



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

December 2017

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
603-898-1927
603-401-7271 (cell)

Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
or
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Merry Christmas



The Bid for Peace

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Salegoers in Harrisburg methodically move through the stable areas. Their thick catalogs sport pages tabbed with colorful flags to help them quickly find information about their horses of interest. With over 1,500 horses on the card, time is precious for the serious buyers. Once confirmations, strides and pedigrees are reviewed and potential owners, partners and backers contacted, it's off to the sales arena to get a feel for the auction and the crowd. Thankfully, the consignors all have munchies available for those who visit their barns.

Your adrenaline rises as a number you want lights up on the board and the horse steps into the sales ring. How high to go? That's always the question. Who are we bidding against? How high will they go? Should we become partners? The hammer falls. The runner is asking you to sign. Praise God! You won the bid! Now you are at peace.

Peace, that settled feeling that comes over us when the surgeon comes, smiling, to tell us all went well or the kids come home happy or things are good with the family, the stable or at work— that's a nice feeling to have. It would be nice if we could always be at peace.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (1 Colossians 3:15 NIV). The peace of Christ—how perfect that sounds! Rule? Racing has rules. So do other sports. "Paul tell us to let Christ's peace be umpire or referee in our heart" (*Life Application Study Bible*

page 2659). Christ wants us always to be at peace. Life can be stressful. However, when we apply the rule of peace and look to Jesus for the call, we better understand the conflict and are able to calm the turmoil roiling around inside us by trusting God.

Paul encourages us to talk to God about everything. He also reminds us to always thank God. "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand" (Philippians 4: 6-7 NLT).

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1 NIV). Throughout the scriptures we read how those who sought God

were blessed. Even through difficult times in their lives, they were blessed because God was with them. The bible is a treasure full of great stories to encourage us and to lead us to a fuller understanding of God and all that God is and does. The most important lesson we learn from scripture is

that God loves us. God sent Jesus to teach us to accept God's love. We can show our thanks to God by loving God and each other.

God never promised us a rose garden. Much goes on in life. We are pulled in many directions and our options are not as nicely catalogued as the *Black Book* that the Standardbred Horse Sales Company puts together. However, the more we communicate with God and give thanks for all our blessings, the more we will win the bid for peace.



Blessings

From Linda Winebrener...

Linda was diagnosed with breast cancer before the 2016 Harrisburg Sale. Not wanting to interfere with the sale and wanting to provide her excellent soup and other goodies to the salegoers, she trusted her health to God and put off treatment. She had a double mastectomy in February. Linda says, "Jesus took care of me." She is now cancer free. Praise God!



Linda Winebrener

From Dick Hughes...

Thanks so much for the prayers. Loretta's sister, Joyce, came home from the hospital today. She had to have 3 operations, but she is on the mend. We are so thankful and praise God. Thanks to all the prayer partners.

From Tom Maloney...

Tom was at the Harrisburg Sale and is grateful for our prayers. He was on our prayer list for colon cancer and says our prayers have been answered. Praise God!



John Balver, Tom Maloney and Pam Herbs

From Jean Emerson...

Every issue of the Northeast Harness News is now online (with a grant from the State Library in Augusta (1980 thru 1995). Guess your prayers for me have been working! Here is the website digitalmaine.com/northeast_harness_news be sure to read the introductory letter which explains everything. FREE!

From Joan Harp...

Good news, Warren's CT and Bone Scans showed no new signs of cancer. His enlarged lymph nodes are back to normal. It seems his new treatments are working. Hopefully they will keep the cancer under control. Thank you and everyone for their prayers.

From Bill & Maddy Wright...

We thank you for your prayers and those of so many who have helped us through Maddy's battle with breast cancer. She is feeling much better now that her chemo treatments are completed. We feel very blessed by the love we have been shown by special people like yourself whose faith in God gives us strength. Our church family has supplied us with many wonderful meals. Medical professionals have been both helpful and kind. We pray that others will be brought closer to Jesus as they see the love of Christ shown through the helping hands serving us. We pray for strength and courage that our lives will serve our Lord and inspire others to see the light that only Our Savior can provide. With love, Bill & Maddy Wright

Harrisburg cont. from Back

and I prayed for his wife, Donna, who is suffering with Parkinson's Disease. Jon, Paul Fontaine, Jake Huff, Charlie Silcott and many others were happy to wear one of our new CHHA hats. They look sharp!

The burgundy stables of Preferred Equine Sales Company are always classy. Lillie Brown served the best ice cream sandwiches along with Espresso and popcorn in their barn. Of course, the blue and orange stalls at Hanover Shoe Farms were well staffed with salegoers constantly in the aisles checking legs and confirmations.

Mike Carter has great stories to tell of his travels. Norm Clements brought a couple of Cam Fella prints. Janet Campbell took them to The Meadows for the Chinese Auction. Pastor Joe will have them nicely framed and share the proceeds with us. The people at the Meadows are an important part of CHHA. They are good to us and CHHA has a great relationship with them.



Lillie Brown

It is always good to see my friends Jackie Warner from Ontario, Al Ochsner, of SBOANJ, Betty Holt from NY and the folks from the Harness Racing Museum.



Debbie and Charlie Silcott



Mike Carter and Bernie and Margie O'Brien

Bible Study at Sunshine Meadows

Tim and Loveda Finley are offering a Bible Study Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the restaurant at Sunshine Meadows horse training center. They are studying the New Testament and what it offers humankind.



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

Christmas Gift Ideas

Gifts

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)



CHHA hat **New Item Blue hat with CHHA Logo**

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

Books

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

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



Dental

by ER Gager and Bob "Dusty Rhodes"

Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines by Edmund R Gager



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

Sue Carpenter, 86, of West Mansfield, died Oct 6. Sue was a devoted wife, loving homemaker and she loved spending time with her family. She raised her children, tended to the home and was an excellent cook and seamstress. In her younger years, Sue worked at the Mt. Victory Cannery and later as a driver for 10 years TRC at Honda. She often volunteered at the Give and Take, at the Conservation Club and taught Sunday school. Sue was the sister of Bob Farrington.



William E. Downey, Jr, 83, of Gallatin, TN, died Jul 25. Bill graduated from Groveport High School in 1951 and from Otterbein College in 1956. For his entire career he was employed by Occidental Petroleum.



Harry G. Farrow Jr, 84, of Harrington, DE, died Nov 2. He was a former mayor of Harrington and the owner of the *Harrington Journal* newspaper whose sports section was dominated by harness racing news. More recently Mr. Farrow was a realtor. Harry grew up on the family farm. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Harry was a big supporter of harness racing. Growing up, he had several horses. His love of the sport began at an early age. He could be found at Dover or Harrington covering the harness races every season.



Francis G. 'Gary' Fedigan, 78, of Auburn, NY died Nov 5. Gary was a US Army veteran during the Vietnam era. He was a very devout Catholic and communicant at St. Mary's Church. Gary was employed for more than 30 years as a corrections officer at Auburn Correctional Facility and more recently had worked security at Auburn Community Hospital for over 12 years. Gary's sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Phil Hale, are involved with harness racing. Gary would make an occasional trip to OTB to watch the races.



Edward Gilman, 78, of Exeter, NH, died Nov 12. Edward's love of horses started as a young boy when he learned the trade from his father. His harness racing career started with his father racing at the fairs in New England. He also raced at Hinsdale Raceway (where he won numerous driving titles), Rockingham Park, and Bay State Raceway (aka Foxboro). At the Rochester Fair he won the Jess Brown driving championship. He also was a letter carrier at the Exeter Post Office for 15 years.

Susan "Sue" Grange, 63, of Cheltenham, Ont., died Oct 19. Sue's passion for riding began when she was young. She was forced to quit riding due to an injury and was out of the sport for a while. When she could not stay away any longer, she traveled the world selecting the best show jumpers to represent her 100-acre farm. About the same time, her parents, Audrey and Elwood Campbell, discovered their love for horseracing. After Elwood's death, Audrey and Jeff Snyder entered a bidding war at the Harrisburg Sale for Red River Hanover and established a partnership. Audrey and Jeff purchased many horses together including Rocknroll Hanover. After her mother died, Sue took over her mother's business, Lothlorien Equestrian Center.

Charles Harold Jacobs, 75, died Oct 8. Harold was blessed with a 31-year career as the Kenyon College Coordinator of Health, Safety, and Residence Facilities. He treasured his association with students, alumni and college staff. Charles enjoyed his farm life sharing stories with his children and grandchildren of helping neighboring farmers with baling hay and straw for a penny a bale, some days making \$2 to \$4 a day. He was a hard-working and caring husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, co-worker and friend. He was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Church, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, the Knox County Farm Bureau, and the Knox County Cattlemen's Association. His wife, Ada, currently owns and breeds standardbreds with Bret Schwartz in Ohio.



Allan P McCarty, 67, died Oct. 16. Allan graduated as an attorney from University of Buffalo Law School in 1974 and practiced law in the City of Buffalo until he retired in 2006. Those who knew Allan knew his true life's calling was horses, and he thrived on his time as a standardbred horse trainer. He trained and raced primarily at the Hamburg Fairgrounds and Batavia Downs up until the week of his passing. Allan was known for his quick wit, amazing sense of humor and generosity.

Ferdinand (Fred) Monteleone, 78, died Oct 5. Fred owned many horses over the last 50 years including Cincinnati Kid, Civil Action and Monte Hall. "Some were great," he once said, "but some weren't so great, but I loved them all. I don't play golf and I don't fish, so I guess my only hobby would be my horses and that hobby has lasted for close to 50 years." Longtime friend Anthony Marcou said, "This is a heart-breaking day for so many of us. Fred was the pulse of his family and his many friends. There will never be another one like him. That mold was broken a long time ago."

Amy C. Wildman, 47, died Nov 11. Amy was well known in Ohio where she once operated a staking service. She loved all animals, especially horses.

Obituaries

Tony Abbatiello, 89, of Colts Neck, NJ, died Oct 19. Tony, a USTA director for 25 years and longtime chairman of the board, started in the sport by acquiring 457 acres in Colts Neck where he built a home, a training track and paddocks for his pacers and trotters. He co-founded the SBOANJ in 1960 and served as the group's president for nearly three decades. Tony provided backing and racing expertise for the development of the Meadowlands Racetrack. He was even filmed driving a horse across the GW Bridge, through the Lincoln Tunnel and pacing on the tarmac at Newark Airport as part of an advertising campaign for the track's opening in 1976. In 1995, he was inducted into harness racing's Hall of Fame. He received many other awards. He won two purple hearts, Silver and Bronze Stars and several other commendations for his service in the Korean conflict. Several times a year Tony invited special needs and inner city kids for a day in the country and a chance to fish for blue gills in ponds on his farm and to enjoy a variety of



other animals he kept for them to visit.



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Charles Armstrong** by: Larry and Joan Martin
 In memory of **Sue Farrington Carpenter** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
 In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins and Roger Huston
 In memory of **Charles Jacobs** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **Kenny Kirk** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **Helen and Elmer Looney** by: JoAnn King
 In memory of **Ed Mullen** by: Larry and Joan Martin
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood

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, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Paul Fontaine, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Janette Hughes, Jeff Hurst, 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 Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, 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, Marty Woebkenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Dennis Drenth, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham,

Debbie Gray, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Doug Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Kenny Kane, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Art LaPlante, Larry Lawter, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Doug Nash, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madysyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, 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 John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt. David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch

Special Intentions for this month:

Ms Anonymous has back issues.
 Tim Finley is starting a Bible Study at Sunshine Meadows Training Center.
 Phylis Hodgekins has stomach cancer.
 David Kovach has bladder, prostate and stomach cancer, and really bad kidneys.
 Tom Schoeffel is about to have his 2nd back surgery.
 Myra Terwilliger is pretty banged up following a bad auto accident.
 Debbie Uhrig has Alzheimer's and has become combative.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Please Donate a Breeding

Stallion Auction January 24—27, 2018

Harrisburg Sale

Russell Redding, Chairman, of the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission attended the Annual



Rich Gillock, Russell Redding and Kim Hankins

Standardbred Horse Sales Company reception Monday night. Kim Hankins and others on the committee did a great job securing a multi-year contract to fund racing in Pennsylvania.

It is always a blessing to pray with our members. Ellen Beinhauer joined hands with Paul Fontaine and me as we prayed for the success of his prostate cancer treatment. Jon Phillips

Harrisburg continued on pg 2



Jon Phillips

Thanks!

CHHA has a fantastic Board of Directors! President Amy Bondon, Vice President Greg Gehman, Roger Huston and Lori Romanetti are wonderful! They have terrific ideas and insight into our industry and are passionate about our organization and mission. Actually, many of our members are committed to helping us Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing! Your ongoing support and encouragement is making a difference. Thank you for being part of CHHA and serving God in our great sport!

Highlights of 2017

Events

Spring Garden Ranch Event

Jack Levine, Amateur driver/ Madison Ave Executive, inspired us with racing parables.

The Truitt Family traveled from West Virginia to praise God with their music.

Gaitway Farm Event

NY Racetrack Chaplains Humberto and Karen Chavez encouraged us in our relationships with the Lord in both Spanish and English.

Marybeth DiAngelo and her friends blessed us with their music.

Jug Prayer Breakfast

Breeder Jeff Stacy inspired us to go a good last quarter. We may get away slow, but he wants to see us in Glory Land.

The Truitt Family again inspired us as they lifted their voices to the Lord.

Other Activities

Awarded four college scholarships.

Published over 50 great praise reports.

Published 12 inspirational newsletters.

Encouraged breeding with our Stallion Auction.

Portrayed harness racing in a positive light.

Chaplain Lee Alphen officiated at weddings and funerals.

Helped struggling horsemen and horsewomen.

Visited farms, tracks, training centers and industry events.

Most importantly, we prayed...

About 60 Partners join Chaplain Lee in praying for our members and the needs of the harness racing community.

Chaplain Lee prayed through the entire member list every month.

Chaplain Lee and other members pray for all our members every day.