



*The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus*

# Hatter Chatter

Newsletter of the Danbury Chapter, Yankee Division, Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society  
Meeting every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, Connecticut

Volume 21 Number 4

[www.madhatterchorus.org](http://www.madhatterchorus.org)

April 2014

## Back to the Future

*By Andy Bayer*

My, how time flies! It seems like such a short time ago that Danny asked if I would agree to “busy myself” at the start of my retirement by assuming the chairpersonship of the 2014 Annual Show. The rest, as they say, is history.

Our collective focus is split at this stage between performance improvement and logistical show support, and we are making strides in both areas. Our singing is producing a rich unit sound with balanced and “planned” exciting harmonies. We are just about on the verge of being performance ready. Even our newest repertoire additions, which are challenging and plain old fun, are sounding authentic!

Imagine the basses consistently with the melody, and the leads responsible for driving the rhythm and providing the foundational support. It’s truly going to be an upside-down, crazy, fun show! Everyone, audience and spectators alike, are going to have a spectacular evening!

As you read this article, we have just about reached the final day(s) of our program ad sales and the latest word is that our program book will be much longer than just three pages, which was my recurring nightmare. I can now begin to sleep more soundly! What would really make me sleep WELL is knowing that we have a FULL HOUSE audience. In order to achieve that, we ALL need to promote the *wonderful* time every attendee will have on Saturday evening May 17th.

Please do your part to spread the word and encourage family, friends, neighbors, acquaintances and even strangers to attend. Speak with Art Cilley and he’ll tell you how he spreads the word among strangers.

We have made appeals to our active membership, former members and friends of the chorus to become ANGEL contributors and support our efforts to improve our musicianship and showmanship.

*Continued on the next page*

## New Haven Chapter Closes After 70 Years

*By Robert Bradley*

Chartered in 1944, the New Haven Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society has called it a day. New Haven, the home of Yale and Albertus Magnus and the sixth largest city in New England, can no longer support its barbershop chapter.

At the end there were six members, two tenors who could no longer hit the high notes and three members who are above 86 years old. There was a lone baritone in his 80s and no director or president of the chapter. New Haven has not performed in public for over 15 years.

Barbershopper extrodinaire, Mike Strianese, held the chapter together, and with his passing passes the New Haven City of Elms Chapter.

In the past, as Yankee Division Manager, I was aware of the problems and was sad to see that there appeared to be no actions that could save them at this time.

The Boston Chapter is in just a bit better condition. They are struggling to remain active in a town with over 250,000 college age students.

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1949 New Haven Chapter Annual Show.  
From the Connecticut Herald.

## Future

*Continued from the previous page*

In addition, our appeal was aimed at producing a financially successful show as well. This will make it possible for us to purchase new repertoire, seek the expertise of coaches who are helping us with improving our craft, connecting emotionally with our repertoire and with our audiences.

Even more importantly, having sufficient financial resources will allow us to continue introducing spectators at future annual shows to the fun of being a Mad Hatter and of singing a cappella as exemplified by the elite performers of our craft that we hope to continue inviting to Danbury in mid-May.

By the way, if you have not yet become a chorus ANGEL, there is still time to mail your contribution! (We will need to receive it by May 5th so that we can acknowledge your support in the program book.). An unanticipated benefit of the ANGEL appeal was reconnecting with former members and learning about what has transpired in the intervening years since their active membership. If you'd like to share your "story," introduce yourself to some of the newer members and share some of the chorus's history with them, please send me an email ([abayer624@comcast.net](mailto:abayer624@comcast.net)) and we will try to run a special update column in future *Hatter Chatter* issues.

If you are able to attend the show, please make sure that we connect in the lobby after the performance. And prepare to join us next year, our golden (50<sup>th</sup>) anniversary show where we want to see you on the stage singing along with our directors over the years.

For our active membership, this is somewhat premature (since our show has not yet taken place), but I want to thank all of you for putting up with my preoccupation with the show and pushing you, in some cases, to the limit. This show cannot be either an artistic or financial success if we don't work together as a team, with each person investing himself in the process and pulling his weight in each area.

I hope that a post show analysis will reveal even greater investment and participation in all aspects of the annual show preparations than ever before.

And I thank you for all your work in making sure that our chorus enters its upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Show season in strong financial condition with a focus on reaching the next higher performance level, which is within our grasp. To the seventies and beyond!

### **Baritone Deep Thought of the Month**

**I tried to look up impotence on the Internet  
but nothing came up**

## Chapter Closes

*Continued from the previous page*

Mike Klein is trying to revive them and he needs all of the cooperation that can be given him by the Northeastern District.

For every loss such as this, we must look at the lessons learned. Not that many years ago, we in Danbury were not looking so good. Our membership was down, we were aging quickly, we sang the same songs over and over and over and over. Our finances were so bad that the officers in the chapter had to lend money to the organization to keep it going. We were slowing bleeding out and going the way of our Elm City brethren.

We had to do something drastic to bring us back. We hired a young director against the wishes of our then Board of Directors, lost a few members, and now, once again, are the small chorus champs and singing better than ever.

Mad Hatter membership is, if not growing at leaps and bounds, at least stable. Some of our members even have hair with color in it. Danbury recently has had two Northeastern District vice presidents and is known in the District as being an up and coming chapter. It is in many ways an example of what good management and group spirit can accomplish.

I am disappointed at the overall lack of participation of chapters and quartets at the contests and conventions I've attended recently. The Yankee and Mountain Divisions (western part of the District) are in need of an influx of spirit, enthusiasm, new membership, more dynamic directors, or whatever else.

The eastern part of the District can put on stage 28 or so very good quartets and over a dozen excellent choruses. The eastern conventions are a pleasure to work on. They are filled with spirit, a love of singing and more important, many young faces and voices. Barbershop is alive and well in New England.

As Yankee Division Manager, I have my work cut out for me. In some of our chapters I see a lot of hope with great and enthusiastic directors: Central Connecticut, Bridgeport, Manchester, Poughkeepsie, Waterbury-Derby all seem to be up and coming. It is the rest that I am worried about.

The question is, how do we get men in Connecticut to wake up to our hobby?. How do we get greater participation in district events? What can we, as fellow barbershoppers, do to assist each other?

It is said that the death of one individual diminishes us all. We in the Yankee Division are diminished by one. How do we stop this here so we are not diminished by two or three or four in the near future?.

For all of us who love this hobby, this is our wake up call.

# Birthday Bash

By Dick Zang

On April 12, a Mad Hatter octet made the trip to Shelton, CT, to sing a few songs for Mike Evancho's father-in-law, Peter Ranno, on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Peter had been a long-time member of the Derby Chapter before he retired to Pennsylvania, so it was easy to get him to join us on a few polecats – most of which he knew by heart.

Art Cilley, Danny Anderson, Nick Godano, Jim Hopper, Andy Bayer, Dickson DeMarche, and Dick Zang met Mike in the parking lot of Vazzy's Restaurant for a quick rehearsal before heading in to sing for a very receptive audience. One of the most enjoyable moments came when we were also joined by Mike's two sons, Andrew and Jordan, who had sung with the chorus briefly a couple of years ago. Maybe we'll get them back?



## Repertoire Notes

Questions When Singing Polecats

By Dick Zang

One of our favorite polecats (or more precisely one song in the Barberpole Cat program) is the "Honey/Little 'Lize-Medley." To everyone who has wondered what the words to the verses of these songs are, I won't keep you waiting.

Here is the first verse of "Honey That I Love So Well" written by Harry Freeman.

*To my honey that I love so well,  
Away down south in the land of roses  
There's a honey that I love so well  
She's the sweetest bud 'mong all the posies  
Is my honey that I love so well,  
I lost my heart to her one day,  
And I ain't ashamed to tell,  
That I've been true to her ever since,  
To this Honey that I love so well."*

Also be aware that the last line of the chorus in the original starts "To my Honey... not "You're the Honey...." There is a slightly different lyric written for Perry Como by Dominick Belline. Someone else will have to find the words to "Little 'Lize."

## Infractions for Barbershoppers

Some things never change. In 1925, Ring W. Lardner allowed punishments, chastisements and oaths which are considered legal in the case of:

1. A tenor who, being the only tenor, takes a high tonic instead of a third for his finishing note.

2. A lead who says he knows a song when he doesn't.
3. A man who thinks there is nothing to baritone except winding up on the fifth.
4. A man who thinks bass is just the lead, two, three or six octaves lower.
5. A tenor who would rather sing baritone.
6. And a girl who sings tenor and says it's alto.

## Interesting Musical Fact

At age 47, the Rolling Stones' bassist, Bill Wyman, began a relationship with 13-year old Mandy Smith, with her mother's blessing. Six years later, they were married, but the marriage only lasted a year.

Not long after, Bill's 30-year-old son, Stephen, married Mandy's mother, age 46. That made Stephen a stepfather to his former stepmother. If Bill and Mandy had remained married, Stephen would have been his father's father-in-law and his own grandpa.

## Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets



**Traveling Men** - By Wynn Gadkar Wilcox

The Traveling Men have enjoyed a relaxing month. We have been recuperating from the intense rehearsals of the spring and from the division contest, and have temporarily reduced our rehearsals to a more humane once-a-week schedule.

We are currently focused on expanding our repertoire. We are in the midst of choosing two more songs to sing at the district contest, and are also adding at least one patriotic number for upcoming singouts.

We have also been rehearsing for the annual show. Our rehearsals have been focused on improving our phrasing and matching our timbres for an improved unit sound. We hope you will hear the results at this year's annual show!

**2014**  
**Harmony College**  
**NORTHEAST**  
Aug. 8-10 • Worcester State University  
Mark Your Calendars!  
Plan Now to Join Us & Your Friends at  
**THE BEST Harmony College EVER!**  
**August 8-9-10, 2014**  
**Worcester State University**



## Emails to the Editors

Please e-mail your questions and comments to either the Hatter editor, John Bradley, at [jbrad1313@earthlink.net](mailto:jbrad1313@earthlink.net), or the Chatter editor, Dick Zang, at [jezang@charter.net](mailto:jezang@charter.net). If your e-mail appears, you will receive an autographed picture of our 2008 Yankee Division Bulletin Editors Award

I'm new to singing and want to get better. I've noticed that a lot of the people I sing with bring large containers of water with them. How much water do I need to drink to improve my voice?

Bert from Bethel

*Bert, drinking water does not help you sing better. Your vocal cords and voice box are located in your trachea or windpipe. Whatever you eat or drink goes down your esophagus. So, the water you drink does not come into contact with the cords themselves. So, drinking lots of water is no magic fix. However, staying properly hydrated is important.*

*When you're singing, your vocal folds are essentially slapping together. What the singer needs is a "cushion" between the folds, and this is achieved by having a mucus coating on the vocal folds. This coating requires proper hydration. If you are not well-hydrated, the vocal folds can become irritated more quickly, leading to redness and swelling.*

*Most experts recommend six to eight glasses of water a day, but there is no "magic amount." Everyone's body is different and glands work in unique ways.*

*I think the important point is you should drink water all day – not a gallon while you are singing.*



## April Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting called to order by Danny "Nobody's April Fool" Anderson

at 6:10 pm on April 1, 2014, at the Church of Christ in Danbury.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Robert Golenbock's computer crashed, forcing him to record the minutes on a roll of toilet paper. Unfortunately, Joe Hudson spilled water on the minutes. Toilet paper was wiped.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dickson DeMarche invested all Chapter funds with an offshore investment firm. Dickson has not been heard from or seen for two weeks.

*Continued on the next page*

## The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson



What a wonderful weekend the chorus had at the Division contest. The results of the long practices, the work done on vowel matching, and the work on presentation paid off. It was good to hear the judges' comments on the positive aspects of our performance and the suggestions they made to improve our overall production. The comments and evaluations were very helpful and we should act upon them so we can score even higher at the next competition.

Now our attention has turned to the annual show. We need to put in the time to improve on the songs selected for this performance, using the suggestions given to us at Nashua. I encourage all the members to strive to be present for each practice. We need to build upon each week's work and remember what we did the week before.

I want to thank the chorus members and wives who went to Nashua for the quartet competition. Traveling Men were concerned about going on first, fearing that there would not be an audience to perform to. But when we heard the cheers as we went on stage we knew that we had supporters cheering us on and those concerns were removed.

One of the goals before the chorus is to improve our show each year. We have engaged one of the premier quartets as our guest quartet for this year's show. Vocal Spectrum will give a great performance.

We need a "full house" for this show. We did a good job inviting people to attend our Christmas show so we need to duplicate that effort for the annual show. As has been announced during our business meeting and in last month's *Hatter Chatter*, there is a discount if you pre-purchase tickets, so go ahead and purchase several tickets and sell them to your friends and family. Use every opportunity to talk to people about the show and find places to display a show flyer.

The financial commitment for this show is greater than previous shows due to the performance fee and travel expense we will have for the guest quartet. The cost for the venue is a little higher, but the venue is a better one. A goal is to sell enough program ads to cover the show expenses. We have had training sessions on how to sell the ads and have been provided a listing of business who purchased ads before. We need to visit all those business and ask for a new ad and invite those who advertise to the show.

We have several sing-oust coming up before the annual show, these will be opportunities to have a "dress rehearsal". The more we are before an audience to more comfortable we become and the better we perform.

The encouragement I leave with you is to practice your music, sell tickets, sell ads and invite people to come to the show.



## The Director's Den

By Joseph Hudson

### Why Do We Warm-up?

No one joins a musical group to sing or perform poorly. We all want to do better. One of the ways to do this is through proper warm-ups. Warm-ups can be used to solve specific vocal problems, or serve as part of a total vocal improvement program.

Warming up is not exclusive to singing. Athletes know that, without stretching and warming exercises, injury can result. Since singing is a physical activity involving the use of large and small muscles, we know we must provide a warm-up period to get the voice ready for more vigorous exercise.

Warm-ups remind singers of correct singing techniques. Professional dancers take class every day of their lives, why shouldn't singers spend a little time doing something similar? Warm-ups re-assemble the group and allow teaching of blend, balance and intonation.

So, what makes up a "good" choral warm-up? There are a few steps that should be in each warm-up:

#### 1. Posture and Stretching

In singing, it is the singer himself who is the instrument. Good posture is important, and the entire body must be in proper alignment and ready to be "played." Since our major objective is to create a free, well supported, resonant tone, it is necessary to devote time and effort toward the improvement of posture so our "instrument" may produce that quality of tone.

#### 2.) Breath Management

Many famous singers testify that the element of breath control is the secret of their outstanding technique. Good breath management in singing is an amplification of the normal breathing process. The singer must be able to allow large amounts of air into the lungs during INHALATION and be able to manage the same air out of the lungs correctly during EXHALATION.

#### 3.) Tone Production

In singing, the singer must learn to hear and feel the differences in tone quality. An optimal tone is produced when the throat is relaxed and open. To succeed in this, Humming is best. Have an "AH" vowel inside the mouth with your lips closed.

#### 4.) Vowel Matching

There is almost a unanimous agreement among choral directors that one of the most important factors in the achievement of choral blend is unity of vowel sounds. When vowels are matched, creating like harmonics, the sound tends to expand in intensity through reinforcement.

There are 11 Vowel Sounds. They are:  
EE as in PEEP

IH as in PIP  
EH as in PEP  
EH-EE as in PAY  
AA as in PAL  
AH as in POP  
AW as in PAW  
OH as in POPE  
UH as in LOVE  
OO as in BOOK  
OO as in MOON



#### 5.) Articulation

The main purpose of singing is the communication of ideas, emotions and situations. Without understandable words, singing would lose much of its power to entertain, educate and persuade. Vowels carry the *sound* of the words we sing, while consonants convey the *meaning* of those words. A beautiful tone means little if the words cannot be understood. The interruption of the vocal airstream by consonants transforms meaningless tones into intelligible words.

#### 6.) Range and Register

To be correctly sung, as the singer moves up or down the scale, the production of each tone must be imperceptibly lighter (falsetto voice) or heavier (chest voice) than the tone which preceded it. The singer can think of an artist mixing colors on his palette, gradually adding some red to the white as he wants the color to increase in intensity (going down the scale) and gradually adding a little white to the red as he wants the color to lighten (going up the scale).

So, all of these things assist in getting singers into the mindset of the "Danbury Chorus" sound, which is why warm-ups are so useful.

## Board Meeting

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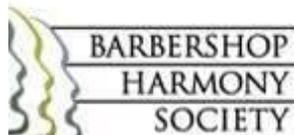
MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Andy Bayer reported that we do have members, have gained a few and have lost a few. Some even show up at rehearsals and events.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Al Paparesta continues to walk up Main Street with his sandwich sign and megaphone to publicize the May Annual Show. Danny Anderson posted 347 show posters throughout the Danbury area. He will be serving a sentence of six months community service for vandalism and littering.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: The committee has asked Joe Hudson to arrange "Zip A Dee Doo Da" as a slow ballad. According to Jim Hopper, "If Neil Sadaka can do it with 'Breaking Up Is Hard To Do,' so can we."

NEW BUSINESS: The Board has hired a psychic to help us with chorus long term planning. The psychic sees us performing at Meadow Ridge in 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. Next meeting May 6.



## Society and District Notes



### Harmony College Northeast

Our spring contest season is over. Our division champs have been crowned and our quartet representatives to the International Convention in Las Vegas have been chosen. What's more is that it appears that spring has finally arrived to the Northeastern District!! So, with a little lull in district barbershop activities and summer time rapidly approaching, everyone's thoughts should be turned to **Harmony College Northeast**, our district's pre-eminent weekend of musical education, singing, and fellowship.

This year HCNE will be held the weekend of August 8,9 and 10, 2014. Again we'll return to Worcester State University in Worcester, MA, a venue that features outstanding class room facilities, comfortable, roomy and air-conditioned dorm rooms, and fantastic food. In what I hope is really old news to all of you, registration for this event has been open for over a month now, and all the information regarding HCNE has been on the NED website, allowing everyone plenty of time to plan their summer vacations, and prepare to attend what I believe will be the biggest and best HCNE we've had in a while.

In case you haven't made up your mind on whether or not to attend HCNE, let me give you the Top Ten Reasons why you should not miss HCNE 2014: (with apologies to David Letterman).

10. The best place you can possibly be the weekend of Aug 8-10 is at Worcester State University enjoying the great food, singing with friends, and enjoying the air-conditioned comfort, since I know that there isn't anything else to do on what is normally a very hot weekend in New England.
9. You can take classes from an outstanding faculty on just about any topic related to improving your skills as a singer, musician, performer, arranger, stage manager, sound technician, quartet singer, chorus singer or tag singer! And this year you can choose your classes well in advance of HCNE!!
8. Did I mention that the food was outstanding?
7. Does your quartet need some topnotch coaching? We have it!!
6. Would you like to sing under the direction of a gold-medalist chorus director? We're offering a chance to participate in a something totally new at HCNE this year, a mixed adult chorus under the direction of Dr Jim Henry

composed of attendees of HCNE as well as the adult music educators, staff and chaperones attending this year's Harmony Explosion Camp. This could be the musical highlight of the district and wouldn't you like to be a part of that?? The chorus will perform as part of the Big Saturday Night Show.

5. You can attend the Big Saturday Night Show, featuring the youth attending the Harmony Explosion Camp, teaching quartets from the HX Camp, some great NED quartets and our featured quartet (see No 10!).
4. You can partake in the HCNE world famous Saturday Night Afterglow/Pizza Party, featuring the great, freshly prepared, brick oven baked WSU pizza! You can't find better pizza in all of Worcester!!
3. If you ask me nicely, I'll sing a tag with you! I'm hoping to sing a tag on all four parts throughout the weekend.
2. The food is great!

And finally the biggest reason of all for attending HCNE drum roll):

10. Our featured quartet is our 2009 International Champion Quartet, **Crossroads!!** This outstanding and beloved quartet will be offering their talents all throughout the weekend as teachers and quartet coaches and will be performing on the Big Saturday Night Show. You won't be able to hear them anyplace else that weekend, only at HCNE!!

So there you have it, just a few reasons why you should attend HCNE 2014. In the coming weeks/months you'll be hearing a lot more from me regarding HCNE. In particular, I'll be highlighting some individual instructor, and courses that might be of interest to you. In the meantime, if you want more information click, go to the District web site. All the information is there. If you have any questions, or need additional information, drop me an email. My contact information is below. I encourage everyone to register early, especially if you're planning on quartet coaching. If we get 200 registrants on or before June 30, I won't be filling your email in-boxes with additional emails!

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## Nominees for Board Officers for 2015

Each year the district's nominating committee is charged by the District President, in accordance with the district by-laws and operating code, to find the best possible candidates for District service on the Board of Directors. At a minimum the committee is to contact each chapter within the Northeastern District as well as the current officers of the District to solicit their suggestions and recommendations for potential officer candidates. The 2014 Nominating Committee has decided to again increase that contact to include all past district presidents and, by general broadcast, every member of the District.

Nothing will have a greater impact on the future and operation of the District than the selection of the men who will be chosen by the House of Delegates to lead our district into that future again in 2015. It is with an earnest desire to provide the best possible leadership to the NED that we have embarked on the process this year.

As stated in the by-laws and operating code, every position on the District Board (with the exception of Immediate Past President) is open for election each year. Every elected position is for single year terms. Therefore, we are asking each member of the Northeastern District to consider any suggestions you may have for any one or more of the positions on the Board.

We are positive that there are many men within the District boundaries who would provide skill sets and enthusiasm in carrying out the duties of each of these positions. In many cases, they only need to be asked and in many cases they have served or are currently serving. The Committee will be talking to each incumbent member of the Board to determine which of them is interested in continuing service. Those interested will be considered equally with any other possible candidates who may be presented to us from any of these other sources.

It is not necessary that you speak with and obtain permission from any district member before you provide us with their names. All we ask is that you provide us with some very basic information about the person and why you feel he would do an excellent job in any one position. We will follow up with every single person suggested to the Committee.

To assist you, we have posted on the district website the duties, responsibilities and experience requirements for each position ([www.nedistrict.com/documents](http://www.nedistrict.com/documents) and listed under "NED Documents"). Remember, for a person to be recommended by you for a specific position, he does not necessarily have had to hold a similar position within his chapter. Many times the professional experience of a person is more significant than his experience within a barbershop chapter.

Please respond with your recommendations to [NEDNominating@gmail.com](mailto:NEDNominating@gmail.com) on or before May 15. All submissions will be held in the strictest confidence with only the members of the Nominating Committee having access to the recommendations and information provided.

Please provide the following for each person you recommend:

1. Full name of the person.
2. Chapter of the person (per By-laws 5.02 the person must be an active member in good standing of a chapter within the Northeastern District and cannot be a Frank Thorne member).
3. Position for which the person is being recommended.
4. What you know of the person's experience and background that is applicable to service on the District Board and at that specific position.
5. What other attributes does this person possess that would be of benefit to the District and the position.

The following are the positions for which nominations will be presented to the House of Delegates in August:

- District President
- District Executive Vice-President
- District Secretary
- District Treasurer
- District Vice-President – Chapter Support and Leadership Training
- District Vice-President – Chorus Director Development
- District Vice-President – Contest and Judging
- District Vice-President – Events
- District Vice-President – Marketing and Public Relations
- District Vice-President – Membership Development
- District Vice-President – Music and Performance
- District Vice-President – Youth in Harmony

### NED Nominating Committee

Alan Lamson, Chairman (860) 647-9523 (CT)  
Paul DesBarres (902) 670-4008 (Nova Scotia)  
Walter Lane (518) 441-1758 (NY)  
Brian O'Leary (617) 448-0656 (MA)  
Douglas Peterson (314) 580-5585 (MA)

## Use of Member Contact Information

At the last District Board of Directors Meeting, held on March 21, 2014, the Board unanimously adopted a policy about how Member contact information is to be used. The district did not have a formal policy addressing how specific information about our members is permitted to be used or distributed (or in some cases, NOT used or distributed).

This policy is now publicly displayed on the District Website (under Contact Us) as well as inserted into the NED Leadership Directory (also found under Contact Us).

The District Board understands and believes that the personal information of our members has been entrusted to us and is proprietary. For further comments, questions or concerns, please contact Murray Phillips (District President), Steve Salalmin (DVP Marketing and PR), or myself.

Antonio L. Lombardi, District Secretary, Board of Directors,  
Northeastern District

## Ye Olde Joke Boarde



*Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper (with help from Nick Godano)*

A woman announces to her friend that she is getting married for the fourth time, this time to a barbershop baritone.

"How wonderful! But I hope you don't mind me asking what happened to your first husband?"

"The barbershop lead? Well, he ate poisonous mushrooms and died."

"Oh, how tragic! What about your second husband?"

"The tenor? He ate poisonous mushrooms too and died."

"Oh, how terrible! I'm almost afraid to ask you about your third husband."

"He was a barbershop bass. He died of a broken neck."

"A broken neck?"

"Yes. He wouldn't eat the mushrooms."

...

Fred, a barbershop baritone, got home from his Sunday round of golf later than normal and very tired. "Bad day at the course?" his wife asked.

"Everything was going fine," he said. "Then Harry had a heart attack and died on the 10th tee."

"Oh, that's awful!"

"You're not kidding. For the whole back nine it was hit the ball, drag Harry, hit the ball, drag Harry..."

...

A waiter, who was also a barbershop baritone, complained to another waiter, "It took me all morning to fill this salt shaker."

"Why so long?" the other waiter asked.

"Do you have any idea how hard it is to get the salt through all those little holes on top?"



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## Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

### **Regular Repertoire**

Almost Like Being In Love  
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do  
I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)  
It's Only A Paper Moon  
Keep The Whole World Singing  
Kentucky Babe  
On The Sunny Side Of The Street  
Over The Rainbow  
Shenandoah  
Ten Feet Off The Ground  
There Is Nothing Like A Dame

### **Patriotic/Inspirational**

Amazing Grace  
Armed Forces Salute  
God Bless America  
I Believe  
Impossible Dream  
Lord's Prayer  
Star-Spangled Banner  
This Land Is Your Land/America The  
Beautiful

### **Coming Soon**

They Say It's Wonderful  
Beach Boys Medley  
Blue Skies  
Come Go With Me  
Crazy Little Thing Called Love  
Happy Together  
How Deep Is The Ocean  
Moonlight Brings Memories  
I Would Have Writ You A Letter, But  
I Couldn't Spell Yuck!



## The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

104 Lexington Blvd.  
Bethel, CT 06801  
203-744-9480

<b>President:</b>	<b>Danny Anderson</b>
<b>Musical Director:</b>	<b>Joseph Hudson</b>
<b>Assistant Director:</b>	<b>Jim Hopper</b>
<b>Assistant Director:</b>	<b>Don Sutherland</b>
<b>Membership VP:</b>	<b>Andy Bayer</b>
<b>Public Relations VP:</b>	<b>Al Paparasta</b>
<b>Music VP:</b>	<b>Jim Hopper</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Robert Golenbock</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Dickson DeMarche</b>
<b>Program VP</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Peter Daubner</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Art Roberts</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Wynn Wilcox</b>
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	<b>Robert Bradley</b>
<b>Uniform Chairman:</b>	<b>Andy Bayer</b>
<b>Harmony Foundation</b>	
<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Danny Anderson</b>
<b>Music Librarian:</b>	<b>Lyle LaPlante</b>
<b>Sunshine Chairman:</b>	<b>Don Smith Package</b>
<b>Show Chairman:</b>	<b>Dick Walter Chorus</b>
<b>Manager:</b>	<b>Robert Golenbock</b>

### *The Hatter Chatter*

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

John Bradley, hatter editor editor 39 Beekman Drive Lake Carmel, NY 10512 <a href="mailto:jbrad1313@earthlink.net">jbrad1313@earthlink.net</a>	Dick Zang, chatter editor 2 Camelot Crest Sandy Hook, CT 06482 <a href="mailto:jezang@charter.net">jezang@charter.net</a>
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Proofreader: Miss Taralily

The editors of the Hatter Chatter welcome submissions from all chapter members and friends of the Mad Hatters. E-mail, mail, paper airplane us your thoughts, observations, opinions, singing tips and whatevers, and we'll turn them into Pulitzer Prize copy

## May Milestones

### *Birthdays:*

7 - Dan Griffin  
12 - Joel Knecht  
12 - Janet Just  
12 - Dessain Terry  
14 - Gloria Keenan  
17 - Doyle Stoppel  
22 - Fred Baran

### *Wedding Anniversaries:*

1 - August and Roseann D'Aureli  
3 - John and Claudia Downey  
5 - Bill and Annellen Gleissner  
8 - Bob and Vikki Bradley  
12 - Pete and Jane Huester  
28 - Lyle and Patricia LaPlante  
29 - Danny and Linda Anderson  
30 - Doyle and Doris Stoppel

## Mark Your Calendars



### *Annual Show*

***Almost Like Being In Love***, Saturday May 17, 2014. Western Connecticut State University Ives Concert Hall, 181 White St., Danbury CT. Appearing: Mad Hatter Chorus and its quartets, 2013 Yankee Division Quartet Champions SUREFIRE! and the 2006 International Champions VOCAL SPECTRUM. Set-up/Warm-up @ 4:45 pm, Perform, 7:00 pm.

### *Performance*

**Sunday May 25, 2014, Richter Park (100 Aunt Hack Road/Danbury, CT). Warm-up @ 2:00pm, Perform @ 2:30pm.**

### *Performance*

**Macy's shop for a cause. Saturday, August 23. Details to be announced.**

### **Waterbury-Derby Chapter. SPRING CABARET**

The Chordsmen offer their annual Spring Cabaret at the Elks Lodge. Enjoy a delicious dinner, cash bar, silent auction, and great a cappella entertainment. This year the Valley Chordsmen will sing along with a two or three other quartets and a female soloist. Saturday May 17, 2014. Call 203 233-0269. Tickets \$30.

### **Westchester Chordsmen**

June brings some pretty awesome sounds from the Westchester Chordsmen. The Rat Pack comes back to life! Sinatra! Sammy Davis Jr.! Dean Martin! Jimmy Fallon? In any case, the stage will be alive with the fabulous sounds of Vegas on June 7! Our show will feature the award-winning a cappella doo-wop group. Saturday, June 7, 2014.  
<http://chordsmen.org>.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**The Poughkeepsie New Yorkers Chorus**

presents

**ALL AMERICAN HARMONY**

*a celebration of America in Barbershop Harmony*



featuring

**"SUREFIRE!"**  
2013 Yankee Division Quartet Champion

**"Footlighters"**  
Poughkeepsie's Own  
2014 Yankee Division Quartet Champion

**Saturday May 3, 2014 ~ 3:00PM**

Spackenkill High School Auditorium  
112 Spackenkill Road - Poughkeepsie, NY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★