



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

June 2017

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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

In Memory

This newsletter is
printed in memory of all
the brave men and women
who died while serving in
the military of the United
States and Canada.



Trust Me! *By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

After loading the horses safely on the van up north, the trainer flies to the winter training center to prepare stalls for their arrival and arrange dorm rooms for the grooms. It is important to make sure there will be a suitable place for everyone.

Jesus has gone to heaven to prepare a place for us. He explains it to the disciples in John 14:1-12. He has something better than shavings or straw and a tack room in mind. In fact, His place has streets paved with gold, walls made of precious gems and fruit trees always in season (Revelation 21:18-21 and 22:2). Before He left, He made sure we were in good hands. The disciples had three years of intense training. In addition, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit. Now all this is available to us.

Jesus said, "Don't worry! Trust Me! We have a big estate. I'll go and get a place ready for you. You know the way to where I am going. When your new home is ready, I'll come get you."

Wait a minute; like Thomas, we question, we don't even really know where this place is that You are going. How can we possibly find it? Jesus' answer is, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." The only way to reach God is through Me. If You really know Me, then You know the fullness of God.

Lining up behind the starting gate, we go the right way around the track. That is the only way during the race. If we go the wrong way, we will be disqualified. We know the way both on the track and in life. Jesus mapped the route to heaven for his disciples in word and example. The only way to get to heaven is by believing in Jesus.

We hear a lot about FAKE news these days. Jesus IS the truth. There is no question. Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1). He is the source of all truth. Would we rather listen to others who may or may not be correct in what they say or to Jesus who IS the truth? We can listen to Him in our hearts and in His Word, the bible.

Grooms on the stake circuit sometimes sleep in the shed row beside their horses. They take their charges seriously and are not about to let anyone hurt them. Jesus said He was going to lay down His life for His sheep (John 10:17). He did. He also promised, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). Yes, Jesus died so that we can live forever in heaven with Him. He paid the price for our life with His own life. God gave us life when we were formed in our mother's womb. Jesus gave us eternal life by giving His life on the cross.

In his new book "Downloading God," Jack Levine asks if we are going in the right direction. Like Jack, we all "fall off our horses," pick ourselves up, and remind ourselves that when we have faith in God there is no need to worry. Let's just thank God for all our blessings.

Jesus promised to come for us. We don't have to make the trip through life all alone. In fact, Jesus is already here walking right beside us, ready to guide us through this life and into the next. Yes, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. We can trust Him. Thank you Jesus!



Blessings

From Judy Ferguson...

This is a poem Terry Holton wrote in the eighth grade. Even at a young age, Terry believed there were four key ingredients to finding happiness in life. He expressed his belief in this poem he titled "The Four Leaf Clover." Whatever the relationship, Terry was a special friend to so many of us. I am sending this in memory of Terry. He passed 10 years ago May 4th.



The Four Leaf Clover by Terry Holton

I know a place where the sun is like gold,
And the cherry blossoms burst in the snow.
Down underneath is the loveliest nook,
Where the four-leaf clover grows.



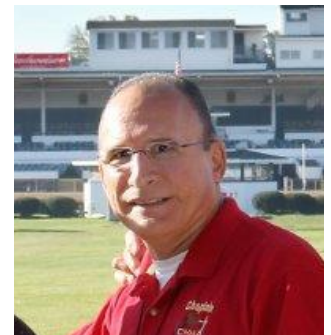
One leaf is for faith, one is for hope,
One is for love and so,
But God put another one in just for luck,
And if you search you will find where it grows.

Bust you must have faith, you must have hope,
You must be kind and so.
If you work and you will wait,
You will find the place,
Where the four-leaf clover grows.

Used by God by Chaplain Joe Didonato....

The father of one of our long time track workers Paula Clapper (whose husband Rick has been a trainer at The Meadows for years) had been living in a local health center for quite a while. I have had many visits with Paul Wehr who loved the Lord and loved reading the Word of God. His Bible was misplaced during his move to the health center and one of the first things I did upon starting to visit Paul was get him a good large print King James Version of God's Word. We became good friends.

Over the last couple months Paul had to have hospice care and Pastor Sue Petritis, who assists me at The Meadows, was assigned to Paul as his Hospice Chaplain. My last visit with Paul, just a few days before his death, was to fulfill his request that we have communion together. It had been a while since Paul partook of Holy Communion and it was a blessing to share the elements with him. A few days later Pastor Sue called to tell me she was heading to the health center because Paul was getting weaker and her fellow workers did not think he would make it through the day. I was in another area and immediately called his daughter Paula to pray. Paula held the phone in one hand and her father's hand in the other. The hospice nurse prayed along with us as she was on the other side of Paul holding his other hand. I was thanking God for Paul's faith and the fact that he would soon leave his body of pain and receive a new body that would never again experience any tears, sorrow, crying or pain. As I finished praying Paula told me, with tears of comfort, that just as I mentioned leaving his body of pain and receiving a new body her father stopped breathing. Paula's cousin Judy, who was very close to her uncle, and is also a strong woman of faith, sent me a card with a donation that stated "I was deeply touched to hear how you were God's instrument to bless Paul in prayer during his last moments before he crossed the veil." What a humbling note to receive and what an honor to be used of God as a vessel of His love. We just never know how God will use us ... we just need to be available.



Racing For Christ Participants

CHHA is blessed with many supporters, large and small, who help us **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!** We are especially grateful to these Racing for Christ Participants who are our exceptional donors.

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

Books

- Downloading God by Jack Levine **New Book**
- 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



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 \[www.chha.net/products\]\(http://www.chha.net/products\)](#)

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

Anita L. Cisco, 75, of Celina, OH died April 21. Anita retired in 2008 from Reynolds and Reynolds in Celina after 45 years of service. She was a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in St. Marys. She and Arnold Fast bred, raised and raced Standardbreds for 40 years.



George "Duke" Dranichak, 74, died April 10. George lived most of his life in Pavilion. He graduated from Niagara University in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business. After college, he raced Standardbreds, and then became a judge. He retired from the New York State Racing and Wagering Board, where he served as the Director of Racing Officials for all Standardbred and Thoroughbred racetracks in the State of New York.



John Forrest Flagg, 75, of Avon, ME died March 21. John served his country in the US Army Reserves. John retired from International Paper Co in Jay after 33 years in July of 2000. He enjoyed racing horses, going to the fairs, and farming was the love of his life. He also looked forward to getting together with family and friends to play cards.



Alan Horowitz, 73, died April 22. Alan was a major force in California harness racing over the last several decades and a member of the California Harness Horsemen's Association Hall of Fame. In 1994, Alan was instrumental in bringing harness racing back to Cal Expo in the form of Capitol Racing. He also served as general manager. "It is impossible to overstate Alan's importance to the harness racing industry in California," said David Neumeister. "Simply put, if it were not for Alan, the sport would no longer exist in this state. "In addition, as my wife said the other night when she heard of his passing, 'Alan Horowitz was probably the nicest man I have ever known.'"

James Thomas Lunn Jr, 85, of Accomac, VA, died April 7. James was a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. He was a member of many organizations including Drummondtown United Methodist Church, The Maryland-Delaware Racing Commission, Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association, and the New York State Gaming Commission. Mr. Lunn was associated with a variety of business interests and was owner/manager of a mobile home park. He was a great lover of horses.

Earl Thomas Osten, 77, died April 19. Earl was a member of Edgewood Baptist Church, the Jessamine County Beef Cattle Association and was an Army Veteran. His favorite thing to do was going to his grandchildren's activities including horse shows and baseball. His daughter, Jennifer Lapanick, a territory manager at Merritt Veterinary Supplies has been involved with horse racing for years.

Loren W. Proefrock, 90, of Lincoln, IL died April 23. Loren assisted his wife as secretary/treasurer of the IL Big 10 Colt Association from 1981-2005, and he continued with the Big 10 on his own from 2006-2008. He was also the secretary/treasurer for the

Logan County Fair Board for many years. He retired from Illico Independent Oil Co. as a comptroller in 1995. He was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church and the Lincoln American Legion. He proudly served his country during World War II in the Army Air Corp.



Robert Ray, 93, of Pensacola, FL died April 24. Ray was originally from Skowhegan, ME. In the 1950s his love turned to horses and harness racing. He raced up and down the east coast with his young family. Then his business career in the high tech field brought the family to live in many states until they settled in California. Later moved back to New England before settling on the Gulf coast. Robert was awarded the Purple Heart for his service in the Army during WWII and earned an Electrical Engineering degree at UNH.



Daniel Milton Rooney died April 13. Daniel was the brother of Empire City at Yonkers Raceway President Timothy Rooney, and a former US Ambassador to Ireland, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Tami Sue Smith, 58, of Washington Court House, OH, the mother of Ohio harness driver Jeremy Smith, died April 25. Tami was extremely proud of her son, Jeremy, and his accomplishments in our sport. She loved harness racing and enjoyed horses immensely. She was most recently employed by Tigerpoly Manufacturing in Grove City.

Arnold William Stansley, 84, of Sylvania, OH, died April 21 after losing his seven-year battle with ALS. Arnold partnered with his brother, Richard, in the trucking and excavating business (Sylvester Materials); partnered with his brother-in-law and sister, Jack and Cheri Lenavitt, in a salvage yard (AJ's Auto) as well as mutual ownership of several racetracks (Raceway Park, Trinity Meadows and Colonial Downs). His love for horses was evident from an early age, and it kept him involved in training and racing horses much of his life.



Paul Edward Wehr, 88, died March 20. He proudly served our country in the Army during the Korean War. He worked at Elmer Pepper Cleaning Co. and as a butcher for the Wehr and Mathe Meat Market. Paul's daughter, Paula Clapper, and her husband, Rick, race at the Meadows.



Frank W. Woodbury Sr, 77, died May 8. Frank raced a stable across Maine and at Rockingham Park in Salem, NH for years. He also worked as an Associate Judge at the fairs and as Presiding Judge at Rochester Fair. In later years, he became a judge at Scarborough Downs. His two best horses were Another Blaze and Two Demand. Frank loved all animals and spending time outdoors.



Obituaries

David J "Dave" Abbott, 52, of Eustis, FL died April 16. Dave was a standardbred trainer, a CNA, and worked in the Environmental Services Department at Florida Hospital Waterman in Tavares.



Emmor Thomas Baily, 91, of Lebanon, OH, died April 9. He was active for many years with the Warren County Fair Board and raced Standardbreds at Lebanon Raceway for more than 40 years. He was a member of the Lebanon Masonic Lodge, a veteran of the United States Navy. He had a strong love for animals, farming and gardening.

George L. "Lee" Blodgett, 56, died April 20. George, originally from Gardiner, ME, raced at various tracks across the country throughout his lifetime. He particularly enjoyed racing his trotting mare, Norma's Rose.



Armand Brocca, 95, of Albany, NY died April 30. He was a veteran of the US Merchant Marines and Army, serving during World War II, where he was a recipient of a Purple Heart. Armand worked in the construction industry and retired at age 57. His love of horses started at age 11 and throughout his life, he owned and trained horses, winning many races at the Saratoga Harness Track.



John P. Brocklehurst, 81, of Mercer, PA died April 22. John and his brother, David, followed their father, Paul, into the business. His son Harold and grandsons, Bryce and Mike both race at The Meadows. John and his wife, Mary Jane, who preceded him in death by six months, operated a harness repair shop on the backstretch at The Meadows for 15 years.



Wallace "Lofty" Bruce, 85, died May 2 in Saratoga Springs, NY. A native of Truro, Nova Scotia, he became exposed to harness racing when he was 10 through fellow Maritimer Joe O'Brien. Lofty played hockey in the Quebec Junior League and the Eastern Hockey League. A neck fracture ended his hockey career when he was 19. Then he went to work with horses and moved to the United States to join the O'Brien Stable. He later worked for Stanley Dancer when Dancer's stable included the great Su Mac Lad..



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, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, 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, 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, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woebkenberg, Joyce Zeasapolowski

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

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, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, 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 Petruzzo and Elizabeth Welch

Special Intentions for this month:

Karen Carter's cancer is back.

Bev Crane had a mild stroke, and they found a hole in her heart.

Greg Gehman has heart problems.

Sherri Hankins is battling a bad infection.

Three members of **Tom Luchento's family** have serious health problems.

Doug Nash has serious health problems.

Art Plant has a bad infection.

Monica Thors has an infection.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



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Address corrections

Information at www.chha.net

Racing for Christ Program Enroll yourself or your horse

Horses or individuals can enroll in this exciting program. Pledge a small percentage of your horse's earnings or become a regular supporter of the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association. See page 2 for a list of major contributors who help make our ministry possible.

100% of the proceeds of our Racing for Christ Program will be used for CHHA's mission to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!** Participants will receive a laminated poster with their horse's name or their name inscribed in the Racing for Christ logo.



Racing for Christ Horses Participating in 2017

| Horse | Owner |
|------------------|------------------------|
| El Pescadoro | Linda Quodomine, DVM |
| Good Good Guy | Jennifer Brown |
| Isabella Hanover | Lori and Ray Romanetti |
| Midnight Toker | Lori and Ray Romanetti |

For more information or to register, visit www.chha.net or contact Chaplain Lee

New Jersey Event — Monday, August 7th

Join us at Gaitway Farm in Englishtown, NJ Monday, August 7th for lunch and a message from NY Chaplains Humberto and Karen Chavez. Music will be provided by Marybeth DiAngelo and her friends.



Above: NY racetrack Chaplains Humberto and Karen Chavez



Left: Marybeth DiAngelo and her music group at our Gaitway Farm event last year.



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

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **John Flagg** by: Mary Beth Wing
- In memory of **Eleanor Gillock** by: Richard and Regina Beinhauer
- In memory of **Jimmy Kennedy** by: Peter Blood
- In memory of **William Lancaster** by: Mary Beth Wing
- In memory of **Sam McKee** by: Amy Bondon, Phil Cunningham and Larry Lederman
- In memory of **Earl Osten** by: and Amy Bondon
- In memory of **Dr John Steele** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson