



Rambling Willie

In God We Trust



Serving Jesus Christ in
Harness Racing



AUGUST, 2014

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

Bill Donovan
Stirling Brook Farm

Greg Gehman, Vice President
Knight's Landing Stable

Carolyn Linder

Lori Romanetti
Moshannon Stables

For newsletter questions
or ideas please contact:

Lee Alphen, Editor
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603-898-1927
603-401-7271 (cell)

Jug Week Prayer Breakfast! Jugette Day

Wednesday September 17
6:30 A.M. to 7:30 A.M.

Buckeye Valley Boosters
Building at the Fairgrounds

Everyone is invited and there
is no cost for the event. More
information on back page.

A Great Cloud

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

How is your day going? Evelyn Collins in Moline, Illinois is praying for you. She does every day as do I. As a matter of fact, when I send out my "praying for you emails," many reply back that they are praying for me and all our members too. We "Are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses that keep us lifted up to the Father." (Hebrews 12:1 a)

When you are feeling discouraged, sick, or having financial problems, remember there are CHHA members praying for you. Claim those prayers and ask God to use them where you most need them. If a loved one is struggling, ask God to use the prayers for them.

Often people call or email prayer requests for me to pass on to our prayer partners. When I do, I always hear back from our President, Amy Bondon in New Jersey, and Evelyn Johnson in Louisiana pledging their prayer support. Often Greg Gehman and Lori Romanetti in Pennsylvania and Ann MacNeill in PEI will chime in as well. Marsh Townley in Ohio prays all the time for everyone on our prayer list. As a matter of fact, we have 65 Prayer Partners from around the United States and Canada storming the heavens and Ken & Margaret Bartels from

Australia too.

Perhaps you are concerned about someone caught up in sin or maybe you are yourself. Claim those prayers for the help to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles... and run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1 b)



We know that sin keeps us from being everything God made us to be and takes us down a road we really don't want to go. So claim those prayers today and add your own telling God from your heart you want to be right with Him.

Yes, it is really good to be surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses. Let's run a good race. Let's help each other to run a good race too.

Each month I go through our member list and spend time praying over each name. I generally send out an email notifying people I'm praying for them and to expect miracles. If you want to receive the monthly email, please make sure I have your email address.



Pastor Joe DiDonato with Tom and
Michelle Leasure

Protecto Harness Winner



Pastor Joe and Marcy DiDonato and
Amy Bondon

CHHA President, Amy Bondon, drew Michelle Leasure's winning ticket for our Protecto Harness Raffle. The harness, donated by Al and Myra Terwiliger, was later presented to Michelle by Pastor Joey DiDonato. Thank you to all who participated.

Obituaries

Please pray for the families of these harness racing friends:

Thomas Carl Fanning, 87, died July 19. Tom was a loving father, beloved husband and an extraordinary man whose family and faith took precedence in his life. Tom worked in the printing business/sales for Shelby/Miami Systems for 55 years, retiring in 2006. He was founding partner and manager of Hexagon Farm Horse Racing Stable.



John Guy Gilmour died July 4. He was 76. Guy's racing career spanned six decades earning him 4,492 winners. He drove primarily when the racing seasons were short and driving at two tracks in one day wasn't an option.



Clayton L. Goad, 82, of Cordova, MD, died Aug. 2.

Clayton served in the U.S. Army from 1949 until 1952. He was a Standardbred breeder, owner, trainer and driver. His passion was race horses and he was well-known in the Standardbred industry.

Jack Hankins died July 17, 2006 and his wife **Joyce Hankins** died March 19, 1994. In 1989 they were the first married couple to be inducted into the Illinois Hall of Fame.

Clarence A. Levan, 78, of Lebanon, Ohio, died July 29. Clarence was the owner of Cedar Valley Plastics before retiring. He was an avid fan, owner, and breeder of Standardbreds for several decades.

Longtime trainer-driver **Samuel "Skip" Lewis** died July 18, after a brief illness. He was 82. Skip began working as a part-time groom when he was 12. He served under Bill Fleming and Charlie Fitzpatrick before starting out on his own in 1963. In early January a fire wiped out Mr. Lewis's entire stable. Since he was winter training at Ben White Raceway in Florida, he purchased a nearby farm.

Joseph Muscara, 90, died July 7 at his home in Philadelphia. Joseph had been involved in harness racing since the early 1970s. Joseph was one of the first in the Standardbred business to begin importing race horses from Australia and New Zealand on a regular basis.

"There is no one in the harness racing business world-wide who has purchased and imported more horses from down under to the United States than Joe Muscara," said longtime friend and business associate, John Curtin.

Corwin Keith Nixon, Sr., 67, of Lebanon, Ohio, died July 26. Corwin was the general manager at the Warren County (Lebanon) racetrack for many years and was very active in harness racing. He was also a member of the Warren County Fair Board.



Larry W. Roberts, 73, died June 20. Larry was retired from Navistar in Springfield after 41 years. Larry served in the United States Navy from 1959 through 1961.

Donald F. Stevens, 85, died on June 30. Donald trained Standardbreds along with his late wife, Mary, for many years in Western New York. Some of the stars of their racing stable included pacer Princess Dee Dee, a son of Princess Dee Dee, Mr Buxx, and Hyper Adios.

Ryder W. "Storm Boy" Steck, 18, died Aug 2 from injuries sustained in a July 27 single automobile accident. Fitting to his character, he gave the gift of life through organ donation, by his own elected choice. In death, he truly understood where he was going and gave of his pure heart. It's beating as his memory will live on, "Ryders On The Storm." Ryder will forever be a precious son of longtime trainer/driver Ronnie and Kila Steck. Expressed best by his parents, "He lived a good life, happy, healthy, just too short." They are most proud that Ryder was a Christian and true friend.



Obituaries continued...

Claude Taylor, Jr., 89, of Mt. Erie, IL died Oct.1, 2012. Claude Junior was a farmer, a veteran of WWII.



California-based horseman **Donald "Thunder" Valentine** has died at the age of 61. Thunder lived life on his own terms. Never more than a few strides away from a track or training center, he enjoyed training in California during the 2000s and most recently worked for longtime friend Lou Pena on a private farm in northwestern Pennsylvania. His equine pride and joy was a horse named Bomb Breeze who won his share of Invitational Paces at Cal Expo in the mid-2000s.

Prayer Corner

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

Debbie Boardman, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Wayne Cowdry, Janet Dehart, Maryanne Doherty, Chaplain Tom Farley, John Fowler, Margaret Groce, Marilyn Hankins, Mary Haskell, Karen Hettrick, John Hufford, Betty James, Bob Kinsey, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Priscilla McFayden, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Fran Nori, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Patsy Payne, Robyn Rembleski, Del Smart, Rose Sinclair, Jimmy Sommers, Jack Taylor, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward, Sr., Alice Wardman, Betty Wogoman, Marty Woebkenberg, Chaplain Yurian and Joyce Zeasopolowski.



These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Kathy Auer, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Amy Bondon, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Diane Boyken, Lois Boyken, Phyllis Bunch's mom, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, David Clark's family, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Donny Currier, Jr, Dale, Harold Dancer, Dick, Blanche DiDonatto, Jimmy Doherty, Dennis Drenth, Chaplain Tom Farley, Nora Fenner, Barbara Elrod, Barbara Fowler, Sylvain Gagnon, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, 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, Faye Mackey, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Stewart Nemiro, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Rev. Aaron Pernel, Rita Polese, Bruce Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ken and Peggy Roper, Rev. and Mrs. James Slack, Tom Smith, Brad Strawser, Tony, Lorraine Truitt, Greggie Welch, Jr, Bill Wick and Tony Working.

Please pray for those serving in the military, especially Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu and Chris Petruzzo.

Carter Duer had surgery following a car accident on July 11 in Virginia.

Melody Clark had a double mastectomy and a complete hysterectomy.

Curtis suffered a collapsed lung and fractured rib.

Max Heath is slowly recovering from surgery. Please keep praying.

Heidi, who is 7 months pregnant, is in drug rehab.

Ingrid Keesler is recovering from pneumonia.

Lee Sattelberg fractured his skull and suffered a small compression fracture in his vertebrae after a fall.

Tom Smith recently had laser surgery on a brain tumor.

Greg Welch hurt is back in a fall at work.

John Willis from Ohio recently suffered two strokes and is recuperating at a rehab center.

Tiffany and Scott Fisher are struggling with health and finance issues.

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: leealphen@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 _____

50 50 Raffle Donation \$5 each, \$25 for 6; \$50 for 15 I would like _____ tickets for a total of \$ _____.

Standardbred Old Friends by Barbara Livingston \$30 each _____

Qty

Donations also accepted at www.chha.net.

To be drawn September 13

Modified 50 50 Raffle

Winners need not be present

Win pays 25%; Place pays 15%; Show pays 10%

Tickets \$ 5 each; \$ 25 for 6; or \$ 50 for 15

Memorial Contributions

Memorials are posted at www.chha.net.

- In memory of **Larry W roberts** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Jerald Grevengod** by: Susan and Alan Finn
- In memory of **Claude Taylor** by: Susan and Alan Finn
- In memory of **Jack and Joyce Hankins** by: Ross and Marilyn Hankins
- In memory of **Chip Noble** by: Jerry Knappenburger and OHHA
- In memory of **Weldon Stockwell** by: Howard W Nields

Thank You Letter from scholarship winner Lindsay Hagemeyer.
CHHA, Thank you very much for your continued support! It is a great honor to be supported by this organization. I have been very blessed on my educational journey and will be applying to vet school in the spring. Thank you, Lyndsay Hagemeyer.

Standardbred Old Friends

by Barbara Livingston

Barbara Livingston created this beautiful, 283 page book with 43 color photos highlighting our great Standardbreds. CHHA is grateful to Barbara Livingston and Ellen Harvey for the opportunity to offer this timeless publication.

Praise Reports

God is bringing good from the tragedy of Ryder Steck's death. At his request, Ryder's organs are being donated to help others live. Also, his best buddy Calvin Baer, is coming home from Afghanistan a month early to be present at Ryder's memorial service.

Marilyn Hankins asked me to thank everyone for their prayers. At this point they say she is NED. There is no evidence of the disease, cancer.

Cindy Heleringer's surgery went well. Bob thanks you.

Patsy Payne's cancer has been eradicated out of her body by 85%.

Kirby Clark's daughter Melodi is recovering well from her double mastectomy and complete hysterectomy. She will return to work soon.

More Adios Day pictures from The Meadows



The Hites



Ann Wade



Debby Ross, Dustin Ross, and Ron Ross



Don McCluskey and Howard Deal



157 North Main St.
Salem, NH 03079

50/50 Raffle
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address corrections.

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Please Join Us For The Jug Week Prayer Breakfast!

See details below



MSOA's Heather Wilder and Kim Hankins

Thank You!

CHHA is very grateful to Pastor Joe DiDonato, Lori Romaneti, Heather Wilder and the MSOA for planning a terrific 30th Anniversary celebration. Everything was perfect!

It was great to spend time with the three women who keep Pastor Joe in line, Pastor Cathy Peternel, Pastor Sue Petritis and, of course, his wonderful wife, Marcy.



Pastor Cathy Peternel, Pastor Sue Petritis and Marcy DiDonato

Everything was fantastic. We presented a blanket in the winner's circle Adios Day, gave praise and thanks to God with Pastor Joe's chapel community and shared in a delicious traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday. Friday night Lori treated us to dinner at the Bistecca Steakhouse. The people at The Meadows rock!

CHHA Celebrates 30 Years at the Meadows

Adios Day Winner's Circle Presentation



Photo by Chris Gooden Photos

JUG Prayer Breakfast

CHHA is hosting a Prayer Breakfast Wednesday, September 17, Juliette Day, at 6:30 AM. Join with other Christian horsemen and women and harness racing enthusiasts as they give thanks to God for 30 years of blessings.

The Buckeye Valley Boosters will provide a full breakfast in their building at the Delaware Valley Fairgrounds located between the track and the Coliseum where the horse sales are held. Pastor Samuel Forshtay and members of his praise and worship team will provide the music.

There is no cost for the event and it is open to everyone.

RSVP if possible 603-898-1927 or email