



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

December 2018

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



*Chaplain Lee Alphen*

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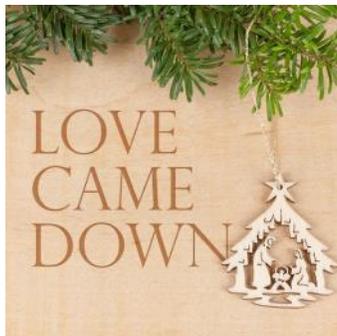
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*For newsletter questions or  
ideas please contact:*

*Lee Alphen, Editor*  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
603-898-1927  
603-401-7271 (cell)

**Wanted  
Praise Reports  
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**Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
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## Shelter in the Storms

*By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

Horses sometimes choose to ignore the nice run-in sheds in the pasture and stay in the open field in spite of torrential rains and powerful thunderstorms. All the big breeding farms have structures that provide shelter from the elements. Yet, I remember the late Murray McConnell telling me his mares at Casimir Farms chose to stay out even in the blizzards of northern Ontario, collecting several inches of snow on their backs. Of course, it is important to have the sheds. Sometimes the horses opt to seek shelter and come in out of the sun, wind and other elements. They are there for the horses to use when they want.

Aware of a hawk flying overhead, the mother hen crouches down and starts clucking, signaling the presence of danger. She gathers her baby chicks, who come running, under her wings and wraps them in close to her.

CHHA member, Lyndel Adamsky, prays the 91<sup>st</sup> psalm over many of us horsemen and women every day. It is a tradition she began with her late husband, Joe, many years ago. "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'" (Psalm 91:1-2). The psalm goes on to proclaim a variety of ways the Lord blesses those who choose to seek God's protection.

World War II correspondent, C. B. Morelock, reported a miraculous occurrence on the Dunkirk beaches. Peggy Joyce Ruth documented it in her book, *Psalm 91*. More than 400 men lay

pinned down in the sand as sixty German aircraft repeatedly attacked them with bombs and machine guns. Not one single soldier was hit. Every man in that group left the beach without a scratch. As they laid on the beach, they shouted the 91<sup>st</sup> psalm at the top of their lungs. Proclaiming our trust in the Lord out loud releases faith.

Mousetraps are not set by accident. They are purposely baited with cheese or peanut butter. Cheese won't lure a delicious Maine lobster. Lobster traps are baited with fish. The evil one offers us exactly the right bait and attempts to lure us in. God's faithfulness is our shield against the devil's attacks. Remember, it is God's faithfulness, not our own, that saves us. It does not matter who we are or what we've done in our life, God is faithful to those who call upon Him.

The promise of Psalm 91 is "If you say, 'The Lord is my refuge' and make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent" (Psalm 91:9-10). God stands at the gate ready to protect us. However, like the baby chicks, it is up to us to choose to run to the Lord.

The horses may be okay in the open pasture. In a blizzard, I would prefer to be in my own home, snuggled by a roaring fire in the fireplace, sipping on hot apple cider. When life's challenges come my way, I want to know God is with me. How about you?

*I am following Lyndel's example and have begun praying Psalm 91 every day for you and all our members. Perhaps you would like to pray it for your family and friends. It is printed on page 2.*

## Blessings

*From Lyndel Adamsky regarding Psalm 91...*

I have seen Joe in many close calls with all the horses that he drove. He only went down a few times but the one that is the most amazing is when he was on the front end at Delaware and the horse behind him stepped into his wheel. His leg was caught in Joe's wheel and he fell right on Joe. I am pretty sure that Joe was driving Tabor Lobell. I was in the paddock at the time- John Campbell was in the race with Joe- he came back to the paddock and told me not to go down to the accident- that he was not able to see Joe under the horse. Joe was in a Jerald bike- the seat broke in half and Joe was able to get the weight of the horse off of him. He walked away-very sore but no injuries. Only the Lord knows how he protected Joe- BUT HE DID. We prayed Psalm 91 together every morning.

*From Amy Bondon...*

Neighbors helped rescue Bo and Gina Bullock when they were flooded out of their house in Texas. The house is a loss. Gina's words "We will praise You in the rain."

*From Chaplain Lee Alphen...*

Thank you for praying for my niece, Katie, during Hurricane Florence. Every home in her neighborhood sustained damage by hurricane Florence. Miraculously, Katie's home stood strong and untouched. Praise God!

### Tamara Carlstrom and Joseph DiStefano Wedding

Tamara Carlstrom and Joseph DiStefano were married at Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory in South Deerfield, MA on August 18th.

Tamarra and Joseph have known each other all their lives. Both their families raced at Plainridge Park in Plainridge, MA. They plan to raise their family on the DiStefano Farm and continue racing at Plainridge.

Tamarra and Joseph, may the good Lord bless you with many years of peace, love, joy, and happiness together.



### Psalm 91 (ESV)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say<sup>al</sup> to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—

the Most High, who is my refuge<sup>bl</sup>— no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;

I will protect him, because he knows my name.

When he calls to me, I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble;

I will rescue him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."



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

#### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins

In memory of **Gary Junk** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz

In memory of **Donald Miller** by: Jo-Dee Brown

In memory of **Rick Stevens-Gleason's mom** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz

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**To Donate Now—Click here**

**Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation**

**Cross necklaces, key-chains, note cards and books they’ll love.**

### Great Christmas Gifts

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings and heart bracelets—see below

#### Books

Daily Oats by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

Downloading God by Jack Levine

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



*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

**Joseph R Carrubba**, 60, of Oakfield, NY, died Oct 24. Joseph was born into a harness racing family. His father, Sam, raced a stable at Batavia Downs. He and his brother, Chris, earned their pari-mutuel driver's licenses in their late teens and drove regularly. For 39 years, he was a regular on the Western New York circuit. At the racetrack or away from racing, Joseph always had a wonderful sense of humor and a deep love of his family.



**Milo Folley Jr**, 75, of Nicholasville, KY, died Oct 5. In 1969, Milo worked as an associate editor and photographer for *The Horseman And Fair World*, where he won multiple writing awards. He and his wife were fixtures at The Red Mile. Later Milo worked at Almahurst Farm and then with his wife, Marcia, at their insurance company, Classic Insurance. Milo, Marcia, and daughter, Brooke, spent many weekends traveling the country showing their hall-of-fame Vizsla dogs.

**Doug Hamilton**, 71, died Oct 17. Doug was a native of Port Elgin, Ontario who eventually migrated to Chicago where he made his mark at Sportsman's Park, Maywood Park, Hawthorne Race Course and Balmoral Park. He was a member of the Illinois Harness Horses Association and Harness Horseman's Hall of Fame in Illinois and Ohio.



**Iris T. Horowitz**, 84, died Aug 10. Iris owned 437 horses over her career; many of those were broodmares and the resulting foals had very productive racing careers. She loved seeing her horses doing well. In 1993, she owned the 3-year-old Ohio Sires Stakes champion trotter, On The Way Up.

**Keith Emery Hough**, 64, of Allegan, MI, died Oct 9. While still in high school he began his 50-plus year career training and racing Standardbreds eventually purchasing a 100 acre farm. He had many state champions and was known for his knack with trotters. He was also known for helping and teaching many younger horse people starting their careers and becoming successful at their trade.

**Sharlene (Sherri) Howard**, 73, died Aug 24. She and her husband, Howard, owned The Pour Farm Restaurant then Soups & Things in Biddeford, Maine. They also ran the concession stand at the paddock at Scarborough Downs for many years. Sherri was involved in all aspects of racing with her husband as owner and driver at racetracks all over the eastern seaboard. "El Faber" was one of their finer horses. Sherri was gracious and caring and will be sadly missed by those who knew her.

**Stephen Jackson, Sr**, 66, of Canastota, NY, died Oct 14. Steve worked for Kelsey Hayes in Whitesboro and Revere Copper & Brass in Utica then, later, for Lostumbo Asphalt Driveways in Syracuse for 20 years. At the time of his death he was a groom at Vernon Downs. Steve was a Catholic who had a big heart, and never said anything bad about anyone. Vernon Downs Chaplain John Prescott said, "Rick and Steve were some of the nicest people here at Vernon. Steve will be missed."



**Carlo J Lattinelli (Frenchie)**, 80, of Todt Hill, Staten Island, died Oct 1. Frenchie served in the Korean war and co-founded and partnered in the revitalization of Barnes and Noble bookstores helping to turn it into a global company. Later, he partnered in several successful New York City restaurants, notably, Sal Anthony's in Gramercy Park and SPQR in Little Italy. Later Frenchie became an avid harness horse breeder and owner and a discerning wine collector. He was deeply immersed in the harness game. He loved to bet almost as much as he loved to win. He invested in horses since the early 1980s and never lost the excitement he had for the game. Carlo had nearly 200 horses over those years with a number of different trainers, He was a gentleman with an infectious smile.



**Donald A. Miller**, 79, of Delaware, OH, died Oct 12. Donald was a horse trainer and also served as a service manager in the Cable TV industry and started his own auto detail shop, Shamrock Car Care. He proudly served in the US Navy. Donald was baptized at St. Mary Catholic Church and was a member of Am Vets.



**James "Jimmy" Scott Murray**, 60, of Chesterfield, NJ, died Sep 29. Jimmy was born in Lewiston ME and then moved to E. Bridgewater, MA. He worked most recently as second trainer for Ron Coyne. He loved harness racing, watching his beloved New England Patriots, cooking, watching the Three Stooges, music, and mostly being with family and friends. He had an incredible sense of humor and the ability to make everyone around him laugh and feel loved. He was an amazing horseman and was an all-around animal lover.



**Frederick Charles Polk**, 88, of Zanesville, Ohio, died Oct 12. Frederick was the owner and operator of Polk Scrap Iron. He served in the Korean Conflict as a United States Marine. Frederick enjoyed raising and racing horses. He loved nothing more than his family and was most happy bailing hay on the family farm.



**Robert Duane Sewell**, 77, died Oct 15. Bob was a stallion manager for Almahurst Farm, a night watchman for Overbrook Farm and retired as night watchman at Lane's End Farm.

**Steve Williams**, 60, died Oct 21. Steve is a longtime, hands-on manager at White Birch Farm in New Jersey. He was responsible for the foaling and raising of such champion harness horses as Bee A Magician and Captaintreacheros, and the pacing mare Darlin's Delight. Steve enjoyed watching the sons and daughters of Captaintreacheros on the track this year and was in Lexington to watch White Birch sell part of its yearling crop.



## Obituaries

**William Bailey, 54**, died Sep 27. Bill began riding and driving ponies at a young age and eventually assisted in his father's racing stable, grooming and training the race horses. He moved west to Ohio where he drove in the Ohio Sire Stakes and Grand Circuit. Later he moved to New York to begin his own racing stable based at Vernon Downs. In 1991, he won the Dick Mumpton Memorial Award for upcoming drivers. Bill was known for his sense of humor and general good will.



**Dan Bowermaster, 67**, of DeLeon Springs, FL, died Sep 23. Dan was a friend to all that knew him and had passion for the harness racing industry. He started working with horses when he was 12 and began his driving career on the Iowa fair circuit. Through the years, Dan owned, trained and drove harness horses. Lately, he enjoyed following the successes of his only son, Shane Bowermaster, who is currently the third leading trainer at Hoosier Park for the 2018 season.

**John F Bowers Jr, 87**, of Dublin, Ohio, died Oct 12. John served in the Air Force prior to graduating from Ohio State

University. He was a partner at Kingswood Lumber and Tri Village Investment Company. John's daughter, Moira trained all his horses. He was an avid golfer and served as Toastmaster for a number of organizations. He was also a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus and a member of St. Andrews Catholic Church for more than 50 years.

**David James Brocco, 73**, went home to be with the Lord Oct 24. David attended Walsh College and was the first member of his family to earn a Bachelor's degree. He retired from Ford Motor Company after 31 years. He was an avid hunter & fisherman and shared that love with his sons. Most of all, David loved his family. He attended Faith Lutheran Church. David was CHHA BOD member, Lori Romanetti's brother.



### Obituaries continued on pg 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:**

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Chaplain Bo Bullock, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Rolly Day, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Paul Fontaine, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, AJ Keaton, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Marty Woebkenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

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

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara

and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Bob Jones, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Barb Jenkins, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Art LaPlante, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr., Alice Williams

**Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.**

**Please pray for those serving in the military, especially:**

John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiq, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt. David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Emily Bier, 17, has cancer.

Bo and Gina Bullock were flooded out of their home in Texas.

Chaplain Karen Chavez's mom had a stroke.

Dan Clements is scheduled for a right knee replacement.

Barbara Conners is in rehab for a broken shoulder.

Andy Fournier has an arteriovenous malformation. Doctors are concerned pieces could break off and cause a stroke.

Rolly Day has cancer.

Rodney Grady has cancer.

Louise Pelletier has many health issues.

Gloria Peters, 93, is in rehab after a fall.

Lovena Warren had back surgery.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



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

Please indicate  
Address corrections

**Stallion Auction January 31- February 2**  
**Breeding donations appreciated**

## Plainridge Park



**Roger Huston and Larry Calderone**

You've got to admire Roger Huston. On October 7<sup>th</sup> he called the races at the Fryeburg Fair in Maine. The next day he was the announcer at Plainridge Park in Massachusetts marking the 142nd and 143rd different racetracks where he announced races. By the end of the day at Plainridge, Roger's announcing career included about 178,000 races.

Roger is a great advocate for harness racing. He shared some terrific racing stories from his driving days as well as from races viewed from various announcer's booths around the world in an interview with Larry Calderone, the announcer at Plainridge. Larry kept Roger so busy, I never did get a chance to speak with him.

I did have a nice visit with an old friend, CHHA member Patty Menne, who is working as an identifier in the paddock. We've known each other since our first year at Foxboro in 1969. It is always good see other friends there as well.

The biggest blessing for me is that whenever I visit Plainridge, Paddock Judge, Greg "Chip" Brewster, invites me to offer a prayer in the Paddock before the first race. He is a wonderful, Godly man and does a great job. It appears everyone loves and respects him.

## Gracefully Broken ♥ by From Jo-Dee Brown

I was in Dollar Tree and there was a lady with two kids behind me in the LONG line. One was a big kid, one was a toddler. The bigger one had a pack of glow sticks and the toddler was screaming for them, so the Mom opened the pack and gave him one, which stopped his tears. He walked around with it smiling, but then the bigger boy took it and the toddler started screaming again. Just as the Mom was about to fuss at the older child, he bent the glow stick and handed it back to the toddler. As we walked outside, the toddler noticed that the stick was glowing and his brother said "I had to break it so you could get the full effect of it."

"I could hear God saying to me, "I had to break you to show you why I created you. You had to go through everything in your path, so you could fulfill your purpose."

That little toddler was happy just swinging that "unbroken" glow stick around in the air because he didn't understand it was created to "glow".

There are some people who will be content just "being", but some of us that God has chosen, have to be "broken". We have to get sick. We have to lose a job, or go through a divorce, or bury our spouse, or parent, or best friend, or child, because, in those moments of extreme desperation, God is breaking us, but when the breaking is done, we are truly able to see, and understand, the reason for which we were created. To glow!

