



Rambling Willie
In God We Trust



**Serving Jesus Christ
in Harness Racing**



June, 2015

Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

Remember...
I pray for all
our members
every day.
Chaplain Lee



Board of Directors

- [Chaplain Lee Alphen](#)
Racetrack Ministry
- Amy Bondon, President
Estrorace, LLC
- Greg Gehman, Vice President
Knight's Landing Stable
- Roger Huston
- Lori Romanetti
Moshannon Stables

For newsletter questions
or ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor
leealphen@comcast.net
603-898-1927
603-401-7271 (cell)

Needed
Praise reports
testimonies
other articles
for our newsletter

Join us at
Gaitway Farm in NJ
BBQ
Monday, July 20th 12:30
Details on page 2

What More Do We Need?

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Craig Holterman carved a beautiful wood CHHA staff topped with a horse head and sent it to me. He did an awesome job! Last Sunday I filled in for a local pastor who was away. During the Children's Sermon, I told the kids about the Good Shepherd and showed them my new staff. They loved it! So did everyone else.

The Lord really is our shepherd. What more do we need? Do we trust God who guides us in straight paths? Faith is not just believing God exists. Even the Devil knows that. Rabi Harold Kushner in his book, *The Lord is My Shepherd*, says, "Faith is believing God can be counted on." Is that true? Can God be counted on? In another of his books, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, Kushner explains, "God does not cause our misfortunes. Some are caused by bad luck, some are caused by bad people, and some are simply an inevitable consequence of our being human and being mortal, living in a world of inflexible natural laws." He also says "suffering is not punishment from a cruel God."

According to the CHHA Constitution, its members (that's all of us) serve Christ by offering strength, support and companionship to one another. Yes, that's right. We do that. As I visit the racetracks, farms and training centers around the country, others feel connected when they see me, representing the CHHA community. It does not take much. People

just need to know someone cares. Often this encourages them to trust God a little more. In some ways, we are all shepherds to each other.



Tracy, Jaymee and Stefany Rankin and
Donna Dubois in the Scarboro paddock

Over 1,000 members are connected through our newsletter each month. The stories and praise reports as well as the prayer corner and obituaries bring us together as family. Everyone is excited to hear about and to see pictures of their friends in different places. When our members fall on difficult times, they are blessed to know other members care enough to pray.

Craig and his wife, Donna, live in Vero Beach, Florida. They stay pretty close to home because Donna has MS. Craig is an active member of the CHHA. Craig blessed me with the staff and blesses other members in other ways and especially with his prayers.

Have you ever heard Hal Ketchum or Ferlin Husky sing "On the Wings of a Dove"? I pray that, whenever trouble comes your way, God sends you a snow-white dove. Perhaps your dove will be in the form of a CHHA member. Yes, we can always count on God to help us through the struggles of life. What more do we need?



Racing for Christ participants

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Cajun Lady | Eagle Yankee | Get Over Liz | Moshannon Motown | Surf Cast Michele |
| Country Superstar | El Pescadoro | IMA Holy Terror | Rain Dance Heather | |
| Dance Hall Wendy | El Roope | Moshannon Mojo | Speed McQueen | |

These horses are racing for Christ. Your horse can too! Just pledge a small amount of their earnings. Any amount small or large is fine. Proceeds of the Racing for Christ Program will help us to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**

Bob Ferguson and "On the Wings of a Dove"

After serving as a radioman in Alaska for the US Army during World War II, Bob Ferguson went to work for the Forest Service and also spent time as a laborer in the wheat fields and as a typesetter for a local newspaper. Later he took advantage of the GI Bill and earned BS in Speech from Washington State College.



In 1955 Ferguson began producing films for the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission. His production, The World Outdoors, was named the "Best Motion Picture of the Year" by the North American Wildlife Conservation Association in 1960.

During this time Ferguson began his transition into the music business. In 1959 he wrote "On the Wings of a Dove," his first multi-million seller. Ferlin Husky first recorded it. However, since then it has been recorded by many artists in many languages. This beautiful hymn was featured in the movie Tender Mercies starring Robert Duvall in 1987.

More information on Bob Ferguson and his many and varied accomplishments is available on Wikipedia.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Ferguson_%28musician%29

Go to www.chha.net to listen to Hal Ketchum sing
On the Wings of a Dove

On the Wings of a Dove

By Bob Ferguson

When troubles surround us, when evils come
The body grows weak (body grows weak)
The spirit grows numb (spirit grows numb)
When these things beset us, He doesn't forget us
He sends down His love (sends down His love)
On the wings of a dove (wings of a dove)

Refrain

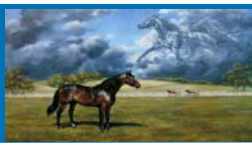
*On the wings of a snow-white dove
He sends His pure sweet love
A sign from above (sign from above)
On the wings of a dove (wings of a dove)*

Refrain

When Noah had drifted on the flood many days
He searched for land (he searched for land)
In various ways (various ways)
Troubles, he had some but wasn't forgotten
He sent him His love (sent him His love)
On the wings of a dove (wings of a dove)

Refrain

On the wings of a dove (wings of a dove)
On the wings of a dove (wings of a dove)
On the wings of a dove (wings of a dove)



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Jim Doherty** by: Harold Kelly
In memory of **Rosemary Sinclair** by: Dan and Mary Clements
In memory of **Mitch Finn** by: Susan and Alan Finn
In memory of **Donald Conrad** by: Roselea Conrad
In memory of **Priscilla Halfyard** by: Chaplain Lee Alphen, Amy Bondon and Gary Cartwright

God Knows cont from back page

prayer chain. God graciously answered this prayer. My brother received a pacemaker and is home from the hospital now for over a year!

This past Christmas my sister-in-law broke her back and was in the hospital and her husband my oldest brother was diagnosed with late stage dementia. Again I called on Chaplain Lee Alphen for much needed prayer. I am happy to report that both are home now and doing well.

Then my trotter pulled her suspensory and can no longer race. I have since sold the farm as I believe God is directing my path in another direction. Sometimes we get what we wish for when this is not God's ultimate plan for our lives. I am so thankful to Him for answered prayer in

Come to our
BBQ at Gaitway Farm
355 State Route 33, Englishtown, NJ
Monday, July 20, 2015 at 12:30 PM

Free
BBQ Inspiration Music Fun
Ron Dancer will speak about the Race of Life

Sponsored by
Christian Harness Horsemen's Assoc
Standardbred Breeders and Owners Assoc of NJ




my life and placing his healing hand on my family and horses.

God is so good. I know he has another plan for my life and is placing me where I should be and hopefully I will be able to better serve him. "All things work together for good for those that love the Lord and are called according to his purpose" Romans 8:28 Amen! I want to thank Chaplain Lee Alphen and all the members of CHHA who faithfully prayed for me. You are my prayer warriors. Thank you so much.

I am looking forward to seeing where God directs me and the next chapter of my life!

Cindy Graham

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 return to: leedalphen@comcast.net

Please accept my donation of _____. Check Cash   

OR

CHHA
157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____

Name on Card _____

New Books!

Choose from these free gifts with your donation

Live A Life That Matters for God by Jack Levine (\$25) donation

Bruce Ranger reprints _____ qty (free)

My Addict Your Addict by Jack Levine (\$25) donation

Black tie with harness horse (\$20) donation

Items available while supplies last

Donations and orders also accepted at www.chha.net.

Lyse Berton has two praise reports for us.. The first is about her grandson Danny who was injured in a car accident mid May. He and his wife Charlotte had a baby in April. The other is about Rick Bilack.

Let's start with the good news. Danny has pins in his legs but he is home and has started rehab. God is still in the business of miracles. Danny is a mechanic for a private business. His boss told him that as soon he can come back to the garage he will help him to do paper work or anything he will be comfortable with. I see it as an open door to learn more of the garage administration.... God is so good. Danny has been free of drug addiction for 8 years and does not want to go back. He is taking oxycodone. Please pray he does not return to addiction. There is light at the end of the tunnel. We personally can testify to that. Prayers are needed at this time that Charlotte realize that she needs to be strong during this time of trials and give her life to God and let

Praise Reports

Thank you
Jesus

Him carry the loads. She cannot do anything to change the situation. Better days are coming because nothing is too hard for our Lord. Jeremiah 29:11-12-13 Here there is another promise of God. (Danny and Charlotte had a baby

in April. Danny was injured in a bad car accident mid May.)

The Rick Bilach report is another touch of God. The eye pressure went down to 22. God is good.

Randy Nix reports...For the first time since before 2003 all of my blood tests came back perfect.

(Randy still has cancer, but it

appears God is answering our prayers for him.)

Robyn Rembleski says, "Yesterday's mammogram was all good and my surgeon told me I looked good. So I happily continue on my journey of healing." Robyn is recovering from a bout with cancer.

Prayer Corner continued from page 5

Karin and Chaplain Chris and Karen Belloamani daughter, Joy was born with serious medical challenges ahead including heart surgery. She has Down's Syndrome.

Helen Chase is dealing with numerous health issues.

Chuck is undergoing tests.

Catherine Doyle has medical issues.

Cindy Graham's mother, 94, fell and fractured her hip.

Don James received a head injury when the horse he was jogging spooked. He was not wearing a helmet.

Tom Malibashka is being treated for lung cancer.

Gordon Murphy, who will be 96 in July, has health issues. He is also mad at God for taking his wife.

Nell, 1 year, has been having seizures.

Peter is suffering from chronic dizziness.

Ron Pierce recently had neck and back surgery.

Please continue to pray for Jim and Terry Raymer.

Paul Wojotowicz recently had heart surgery.

Steve is suffering with migraines, high blood pressure and other health issues.

Obituaries con from page 5

Levin James "Jim" Brittingham, 75, of Snow Hill, MD died May 11 after a courageously fought battle with cancer. He was a Standardbred owner, trainer and driver for over 40 years, successfully competing in many of the sport's most prestigious events. Jim was an avid Washington Redskins fan, devoted Republican, and talented singer and musician who entertained many with his impromptu performances. His love for the waterways in and around the Chesapeake Bay area was unmatched only by his love for his family. He was a member of Sign Post United Methodist Church.



Mitch Wayne Finn, 33, of Greenup, IL died February 20. Mitch was a young husband and father who lived with a heart transplant for 27 years. He loved harness racing and had a two year old at the time of his death.



Rose Sinclair passed away on April 1 and entered into the presence of Jesus, her God and Savior after a courageous battle with cancer. Rosie and her husband Michael Sinclair raced in Ontario. Rosie's infectious smile and positive attitude will be greatly missed by those who knew her.



Mary Ethel Stroud, 90, of Scio, Ohio, died May 8. Mary drove the starting gate for her husband Hobart, "Hobe," at numerous Ohio county fairs for 30 years and at Rosecroft Raceway in Washington, DC for nine years. She spent 40 years in banking, 37 years were at the Scio Bank and the last three she managed the AmeriTrust Bank in Wintersville, Ohio retiring in 1982. Mary was a devoted member of the Scio community serving on many committees and was also an active member of the Scio United Methodist Church. She and Hobart were named Scio Citizens of the Year in 2003.



James Taggart, 73, of Monticello, NY died May 13. He was an outdoor enthusiast who loved his family, Standardbred racing, and spent many days hunting and fishing. He was a self-employed roofer and longtime caretaker at Morningside Acres.

Theresa M. Thompson of Foxboro, 86, died May 19. Her son, Kevin, raced at Foxboro.

Keith Trombley, a Nashua, NH police officer, died May 6 in a freak off-duty accident. He was such an outstanding young man and the nephew of John Klark and Joanne Mann. Their family has tragically lost so many loved ones recently.

**Priscilla cont from page 5**

Priscilla. "It was such a horrible situation, but if I hadn't been there, we never would have found out about the cancer."

"When I found out about it, it wasn't dying that made me afraid," explained Priscilla. "It was the idea that I wouldn't have the time with my family to do the things I wanted to do."

Prior to her diagnosis, Priscilla, like most others, had never heard of Synovial Sarcoma. The main 'target' of this cancer is males under 21, with only one to three individuals diagnosed with this disease out of every million each year. Percentage-wise, about 8 percent of all sarcoma cancers are diagnosed as Synovial.

"Having this disease has made me want to see more awareness raised about it, and about other cancers," explained Priscilla. "We have a huge focus on breast cancer in Canada – that's not a bad thing, because one cancer is no less important than the next – but it means that a lot of other cancers get overshadowed."

"You never know where it is going to attack next," said Priscilla. "There is nothing that happens with it to allow them to track where the next tumor might grow."

Despite knowing that her life now had a looming deadline, Priscilla never wanted to know when it would happen. What she did want was the opportunity to do some of the things she had always wanted to do. Along with Priscilla's bucket list of items that she wanted to complete, she also presented an idea that mortified her family at first.

"I wanted to have a living funeral – a time to celebrate my life with my friends and family, instead of waiting until I was no longer there with them," she said. "We called it the Healing and Humour Hour."

The idea was that Priscilla wanted the time surrounding her

death to be a celebration of her life, and she wanted the chance to celebrate with them. To see the joy in the eyes of her friends and her loved ones, and to leave behind memories of happiness instead of moments of sadness.

Another item was to see the launch of [Spenser's Heart Children's Charity](#), in memory of her little brother. The Charity is designed to provide support to any child facing any type of trauma.

On Sunday evening, Priscilla married her fiancé, Nick; another thing she hoped to be able to do before passing. The wedding was originally planned for early June, but her symptoms progressed drastically and she was admitted to Bethell House in Inglewood on the weekend. Priscilla was a fountain of inspiration, and to me, she was a powerhouse of faith. My last day with her, she beamed as she shared her thoughts, her ideas, her inspiration. She shared her trust in God, and how this battle simply pushed her closer and closer to Him. No matter how dire the circumstances throughout her battle, she fought on, and made it a goal to try to raise more awareness about the illness that took her future. "God's going to take me when he wants me," Priscilla said. "There's nothing I can do, so why worry about it? God is in control, he's got me in the palm of his hand, and he's going to give me exactly how much time I need with my family here first."

Priscilla's legacy will hopefully be one that sends ripples through the cancer community, and spikes the awareness that she had hoped to achieve in the last portion of her life. Her wisdom, her love, and her stunning smile will be what she is remembered for.

In loving memory of Priscilla Halfyard-Sebok, who will no doubt continue to inspire people from above.



Focusing on God by By Lee Newcomer

As the fairs near the beginning of the season, our anticipation is high for our colts.

The gate swings and here they come. "They are off," as Roger Huston says !!!

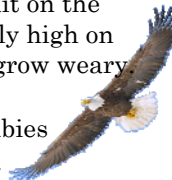
As they round the first turn for the very first time we close our eyes hoping they don't run. The mile continues and down the stretch they come, stride for stride nose to nose. The finish line is near and now it's all done, a great performance by our babies for their very first time. An accomplishment was achieved as we watched the race unfold.

Isaiah 40-31 says, "But those who wait on the LORD will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

Sometimes we have to wait on our babies too, just like we have to wait on the Lord.

"Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be fully developed. You will be strong in character and ready for anything" (James 1:2-4).

Have a safe and successful racing season. Remember God is watching over us. Hope to see you all this year. God bless !!!



Priscilla Halfyard, Witness for the Lord – In Memory

What an inspiration Chaplain Ken Carter from Ontario and his family are. In March of 2014, Priscilla was involved in an accident that claimed the life of her 6 year old brother, Spenser. Priscilla was also injured and a routine x-ray showed a cancer spot on her lung. Obviously the family was shocked and heart-broken. However, their strong faith urged them to take advantage of the opportunity to witness to others. Below are excerpts from an interview in the local newspaper the week before she passed away:

"God's going to take me when he wants me. There's nothing I can do, so why worry about it? God is in control, he's got in me the palm of his hand, and he's going to give me exactly how much time I need with my family here first."

Tuesday afternoon, Priscilla Halfyard, a young woman admired by all who knew her, passed away at just 22 years old. The cause was Synovial Sarcoma, a rare cancer which mainly targets young adult males.

Priscilla, who passed away only days after marrying her fiancé Nick Sebok, had an infectious smile and was passionate about those she loved. She was also passionate about life; the diagnosis of Synovial Sarcoma did not deter her from living, but moved her to pursue accomplishing what she could in the little time that she had left remaining. Throughout her struggle, she never complained, and rarely was she seen without a big smile across her face.

"God has his hand in all of this, and I know that He is, and has been, taking care of me," Priscilla said to me when we spoke two weeks ago. "It's sad that this had to happen, but it has also brought so much healing to my family, and brought us closer together."

"The accident was a curse, but it was also a blessing," said

Priscilla cont on page 4

Obituaries

Please pray for the families of our harness racing friends:

David Baker, 81, of Haverhill, NH died April 19. Dave had a construction business. He built single family homes, nursing homes and apartment complexes. He was also the administrator and owner of nursing homes in Haverhill and Amesbury. In recent

years, he was involved in establishing Apple Hill Golf Club in East Kingston, NH. David was truly passionate about horses and harness racing. He trained and raced horses and was an active member of the horse racing community in both New England and Florida.

Obituaries cont on page 4

Prayer Corner

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

Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Wayne Cowdry, Margaret Cromer, Sharon Cromer, Janet Dehart, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Margaret Groce, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Bob Hogfieldt, John Hufford, Betty James, Bob Kinsey, Larry Ledderman, Evan Leversage, Rox Liles, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Fran Nori, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Jim Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Del Smart, Jimmy Sommers, Jack Taylor, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Alice Wardman, Evan Wellwood, Betty Wogoman, Marty Woebkenberg, Chaplain Yurian, Joyce Zeasapolowski

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Amy Bondon, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Diane Boyken, Gaetane Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary

Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Dale, Harold Dancer, Dennis Drenth, Nora Fenner, Barbara Elrod, Barbara Fowler, Sylvain Gagnon, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, David Graham, Debbie Gray, Harry Harvey, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Nancy Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, Donna Holterman, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Thelma Klark, Kenny Kane, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Margaret Nields, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Gerald Russell, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Tony, Lee Anne Taylor, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Sandy Weiss, Greggie Welch, Jr, Bill and Lucille Wick

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:

Continued on page 3



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Contact Chaplain Lee for information

Please indicate
Address corrections

Join us at Gaitway Farm Monday, July 20th at 12:30 pm

Free BBQ Music Inspiration Fun

See page 2

Against all odds – Racing for Christ – Moshannon Mojo

The phone rang at 5AM. Never a good sign. It was our groom, Teddy. Something was very wrong with Mojo. He didn't know what, but he knew she was not in good shape. Teddy was very experienced, and Ray knew it wasn't good. Ray called the vet on call and left for the track. The vet arrived and thought she was having a bout of colic and treated her. Ray wasn't convinced and never left Mojo's side. By 9AM Mojo had gotten worse. Ray called our regular vet and asked her to come right away. She walked into the stall and within 2 minutes told Ray to get her on the trailer and out to OSU. She was positive it was botulism.

Ray immediately left for OSU, almost a 3 hour drive. By the time Ray arrived, Mojo was in very bad shape, barely able to stand. The admitting vet prepared us for the worst, it was indeed Botulism.

For one week, it was touch and go. We received updates twice daily from OSU. She was very sick but fighting to live. We made two trips out to see her, letting her know we were there. For almost a week, she never stood up, not a good sign. Late one evening a phone call came in from OSU, my heart sunk fearing the worst; however, it was just the opposite -Mojo had gotten up on her own! Several days later, once she could eat on her own, they released her. With bed sores on both hips and



face (the scars still remain to this day) and only weighing 750 pounds, we knew she probably would never race again. However, in true Mojo fashion, she would prove us wrong!

Ray and I bred Mojo and raised her. Mojo was the smallest horse that we had ever had make it to the races. She stands only 14 hands high. From the first time she hit the track she thought that she was the toughest horse out there. She has the heart of a world champion, but so small in stature that competing is tough. She gives 150% every time she races. Her groom says she has the smallest feet he has ever seen for a racehorse! She is the smallest horse racing at The Meadows today and continues to bring joy to everyone she comes in contact with and usually a paycheck just about every time she races.

For Ray and me, there was no better horse to enter into CHHA's Racing for Christ program. This little girl was truly a gift from God! We have since entered her full sister, Moshannon Motown, into Racing for Christ as well.

There is no better way to support the work of CHHA and its ministry to horsemen. You can pledge any amount and keep the outstanding work of CHHA in full swing. We hope you will join us in making a pledge today!

Ray and Lori Romanetti

God Knows Better

By Cindy Graham

Sometimes things don't go as we planned – or in the time frame that we want - but God always knows better.

Two years ago I purchased my horse farm. That was what I had always wanted. However, from the time I moved in it seemed my life went off balance.

The first winter I was there it was the worst

winter we had in years. Frigid temperatures and lots of snow. Not only did I have all the work that winter brings with water pipes freezing etc., but also I got a call that my youngest brother was not expected to live. That's when I called on Chaplain Lee Alphen to add his name to the CHHA



God cont page 2