



Rambling Willie

# Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



## Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

May 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](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
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157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

### In Memorium

This newsletter is printed in memory of Sam McKee.



Rest in peace Sam!

## Fawn By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Fawn's nervous high-strung energy as she darted around the coral made Donna afraid to work with her new thoroughbred mare. After a few peppermints, haltered and calmed down Fawn allowed Donna to hold her lead rope. Donna began to brush her and was then able to walk her. When we turned Fawn loose, she ran and jumped and then got down and rolled. She was happy. Donna was happy too. Faith and peace were growing.

The disciples were all huddled together, hiding out, afraid of the Jewish leaders the evening of the first Sunday after Easter. So much had happened. They didn't know what to make of it all. There was the empty tomb and the women who said they saw Jesus and He spoke to them.

However, the Jewish leaders were irate that the body was missing and were looking to arrest the disciples. They were scared and confused. Then Jesus showed up as is told in John 20:20-29. Yes, He just showed up. He didn't ring the doorbell, knock, or even open the door. He just appeared out of nowhere.

The first words out of His mouth were "Peace be with You." Then He showed them the wounds in His hands and side. They were overjoyed to see Jesus. "Peace be with you," Jesus said a second time, passing on to them the job

of spreading the Good News. He also filled them with the Holy Spirit. Faith and peace were growing.

They couldn't wait to tell Thomas. As soon as he arrived, they said, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas refused to believe them without seeing Jesus and his nail marks for himself. Now, for the rest of eternity, Thomas will be dubbed Doubting Thomas.

A week later Jesus again appeared suddenly even though the doors were locked. He told Thomas to touch his wounds and to believe. Immediately Thomas believed and exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" Faith and peace were growing.

Fawn and Donna both wanted to be

friends, to be able to trust each other. They both had questions and needed time to get acquainted. Very soon, I am certain, they will have faith in each other and be the best of

"God doesn't want to visit. He wants to move in."

Christine Caine

Photo by :Ann MacNeill



friends. They will be at peace.

It is okay to question, to be cautious, to search for answers, to try to understand. Thomas was searching for the truth. Once given a reason to believe, he gladly did so. His questioning led to faith. He was at peace.

Three times Jesus told the disciples gathered after the Resurrection, "Peace be with you!" They had a big job ahead of them. Jesus sent them, filled with the peace of Christ and the Holy Spirit,

Continued on page 2

## Blessings

From Lori Romanetti...

Terry Raymer has a new grandson, Lincoln Alexander Fort



From Kim Hankins...

Sherri continues to make great progress. Please pray the insurance company reinstates her so she can get the physical therapy she needs to get strong again.



### Fawn continued from Page 1

to bring that same peace and faith to every corner of the world.

We have questions too. We find the answers in many places such as our talks with God, the scriptures, church, nature and talking with Christian friends. The more our relationship with God grows, the more we too will be at peace. The stronger our faith, the better able we are to serve our God. Can we say that our faith and peace are growing?

### An Easter Story *Author Unknown* Submitted by Phyllis Marie Carvalho

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak.... "I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked; What do you have there, son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you going to do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh??!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again. The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?"

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten-dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone.

The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the

birds out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story:

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked. Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you are done with them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you.

They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!!"

"How much? He asked again.

Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears and your life."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.

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**New on-line store:** Check out our new on-line store at [www.chha.net/products](http://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](http://www.chha.net/products)**

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

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

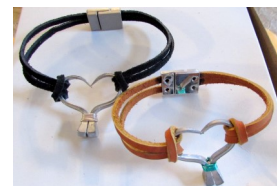
Mail with \$20 ea + \$4 shipping to:

**Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317**

Bracelet Qty: Black / Silver \_\_\_\_ Rawhide /Gold \_\_\_\_ Rawhide / Turquoise \_\_\_\_

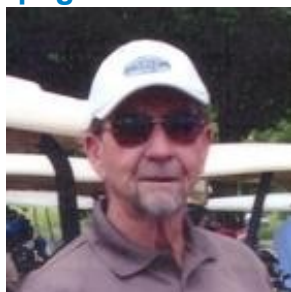
Necklace Qty: Red \_\_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_\_

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



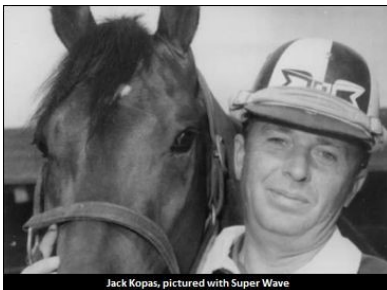
## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Donald E. Huddleston (Hud)**, 83, died April 1. He founded the D.E Huddleston, Inc. a construction company in Chillicothe in 1971. He enjoyed harness racing. His most notable horse was his Ohio Triple Crown Winner "Peachie Pie."



**Jack Kopas**, 88, of Ilderton, Ontario died recently.

Jack began his career in the Standardbred racing industry in 1942. His free-for-all pacer Super Wave was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2002. He was acclaimed as the fastest and richest older pacer in North America. He was the Canadian Trotting Association's Horse of the Year and the Older Pacer of the Year in the U.S. Jack was the Canadian Horseman of the Year in both 1969 and 1976. The future of the Kopas stable, however, and its familiar green and white colors are well in hand.



Jack Kopas, pictured with Super Wave

**Geraldine R. Marsh**, age 94, of Ellendale, DE died March 28. Retired from ACME Markets in 1982. She was a giving person who volunteered countless hours with many organizations in the local community.



**David A Meirs II, VMD**, 87, of Walnridge Farm, Cream Ridge, NJ died March 27. In 1965 he established Walnridge Equine Clinic. With the advent of the New Jersey Sire Stakes program in 1972, he decided to become active in New Jersey's Standardbred industry and established Walnridge Farm. The first stallion to stand at Walnridge was Peerswick, a horse imported from New Zealand and acquired through Stanley Dancer. Besides starting the equine clinic, Dr. Meirs served on numerous Veterinary and Agricultural Boards to support most importantly the young veterinarians he helped to become the professionals they are today.

**Shari L. Okusko**, age 48, of Vernon, NY died April 3. Shari was employed at Kay Jewelers for over 20 years. She loved working with the harness horses that were part of her parents' stable and later with the Gary Bryant's Stable. Her whole family is involved in racing at Vernon Downs.

**Delbert R. Richards**, 68, of Harrington, DE died April 4. Del was born and raised in Caribou, Maine. His love for horses led him to a career in horse racing, and training, throughout New York State and Delaware. In his free time, he enjoyed going to the casinos, and spending time at Murphys Sports Bar.



**HW "Salty" Roberts**, of Cooper City, FL died April 7. Salty was the founder of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America (RTCA). Last December he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA). For over 43 years he has dedicated his life to bringing the ministry and a positive influence not only to Florida racing but race tracks worldwide.



**Frank "Tag" Tagariello**, 79, died March 20. Tag excelled in football and track at Farmingdale High School. He began his career under the tutelage of Joe Adamo and also worked for Eddie Cobb, George Sholty and Stanley Dancer before opening his public stable in 1965. When Pompano Park was in its infancy, Tag found success mostly with \$2,000 claimers, but, as "Tags" once said, "In this business, you start at the bottom rung on the ladder and take a step at a time. If you work hard enough, you can climb the steps of the ladder pretty quickly, but when guys like Sholty and Dancer and Haughton are campaigning, it's very tough to get to the top rung." During his "prime," Tag often worked the day-night shift, traveling by helicopter with the great Herve Filion from The Meadowlands to Roosevelt or Freehold to the New York tracks. *(Thanks John Berry for the information.)*

**Max R. Walton**, 73, died March 30 at his farm in Newark, DE. Max loved his family, his many close friends, his valued employees, his farms, his drilling company, his Standardbred horses, his baseball teams, and his hometown of Newark. His life was fulfilled by building, inventing, and constantly being active with the next idea and next project. He most enjoyed cocktail hour at his farm – where he hosted friends and family every Friday for a "Cheers" like gathering for over forty years – even through his long struggle with ALS. His most endearing quality was his constant willingness to help others. He was a mentor and friend to many.



## Obituaries

**Robert DeMayo**, 76, Of Indianapolis died March 23. He and his wife, Frances, who survives, co-owned Ohio Hall of Famer Saccharum. Robert worked first with trainer Sonny Graham and later with Billy Walters.



**Eddie Esposito** of NJ died April 7. Since his graduation in 2013, Eddie helped many people through his work at Teen Challenge. He was Freddie Esposito's brother.

**Arthur L. Goldsmith**, 86, of Lakewood Ranch, FL died March 23, 2017. After serving in the US Army during the Korean War, Arthur owned and operated Art's Camera until the mid-1980s when he decided to change careers, becoming an equine photographer and bloodstock agent. His photographs graced the covers and advertisements of several harness racing magazines. Later he retired to Sarasota, FL where he pursued his love of golf and fishing.

**Obituaries continued on page 4**

### Sources for Obituary information include:

[www.harnessracing.com](http://www.harnessracing.com), [www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com) and [www.standardbredcanada.ca](http://www.standardbredcanada.ca)

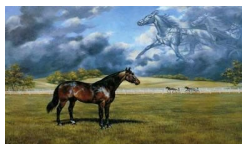
## Prayer Corner

**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.



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

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Irene Gill  
In memory of **Bob Farrington** by: Joe and Karen Ewing and Vivian Farrington  
In memory of **Eleanor Gillock** by: Arnold Williams  
In memory of **Sam McKee** by: Lyndel Adamsky, Sal DiMario, CHHA—the Meadows, Pastor Joe DiDonato, Chris, Lyndsey, Melissa and Meagan McKee and Richard Niccum  
In memory of **Dr John Steele** by: Richard and Regina Beinhauer and Arnold Williams  
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood

### 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](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

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 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, Gregg 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:

Jeanne Bond had a knee replaced then went into cardiac arrest. She continues to struggle with pain, strength, and stamina.

Melinda Cochrane was kicked in the head and suffered a brain injury.

Warren Harp has cancer on the other side of his bladder.

Larry Lederman had heart surgery.

Peggy Lockhart has some health issues.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



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

### CHHA at the Dan Patch Awards Banquet

CHHA was well represented among the award recipients at the Dan Patch Awards Banquet in February. Roger Huston is this year's recipient of the Clyde Hirt Media Award. Chaplain Lee Alphen was awarded the Harness Horsemen's International (HHI) Appreciation Award. HHI President, Kim Hankins, presented both awards.

HHI is an international organization representing horsemen on a broad basis. Members collectively learn from each other. Directors then share the information across all its jurisdictions. CHHA members Sal Di Mario, and Dr Timothy Powers are also on the HHI Board of Directors.



Roger Huston, the Voice and Kim Hankins,



Chaplain Lee Alphen, Kim Hankins  
Dona Hartman—HHI, and Tom Luchento—HHI First  
Vice President

### CHHA in Delaware Ohio Meet Cathy Foster



Stop by the CHHA booth at the Delaware, Ohio horse sale and meet Cathy Foster.

Looking for Rich and Sandy Thorstensen? Visit our booth at the Meadowlands Sales or the Hambletonian or maybe even at an event in the state of Delaware. They will be back in Ohio for the Jug .

### CHHA Scholar Jonathan Hallett

Dear Christian Harness Horse Association,

I am grateful for your compassion in awarding me this scholarship and furthering my education. I am currently enrolled at the University of Central Florida, pursuing a Mechanical Engineering degree looking to go for my Masters. I added on a Computer Science and Materials Minor. Hopefully from there, I make the decision to strive forward with my PHD.

I am very excited to be able to get real life experience when I get an internship, projected for this fall. But in the meantime, I am in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers working on the Student Design Competition building a robot that can compete in five events. I am also an SI leader, where I hold 4 separate classroom sessions and one online session to tutor for Calculus 2. which just

solidified my understanding and foundation in mathematics. Now I can succeed in my higher level engineering classes along with easing the financial burden to concentrate on my studies. God has really helped ease all of my struggles and I have been using that as a crutch to be the most successful man.

Towards this summer, I am going to join the Society of Automotive Engineers and quite possibly, if the time is allotted, the tennis club. I am trying to strive towards a 3.9, or the highest possible potential, with 4.0's from here on out. With blessings and thanks, I have faith everything will be alright.

Thank you, Jonathan Hallett

