



Rambling Willie

**In God We Trust**



*Serving Jesus Christ in  
Harness Racing*



JUNE, 2014

CHRISTIAN HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**Remember...**

I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



*Chaplain Lee*

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or ideas please contact:*

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**Happy  
Independence  
Day**



July 4



July 1

**This Spirit is Alive at Suffolk Downs**  
*By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

Tito promised to help the woman start her car as soon as he helped the two men from Suffolk Downs at the bank. She waited patiently then told Tito she knew God would send her an angel. Wow! Tito never thought of himself as an angel.

Debbie struggles with her diabetes. Life is not easy. However, she always gives the best of what she has when someone is in need. Of course, God keeps proving to her that he will provide for all her needs. She has grown to expect it and is blessed.

Jay is totally focused on living the Gospel by helping and encouraging others around the track and beyond. He is fast becoming a great evangelist. This and his thirst for knowledge of God are among the greatest gifts God has given me this past year.

Cindy is sad when she has to miss our Suffolk Downs bible study but there are weeks she just can't get her barn work done in time. When she joins us she is filled with the peace Christ promised and things go better for her.

In Acts 2:38, the Holy Spirit comes and fills those gathered in the upper room and enables them to go and spread the Good News of the Gospel. The disciples

then call everyone to "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

On the cross Jesus said "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) He was speaking about those who beat, ridiculed and crucified Him, those gathered around the cross at Calvary, the people He met during His time on earth and all of us who would be born through the ages. Jesus paid the price. Our sins are forgiven. All that is left is to ask for and accept God's forgiveness and then to turn to God and be filled with that spirit that makes us whole.

With God's help, we can become everything God made us to be. With the Spirit of Christ alive in our hearts and at work in our lives, "our lights will shine and others will see our good deeds and give glory to the Father." (Matthew 5:16) Christ is alive at Suffolk Downs. Jay, Tito, Debbie and Cindy are proof. His spirit shows through in the faith of those who are part of our ministry.

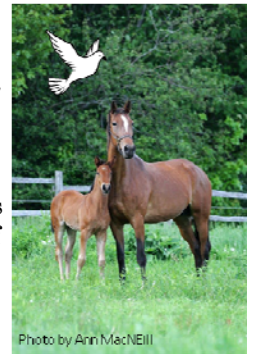


Photo by Anni MacNEILL

**CHHA is 30 years old this year!**

Our 30th anniversary celebration will begin on Adios Day at the Meadows. Join us July 26—27 as we give thanks to God for blessing CHHA and our members and those in harness racing in so many ways. Chaplain Joe DiDonato, and CHHA Trustee Lori Romanetti invited us to Pennsylvania so they and their friends can help us celebrate. An exciting weekend is in the works beginning at the races on Saturday. The fun includes raffles, evangelization events and much more. The festivities will continue through chapel service on Sunday.

The plan is to continue celebrating throughout the year. If you have an idea for us or know of a track where an evangelization event would be welcome, please let me know.



### Obituaries

*Please pray for the families of these harness racing friends:*

**David Stanley Garland**, 87, of Crescent City, FL, died Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012. David worked as a publicist for the U.S. Trotting Association and wrote articles for various newspapers and Hoof Beats. He came to live in Crescent City, FL from Michigan in the late 80s.

Hall of Fame horseman, **Douglas J. Ackerman**, 86, died May 28, in North Carolina after an illness of almost two years. According to Dean Hoffman, Doug was one of the most respected trainers in harness racing and widely admired for his innate horsemanship, ironclad integrity, and memorable sense of humor. His fellow horsemen held him in the highest esteem, and that is the ultimate compliment in his profession. Mr. Ackerman was a fixture on the Grand Circuit for decades. CHHA Members from around the country knew and respected Doug.



**James 'Jim' Carr** passed away April 27. He was 70. Jim is a native of Hamilton, Ontario and made his living as a process server, delivering court documents. According to *Trot Insider*, His pacing colt, Big Jim, turned heads with his 1:51.1 win in the Dream Maker. Big Jim scored wins in the Breeders Crown and world record in the Governor's Cup. With every win, Carr would invite anyone interested out to the winner's circle to have their picture taken with his prized pacer. Carr could even lift kids up to pet the young stallion, and Big Jim would stand with perfect manners.



**Oreste S. DiDonato**, 89, of Brighton Heights, PA died May 23. He is Chaplain Joe DiDonato's dad. Oreste was a postal clerk for 42 years, World War II Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient. Pastor Joe presided over his dad's funeral.

**Daniel R. Gernatt Sr.** who operated Dan Gernatt Farms in New York for many years and stood Sir Taurus at stud, died May 5 in his home after a brief illness. He was 97.



**Elizabeth T. "Dolly" Koch**, PhD, 87, a longtime Little Silver, N.J., resident, died May 11. Her son, Peter J. Koch, is race secretary at the Medowlands. Elizabeth was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. She graduated from Notre Dame College (Staten Island) Summa Cum Laude as valedictorian. She earned two masters degrees and a PhD in Education from Columbia University.



Michigan Hall of Fame horseman **Ron Wrenn** died May 10. He was 62. Mr. Ron was a member of one of Michigan's founding families of harness racing, following in the footsteps of his late father, Howard. "He was my role model and my mentor," said Ronnie Wrenn Jr. "We talked every day and we had a bond, especially over the last five years as I began driving. He had a passion for horse racing and I developed the same because of him." "He taught me to enjoy the simple things in life, how to always smile and never to judge," said Mr. Wrenn's daughter, Sandy, who is engaged to be married to horseman Trace Tetrick, "and for that I will always be thankful. I will carry him in my heart forever."

### Prayer Corner

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



**Doug Ackerman, 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 Zeasapolowski.**

*These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:*

**Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Amy Bondon, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Diane Boyken, Lois Boyken, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, 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, Rita Polese, Donnie Richards, Rev. and Mrs. James Slack, Tom Smith, Brad Strawser, Tony, Lorraine Truitt, Gregg Welch, Jr. and Bill Wick.**

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

**Rick Beinhower** fell and tore all the muscles around his knee away from the bone.

Phyllys Bunch's mom is failing fast.

**Blanche Didonato's** kidneys are failing and she is on dialysis.

**Terry Finch's** diabetes is causing havoc with his foot.

**Harold Kelly's wife, Sue** had four stints put in her heart and she is in a recovery in Freehold, NJ.

**Fran Nori** is battling a second brain tumor.

**Bruce Ranger** has a long road of therapy and possibly surgery ahead after fracturing his pelvis and lumbar in a spill at Pompano

**Ken Roper** has glaucoma and cataracts. His wife, **Peggy**, is facing severe problems with her hands.

Horsewoman **Kristin Shetler** and the horse she was training were broadsided by a car on the half-mile training track at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Kristin, 37, underwent surgery for a broken ankle and crushed heel later that day.

**Tony Working** had emergency surgery for a bad infection in his leg. He has diabetes.

Pray for everyone impacted by the recent barn fires in Ontario.

### Praise Reports

*From Joyce McClelland...*

Thanks for your prayers and concern. I'm doing very well-no sign of cancer-Praise God.

**Jana Brocco** is cancer free after her bi-lateral mastectomy. Jana says "God is Great! 1Peter 5:10-11"

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Deluxe Protecto Harness Raffle Donation** \$5 each, \$25 for 6; \$50 for 15 I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Donations also accepted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net).**

## Adios Day Raffles

To be drawn Saturday July 26th at the Meadows **Winners need not be present**

### Modified 50 50 Raffle

Win pays 25%; Place pays 15%; Show pays 10% Tickets \$5 each; \$25 for 6; or \$50 for 15  
Tickets \$5 each; \$25 for 6; or \$50 for 15

### Protecto Harness

[www.protectohorse.com](http://www.protectohorse.com)

### Psalm 23 *submitted by Lyndel Adamsky*

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| The Lord is my shepherd   | Perfect salvation             |
| I shall not want  | Perfect satisfaction          |
| He makes me lie down in green pastures                              | Perfect rest                  |
| He leads me beside still waters                                     | Perfect refreshment           |
| He restores my soul   | Perfect restoration           |
| Yea, though I walk through the shadow of death, I will fear no evil | Perfect protection            |
| For you are with me   | Perfect company               |
| Your rod and thy staff they comfort me                              | Perfect comfort (consolation) |
| You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies         | Perfect provision             |
| You anoint my head with oil   | Perfect consecration          |
| My cup overflows  | Perfect joy                   |
| Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life     | Perfect care                  |
| And I will dwell in the house of the Lord                           | Perfect destiny               |

### Memorial Contributions

*Memorials are posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net).*

- In memory of Weldon and Nancy Stockwell by:** Barbara Cunningham and Marilyn Stecky
- In memory of Alvin & Alice Parkes by:** Earl Parkes
- In memory of Harvey and Edna Roth by:** Earl Parkes
- In memory of Jarrod Duncan by:** Jim and Patrice Springer
- In memory of Ron Wrenn by:** Calvin Hollar
- In memory of Oreste DiDonato by:** Amy Bondon
- In memory of Doug Ackerman by:** Arnold Williams





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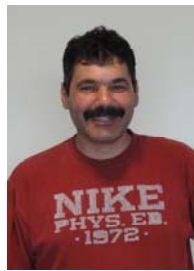
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**Adios Day Raffles** See Page 3  
**50/50 Raffle**      **Protecto Harness Raffle**



Kim Hankins and Sandy Dyson  
MSOA



Nick Zito



Charlie Pringle



Richard Gillock  
President, MSOA



Gary Cartwright and Pastor Joe DiDonato



Andrea Miller



Joe DiDonato, Jr and Pastor Joe



Wayne Hite with his sister-in-law, Janice Hite