-owner of Crawford Construction for 33 years. He was a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Galion. Rollie was in charge of speed control at the Crawford County Fair with harness racing for over 30 years.



Dorothy A. Zarza, 79, a longtime member of the USTA, died Jan. 28.

Obituaries

Ronald Jon Battis "Ron", 62, of Danville, NH died Feb 20. Ron was a carpenter and worked over 20 years with Lewis Builders. Ron worked many years training harness horses and earned respect from fellow horsemen for his ability to work with difficult horses and make them winners.



Edward D. Chappell, 59, died Feb 19. He was a lifelong resident of N Syracuse, NY and was self-employed in the used car business along with his son, Nick. Ed was an avid horseracing fan and loved going to the casino. He was always willing to help anyone in need and will be greatly missed.

Joseph Paul Chnapko Sr, 95, of Livingston, NJ, died Mar 6. He owned many Standardbreds over the years and raced mainly at the Meadowlands. Joseph was an Army veteran of World War II serving in the 101st Airborne Division during the invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.



Eleanor Gillock, 87, of Belle Vernon, PA died Feb 12. Eleanor was the matriarch of a longtime Meadows racing

family. She was often in attendance at The Meadows watching her sons' horses race. Both Michael and Richard are longtime Meadows-based trainers, and Richard currently serves as the president of the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association.



Lloyd H. Gilmour, 71, died Feb 26. Lloyd was born and raised in Ft Erie, Ontario. He followed in the family business of harness racing with his father and brothers. He drove and trained many stakes winners and had 2,616 career driving wins. He started his racing career in Toronto and later moved to Buffalo Raceway, Vernon Downs and on to the Meadowlands. In 1985 he moved to Rosecroft Raceway. His driving career was cut short by a serious racing accident in 1989. After that he continued to train and own horses with partner John Wagner. Lloyd's two passions in life were horse racing and hockey.

Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.harnessracing.com, www.ustrotting.com and www.standardbredcanada.ca

Prayer Corner

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

Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Ronny Battis, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Ginny Chudoba, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, 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, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, Pierre Noel, Shari Okusko, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Leigh Rayermer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Butch Ward, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, 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, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Dennis Drenth, Jeff Frizzell, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Sherie Hankins, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Doug

Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Don James, Kenny Kane, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Larry Lawter, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, 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 Petruzzo and Elizabeth Welch

Special Intentions for this month:

Toni Bell's mother recently died.
 John Cross has blood and bone marrow cancer.
 Joe DiGenova has pancreatic cancer.
 Karen Ewing's rotator cuff was badly bruised in a fall.
 Vivian Farrington has some broken vertebrae.
 Lloyd Fortune has Stage 3 cancer.
 Jack Johnson has four hernias and maybe a tumor.
 Ross Hankins is scheduled for shoulder surgery April 18.
 Warren Harp has something suspicious in his bladder again.
 Glenda Holloway has pancreatic cancer.
 Jim Meyers is in the final stages of life.
 David Reid has numerous blood clots on his lungs.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Scholarship Applications due April 30th

The Power of Prayer by Lori Romanetti

For 2 months since suffering a major brain hemorrhage, Sherri Hankins made little progress. She did not speak and moved very little. She had a tracheotomy and a feeding tube. At times, you were not sure that she knew you were there and seemed to stare right through you. Nonetheless, the prayer partners of CHHA and The Meadows track chapel never gave up hope. Prayers continued for her every day.

Sherri is the wife of MSOA Executive Director, Kim Hankins. The Dan Patch awards were fast approaching and Kim was to present awards to both Chaplain Lee Alphen and Roger Huston from The Meadows. Kim didn't think he should go due to Sherri's condition but was urged to attend as Sherri was stable and would have daily visits by myself to check on her. Following the acceptance of her award, Chaplain Lee Alphen led a room of about 500 in prayer. She included Sherri and Sam McKee in those prayers. Later that evening, Kim received a call. Sherri was not responsive and was being taken to the local hospital emergency room (ER). I left to accompany Sherri while she was in the ER. During her ER visit, the physician asked me how long Sherri had been like this. I told him "2 months". His response was "Wow – it's very unlikely at this point much will change if she has been like this that long." Deep down, I feared he was right. They decided she was stable and released her back to her care facility.

The next day I headed to the care facility to check on Sherri. The nurse saw me coming and ran into the room ahead of me. As I walked in Sherri looked straight at me, smiled and said "Hi Lori"! I was stunned and thought I was hearing things! The nurse just smiled and said "how about that!" We immediately called Kim. When he picked up the phone, I told him someone wanted to talk to him. I

held the phone to Sherri's ear and she said "Hi – I love you and can't wait to see you!" You can only imagine the sheer joy on the other end of the phone.



Sherri Hankins

From that moment forward, Sherri has never stopped improving. She is eating on her own, drinking on her own and even has taken some steps. She calls Kim on the phone and is also playing Bingo at the care facility.

I believe with my whole heart that this is a powerful example of what prayer can do. Kim believes it as well. God hears and answers our prayers according to His perfect will and timing. Our God IS an AWESOME God!



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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Bob and Beth Cain, Harold Kelly
- In memory of **Ron Barttis** by: Rolland Day
- In memory of **Aime Choquette** by: Harold Kelly and Ann MacNeill
- In memory of **Hank Kaufman** by: Bob and Beth Cain
- In memory of **Tom Kirwan** by: John and Judith McMullen
- In memory of **Bill Lancaster** by: Harold Kelly
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood