



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983



In God We Trust

Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

September 2016

Remember,

I pray for all our members every day.



*Chaplain Lee Alphen*

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#### Chaplain Lee Alphen

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*Lee Alphen, Editor*

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603-898-1927

603-401-7271 (cell)

Wanted  
Praise Reports  
Testimonies  
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

## Jug Prayer Breakfast

7:30 Wednesday  
September 21  
Hospitality Tent  
near the Log Cabin

## Who Urges You On

*By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

My father died suddenly when I was seven years old. My whole family was devastated. They told me Daddy was in heaven with God and that I could still talk to him. I did. It also occurred to me that if my father was up in heaven with God, I better be a good girl and I should go to church. God was important to my father, my grandmother and my grandfather. They all encouraged me in my faith.

Many years later, when I was studying for my master's degree in theology, I realized that, at some point in my life, I stopped talking to my earthly father in heaven and began to talk with Our Father in heaven. My daddy brought me to the throne of God and left me there.

We all have people in our lives who encourage us. Some encourage us to do good; others not so much. Who encourages you in the race of life? Did your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or neighbors encourage you and set a good example? Perhaps it was the person next to you in the shed row whose great attitude, good work ethic, and respect for those around them you attributed to their faith in Jesus and were impressed.

"By faith people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land" (Hebrews 11:29). Trusting God, David killed the giant, Goliath, with a sling shot (1 Samuel 17:49). Obedient to God, Joshua had his men march around the walls of Jericho for six days. On the seventh day, as Joshua and his men shouted praising God, the walls fell, delivering the city into the hands of the Israelites (Joshua 6:1-21). Thanks to her faith, Rahab, the prostitute who helped Joshua's spies, was saved

(Joshua 6:17, 22-25). "We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). Our witnesses include the women and men whose faith is recorded in the scriptures and history, as well as our own family members and others we know. Some are still living and others have passed on. Many lives tell the story of faith that urges us on to the finish line.

Hopefully you know Jesus. You are at least to the quarter pole. Life is not over yet though. Just as with our horses, winning the race of life requires perseverance (Hebrews 12:1). To be in the race of life we must continue to grow in our faith, share it with others, and serve as Jesus served. Otherwise we are not really racing. We are just jogging along. What will that get you on the track? They will say you also ran. No, my friend, we want to win the race of life!

At the wire will we meet the cloud of witnesses? Will they bring us to the Winner's Circle in heaven? Will we hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23)? Will we too join the cloud of witnesses and be an inspiration to others both now and for all of eternity? Let's be the ones to urge others on to run a good race (Galatians 5:7).

## A Witness

Dick Terrien had a chance to pray with one of the owners of Control the Moment on his flight to the Meadowlands Hambo Day. After the seventh race, in the Winner's Circle, Dick was introduced as the guy who prayed. Well done Dick! You are a good witness!



Dick Terrien

# Blessings

*From Robyn Rembleski...*

We had a storm and got some hail damage on garden and crops. Good thing the ranch owner has hail crop insurance coverage. The garden is slowly coming back. It's amazing to see. It is like it has its own kind of faith and belief and strength in facing damage. I've been home to Michigan a lot this year. My sister and I are helping out my parents who are age 87 and 88. They have some dementia and health problems. Was home for Mom's heart surgery in April. It was a success. Then my sister was home in June for Mom's mastectomy surgery, which went well and she got clean clear margins. That means the cancer should not have spread.

Many prayers and many answers. Just when things seem hardest to get done, it works out somehow. FAITH!!! We got them settled in a very nice assisted living place, where they have a wonderful staff of people to help them. I continue to stay in remission and James, Nicki and I are blessed with an abundance of goodness in our lives!!!

*From Janice Sarnie...*

All thanks and praise to the Lord. My surgery went well and I was released this morning. Recovery should be 4-6 weeks. Other than the slight pain from the incision, my back and legs are feeling good. We serve a good and mighty God. Thank you for your prayers.



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

## Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Sharron Adams** by: Ada Jean Ackerman, Bob and Beth Cain and Marvin Raber  
 In memory of **George Berkner** by: Peter Blood and Harold Kelley  
 In memory of **Bill Emerson** by: Michael Carter  
 In memory of **Mickey Foster** by: Salvatore DiMario  
 In memory of **Harry Harvey** by: Harold Kelley  
 In memory of **Tony MacRae** by: Phyllis Hodgkins  
 In memory of **Joe Marsh, Jr** by: Kim Rinker  
 In memory of **Leo McNamara** by: Salvatore DiMario  
 In memory of **Jerry Menchhofer** by: Paul Combs  
 In memory of **Ben Stafford, Jr** by: Salvatore DiMario and Harold Kelley  
 In memory of **Mary Stroud** by: Phyllis Hodgkins

## Thanks from Our Scholarship Recipients

*From Matt Hess...*

I had just finished with evening feed and was about to start making dinner when I heard knock on the door. I opened the door and saw that my Grandma had a very excited look on her face. "Matt, your Granddad just called me and said he had a letter from CHHA addressed to you. He said that the letter was THICK." I replied, "Well... what does he mean by thick?" We continued to talk about it and very soon Granddad drove up. In short order, the Letter was in my hands. I still wondered... what does Granddad mean by THICK? Once the letter was opened, I knew what he meant. He meant there was MORE than a letter inside that envelope I proceeded to read the letter containing the statement of approval that I had won the John & Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship along with a THICK check. How did Granddad know? My spirit soared! Wooohooooo!!

I turned to my Grandma & Granddad to share the letter with them. Their eyes widened when they saw I was awarded "The John and Janet Klark" Scholarship. I asked what was wrong and they simply replied, "Nothing...but we just think it was astonishing that you won the John & Janet scholarship, because you applied for the "Rambling Willie" Scholarship." Then they told me an amazing story of how John Klark came to stay here one winter for solace after his beloved wife, Janet, died. He stayed in the very same house that I do now and slept in the very same bed that I do now. It just shows me clearly that God, The Father of Lights, intricately weaves his eternal plans through our lives, if we are willing to obey. John Klark has touched my life, even after leaving this world. To God be the Glory!

*From Jenné Venier ...*

Thank you so much for the blessing your scholarship. It will help me to continue on the path that God has laid before me. Thank you again and God bless.

*From Casey Hite...*

Thank you so very much for granting me the Rambling Willie scholarship. It will help greatly with reducing my student loans and is greatly appreciated.

*From Alexis Schwartz...*

Thank you so much for selecting me to receive a scholarship. It will help so much towards school. I'm very excited to be going to UK this fall to study equine science. Thank you again!"

## 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

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

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 send my newsletter (circle below)  
electronically in the mail both

Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_. Check Cash   

Please return to: [leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**OR** CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

[To Donate Now—Click here](#)

**Choose a Free Gift with your donation**

**Gifts**

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)  (\$20) donation

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rigs—see below

Black Tie with harness horse—boxed  (\$20) donation

**Books**

*Live A Life That Matters for God* by Jack Levine  (\$20) donation

*My Addict Your Addict* by Jack Levine  (\$20) donation

*Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God* by Jack Levine  (\$20)

*Don't Blow It With God* by Jack Levine  (\$20) donation

*Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care*  
by ER Gager and Bob “Dusty Rhodes”  (\$20) donation



*Rambling Willie Remembers*

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.

**Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings**

Roger Huston is selling these beautiful, hand made horseshoe nail cross necklaces and keyrings to benefit the Christian Harness Horsemen’s Association. The cross necklaces are available in red , blue and turquoise and the keyrings in red, blue, turquoise and silver. They make great gifts for a donation of only \$20. Complete and mail the order form to below to Roger and he will send you your crosses.

100% of the proceeds of these beautiful crosses will go to the Christian Harness Horsemen’s Association.

**Horseshoe Nail Cross Order Form**

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

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

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

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

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

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



Roger Huston



Foods) and retired after 35 years. He was very active in the Asbury United Methodist Church in Harrington, DE where he held many offices over the years. He helped coach a Harrington Little League team and looked forward to and enjoyed golfing trips and hunting trips with his friends. His biggest pastime and passion was with breeding, raising, training and racing horses. He also enjoyed having a large garden each year with plenty of vegetables to share with family and friends.

**Robert "Bob" Goth**, 62, of Muncie, IN, died July 13. Bob was involved with harness racing all of his life.

For the last 35 years, he was very active as an owner, breeder, trainer and driver of horses, thus continuing a line that includes three generations of horse trainers. For many of those years he successfully raced horses on the tough Chicago circuit. In high school he began drag racing and enjoyed much success in the sport throughout the United States. When his Grandpa in Portland became terminally ill and needed someone to help with his horses, Charles quickly stepped-up, moved to Portland, and not only helped care for his grandparents, but changed his love for car racing to horse racing.

**Harry Harvey, 92, died July 17.** Harry, the Vermont-born son of a dairy farmer trained and drove Albatross. During World War II, he helped his father select green draft horses in Montreal, to be shipped by rail to the family farm. Harry helped train and sell the horses, in demand due to war-time restrictions on gas and oil. He saw harness racing at Vermont fairs. In 1951 he joined the Delvin Miller Stable in 1951. Miller entered Elgin and Charles Armstrong's filly, Helicopter, in the Hambletonian. Miller and his other second trainers drove horses with better prospects, but in the 23-horse field, going three heats, Harvey and Helicopter prevailed. The next year,

he left the racetrack to manage Miller's Meadow Lands (PA) Farm, where Adios was beginning his career as the sport's dominant sire. It was Harvey who suggested the mare Countess Vivian be bred to Dale Frost when Adios was battling the effects of laminitis. The mating produced Meadow Skipper. In 1965, Harry bought the Meadow Lands Farm annex where he lived and started his own Arden Hills Farm and racing stable at nearby Arden Downs, the Washington County fairgrounds. It was at Arden Downs that Albatross, a son of Meadow Skipper, arrived in November of 1969, and where he was trained until sold in May of 1971 and moved to trainer Stanley Dancer a few weeks before the start of his -year3-old racing season. Harvey drove the colt through a 14 for 17 season and top juvenile pacing colt honors for 1970 and prepared him that winter and the following spring. Harry was elected to the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2001 and continued to operate a public stable until 2009.

**George T. Luchento**, 67, of Easton, PA died August 5. George was Tom Luchento's brother. He received his Master's Degree from Seton Hall, NJ, and also attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. George was a Vice President of Information Technology for National Starch and Chemical Co. He enjoyed playing Racquetball, dealing cards at the Casino, gambling, loved living in Costa Rica, and enjoyed traveling with his wife, family and friends.

**Jerry A. Menchhofer**, age 57, of Coldwater, OH died July 12. Jerry owned and operated Menchhofer Livestock. He was an avid harness racing owner and fan. Jerry enjoyed golfing, boating and bowling.



**Ernest Miller Jr**, 65, died Aug 6. Ernest felt honored and forever grateful to be a two-time kidney transplant recipient. He was extremely appreciative of his sisters for their organ donations. His lifelong passion was harness racing, and he will be remembered for his positive attitude, great sense of humor, and generosity. His motto in life was "All my stories may not be true, but they were all good stories." He always managed to light up a room with his witty personality, the sparkle in his eye, and a smile on his face. He never once missed an opportunity to tell a great story.



**Tracey Marlene Miller**, 51, of Washington, PA died July 18. Tracey worked as a loan service manager for Chrome Credit Union. She was a fixture at the Meadows for many years within the owner's club and was very active with Relay For Life. Her greatest joy in life was her boys. Pastor Joe DiDonato officiated at Tracey's funeral and her son, Preston's, wedding the same week.

**Mario Nodari**, 85, of Fairfield, NJ died Aug 10. Mario was a blacksmith farrier in the New Jersey area for many years. As a young boy, he learned the art of horse shoeing from his father, Antonio, in his home town, Montecchio, Maggiore, Italy. There was a distinct pride that Mario brought to his work and was known to say "I love what I'm doing and I know that I'm good at it, as were my father and grandfather."

**Charles "Ronnie" R. Park**, 81, of Chillicothe, Ohio died July 21. Ronnie owned and operated an antique furniture store for many years. He enjoyed many hobbies and activities, but his true passion was being a Standardbred driver and owner.

**Nathan A. Price**, 36, of Wickhaven, PA died July 19. *Nathan was self-employed as an electrician. He had an incredible love for all animals, especially horses. He was a 3rd generation horseman at the Meadows Racetrack and Casino where he went every day to train his pacing filly, Elegantly Vicious. Nathan also loved to fish and hunt. A true 'lightning bolt' for love and friendship, he deeply touched all who knew him.*



**Robert B. Reid**, 75, of Mansfield, Ohio, died July 18 in Parry Sound, Ontario. In 1964 Robert moved to Mansfield to start his career at Gold Bond Building Products as the National Sales Manager. His customers and business associates became lifelong friends throughout the United States. He was a competitive athlete, who continued to play softball, basketball and golf his entire life. He immensely enjoyed traveling to Las Vegas, Florida, the family cabin in Canada, going on cruises, and being around his Standardbred race horses. Robert had friends in every aspect of his life; fraternity brothers, softball friends, and business friends. He was a very generous and giving person,



**David A. Spaziano**, 76, of Rochester, NY, died July 25. According to his family, "Horses and horse racing were his heart and soul." David drove home 152 winners during his harness racing career. His trainees won over 70 races. Some of his most popular horses include Scorpion Prince and Passion Time. His last driving win came at Buffalo Raceway on Nov. 12, 1997, behind Handsome Boy.

**Patricia Jo Wald**, 63, of Washington, died July 17. Her husband, Ray races at The Meadows. Patricia was a foster mother, taught medical assistant classes at Penn Commercial and was a member of Citywide Development Corporation. She loved horses, gardening and her dogs.



## Obituaries

**George Berkner**, 74, July 28. George, affectionately known as "B", was born and raised in the Inwood section of Manhattan and established his career at Roosevelt and Yonkers Raceway. It was at the Meadowlands that his career really took off. George stunned the crowd and won their hearts driving B.G.'s Bunny to a track record and the horse later became one of the pioneer stallions in the New Jersey breeding program. Later, when George began to train instead of drive, he had enormous success with "Hit the Bid", "Goalie Jeff" and "Argyle Laddie". All who knew George would describe him as a caring, compassionate, loving and generous man. He packed in a lot of life in his seventy-four years.



**John R. Eades**, 67, of London, Ohio died Aug 6. It was perhaps fitting that John, who dearly loved training trotters, died unexpectedly while watching the broadcast of the Hambletonian. He began working for Delvin Miller in the 1960s as a groom while attending the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He had such a strong interest in European racing, that he attracted the attention of legendary French horseman and breeder J-P Dubois, and he later trained many horses for Dubois in the United States. In recent years he has trained a small stable, including trotters owned by his brother David, who was mayor of London, Ohio for more than 25 years.



**Jeffrey Raymond "JR" Eidens Jr**, 27, of Washington, died July 22. After graduating from Washington Area Career and Technology Center, he was

employed by Zediker Masonry and Concrete. JR was a member of Golden Bridge, 4-H, Silver Saddles and West Virginia International Barrel Racing Association. He loved spending time with family, hanging out with his children and riding horses. His father died last year. Pastor Joe at The Meadows did both funerals.

**William "Bill" Emerson**, 82, died July 4. Bill was well known to the Pinehurst, NC, and Ohio training communities and passed away one-day shy of his 83rd birthday. A native of Canadaigua, NY, Bill followed his father into the auction business, but with a two-stall barn on their property, his interest in horses prompted him to buy a trotter for a few hundred dollars. He enjoyed working with horses and eventually went to work for the late Lee Broglio, joining the Broglio operation in Florida and taking Slapstick on the road for the Little Brown Jug. In later years he trained several standout trotters. Bill worked for various horsemen in Pinehurst during the winter training season. "He just loved getting up in the morning and going to the barn to get a horse ready," said his wife, Marcia. As year-round Pinehurst residents, the Emersons became active in working to ensure the training center in the center of the resort village was maintained for horses and not developed, and the historic barn on the grounds was restored.

**Donald LeRoy Garey, Sr**, 74, of Felton, DE died June 25. Donald worked with the FBI in Washington DC after high school. Later he went to work for General Foods (Kraft



**Obituaries cont. on page 4**



## 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, Ginny Chudoba, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, Janet Dehart, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna Mclvor, Mira McKnight, Mrs. Miller, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Alice Samartis, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Beverley Sweeney, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Butch Ward, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Alice Wardman, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woebkenberg, Joyce Zeasapolowski

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

Joe Adamsky, Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Danny Breton, Gaetane Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Dennis Drenth, Bill Emerson, 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, Nancy 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, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Gordon Murphy, Margaret Nields, 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, 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:**

Dan Charlino severely fractured his ankle in a race. Warren Harp has health issues.

Herman Drenth is recovering from a broken leg.

Lucille Wick has shingles.

A member's brother and son are struggling with deep depression.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



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

Please indicate  
Address corrections

## Jug Prayer Breakfast Wednesday, September 21 7:30 AM



**Melissa McKee, Lauren Wilder and Lindsay McKee with Lucky Ducky**



**Linda Kakaley**



**Bob and Linda Condon**



**Jim and Phyllis Albert**

Sam and Chris McKee's twins, Melissa and Lyndsey, and Trysta Tetric's pony, Lucky Ducky were a big hit posing for pictures with fans, in front of our booth at the Hambo. Jim and Phyllis Albert from Delaware were among the many members who stopped by to tell us how much they appreciate the CHHA. Linda Kakaley friended me on FaceBook when she learned her horse, Joyce, is in my profile picture. We let visitors to our Rockingham Park Chapel feed jelly beans to Joyce.

Sal DiMario and Herman Drenth came from Delaware to hear Sam McKee speak at our Gaitway Farm event. Larry Leaderman also shared a few pearls of wisdom. Linda and Bob Condon and Suzanne D'Ambrose were a big help getting everything set up. Amy Bondon, Greg Gehman and Pastor Joe DiDonato along with Tim Hundertpfund and his crew also helped. Yes! It was a great weekend!

### The Hambo and Gaitway Farm



**Pastor Joe DiDonato introduces Sam McKee**

## Jug Prayer Breakfast Wednesday, September 21

Sam McKee's intimate sharing of many personal experiences of God's powerful hand in his life captivated everyone at our Gaitway Farm event. His presentation was so good, we've asked him to speak again at our Jug Week prayer breakfast. Join us in the Hospitality tent across from the Log Cabin at 7:30 AM Wednesday, September 21st for a **FREE** Gourmet breakfast. Jeff Stacy is bringing a terrific music group.

