



*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

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

August 2014

## Swinging Summer Season for Singers

*By John Bradley*

It's been a pretty busy summer singing season for the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus.

On July 17, a troupe of chorus members opened a Danbury Westerners' game at Rogers Park with our nation's unofficial baseball song and official national anthem, "Star Spangled Banner." We reformed along the third base line during the seventh inning stretch to sing "God Bless America." Our performance almost gained the chorus an additional gig at a Beatles festival the following Saturday, but it was felt the chorus couldn't learn a new song in a couple of days.



*Danny and Joe voice test the new baritone.  
Picture by John Bradley*

Our support and singing didn't help the Westerners too much, however, The collegiate summer baseball team lost a slugfest to the Ocean State Waves, 15 to 5. But, we did get free hot dogs.

On July 26, the Mad Hatters converged on the Putnam County Memorial Park in Kent, NY, for it's annual visit to the Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H Fair.

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## Furthering A Barbershop IQ

*By Robert Golenbock*

Somebody asked me if going to Harmony College gets repetitious after 10 years. The short answer is that it's not supposed to. Getting together to hear great singing and to learn new music is just the tip of the iceberg. Renewing old friendships throughout the district is a distinct plus. I always have the opportunity to sing with people I don't ordinarily get together with. And there's the world's worst mattresses to remind us that we should be grateful we're not in college.

Seriously, though, the biggest draw to Harmony College is the education. Every year I learn something new or I get reinforcement about something I need to relearn. Or maybe I wasn't ready to understand what I was taught so many years back.

This year I spent time learning to woodshed, I learned new information about the mechanics of singing and how to prepare the instrument (my body) for the best possible sound, and I received personal vocal instruction. There was more, but you get the idea. In every room we had the opportunity to improve ourselves. I even had the chance to learn about the art of mechanical sound production, but since Daryl was giving the course, I figured I could just call him up instead.

It's hard not to enrich oneself at Harmony College. And, by the way, I got to sing a tag with Crossroads and a song with Downtown Crossing. If singing is your passion, Harmony College should be your destination.

**Joe Millet**

*From Murray Phillips President, Northeastern District, BHS*

It is with sincere regret and sadness that we inform you of the passing of Joe Millett, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Joe was a NED Champion Lead, a long time VP of Events and a chorus director. He touched many lives and made our District and Society better by his presence and his dedicated participation. Sincerest sympathies go out to past president Michael Klein and the rest of Joe's family.

## In Memory

By Robert Golenbock

I want to write a few words about Joe Millett. He sang with the Mad Hatters in the 1960's and took his quartet to the international stage. He later became a chorus director and an important member of the District Board.

He was at every contest I ever attended because he was responsible for the contest administration. When he had the opportunity to lead a group of men in song, he had the most expressive hands I've ever seen.

I didn't really know him well, but he always seemed so kind and thoughtful. A while back at one of the contests he was looking particularly unwell, and I asked him if he minded if I took a look at him. We had a chance to talk while I drove him to the local pharmacy to fill a prescription. Fortunately, he got home safely and his health improved.

Some time later he called me to ask some pointed questions because he had just been diagnosed with cancer and he needed advice. I answered him as best as I could, reminding him that I was a pediatrician. I told him that I knew the institution he was being treated at was excellent. I didn't tell him that I was not very optimistic about his recovery.

I carried that with me until the announcement of his death the Wednesday before Harmony College. As many of you know, his last act, only days before he died, was to give two scholarships to HX camp for next year. I did not know him well, and yet he touched me deeply.

From what I have heard and read since his death, he touched many people that way. He was a great role model. He will be missed by many like myself and by many who do not even realize what they have lost.



*From the July 1967 HARMONIZER,  
The Persuaders with Joe Millett, lead.*

## Harmony College 2014

By Art Cilley

This was my second time at Harmony College. I remember being impressed last year but this was even better. It's hard to imagine that it will be possible to improve on it again next year.

I arrived at the campus of Worcester State University later than I hoped because I always get lost in Worcester. The outdoor barbecue was just winding down after I finished checking in to the suite of dorm rooms where Traveling Men were staying so we could receive coaching on Saturday. The program started shortly after dinner with a general session where we practiced "Consider Yourself," a song that the chorus may want to learn since it would pair well with "Where Is Love?," which also comes from the musical *Oliver*. Then it was off to our first class: in my case, How to be a Great Tenor. The instructor was Fred Farrell, tenor of the weekend's famous guest quartet: Crossroads.

In addition to being a wonderful tenor, he seems to be a fine human being. We got the message that he, and all of them, love to sing with each other for the fun of it. None of them had anything to prove in forming Crossroads because all had won gold medals in international competition with previous quartets. They just wanted to sing together and be as good as they could be. For my money they have succeeded admirably.

Here are two excerpts from his remarks and the question and answer period that followed. One was a comparison between the members of a quartet and an automobile. Basses are the engine because they keep the car going. Leads are the driver because they set the direction. I forget the analogy for the baritones but it must have been something like the upholstery because they fill everything in and make it comfortable. Tenors are the paint because they provide color and sparkle.

The other was the advice that each member of a quartet must take it upon himself to improve his personal contribution. All the dueting, vowel matching and interpretation in the world can't make a quartet great unless each person is singing to the best of his ability. Whether it's working on a pure unforced sound, pitch accuracy, finding your optimum resonance, breath control, or maintaining support at the end of a phrase, identify what you need to do to sing better and do what you can to achieve that goal. Not bad advice for singing with a chorus either!

Saturday started early with breakfast and another general session. The best part of the morning and afternoon for me was the quartet coaching. We had three sessions of an hour and a half each with three different coaches. All had different recommendations but the advice was consistent and focused on things we knew we needed to do to get better. One of the coaches was a quartet baritone with a degree in music (Marc Rosenbaum), one was the baritone of Crossroads (Brandon Guyton) and one was an NED judge (Kirk Young). They all provided useful tips for better singing and demonstrated techniques that we were able to use right away.

The highlight of the weekend was the show on Saturday evening. Performers included a boy's chorus, a girl's chorus and a mixed chorus from Harmony Explosion, the youth music program that ran at the same time as Harmony College. It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm these young people brought to singing together. There is hope for the next generation after all!

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# Harmony College

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My favorite was the girl's chorus who started their part of the program onstage asleep on the morning after a pajama party. They reluctantly awoke while singing the tune "Breaking up is Hard to Do" retitled as "Waking up is Hard to Do."

Other favorites from the show were a female quartet called GQ, Round Midnight (a quartet made up of members of the Big Apple Chorus), and of course, Crossroads, who sang some familiar songs like "Lucky Old Sun," but also some selections from their newest CD (The Simple Life) including "Someone Like You," a moving ballad from the show *Jekyll and Hyde* with the great Mike Slamka on the solo. I am happy to say I already have my copy.

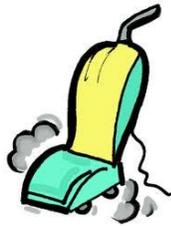
The adult chorus under the direction of Jim Henry, featuring our own Jimmy Hopper, was in the unenviable position of following Crossroads. They did a fine job on "Tonight, Tonight" from *Westside Story*, but if there is another adult chorus in future Harmony College shows, I suggest it perform before the main attraction.

All in all, Harmony College is an educational and uplifting experience that I intend to go to again. It has something for everybody.

## District Dirt

*By Robert Bradley*

Friday dawned a clear and lovely August day. I left Boston and drove down the Massachusetts Turnpike toward Worcester. The Mass Pike is like the Long Island Expressway north. Following my GPS, I, of course, got lost in Worcester. I have been there often for Leadership Academy and for Harmony College, but I was able to get more lost than I would have if I had never been there before.



First up on the schedule was a Northeastern District Board meeting, then on to the House of Delegates meeting. The Delegates approved a one year experiment in allowing for one contest in the fall and not having spring contests.

As I have stated before in this space, the Granite, Pine and Patriot Divisions have a full contest with enough contestants to make the spring convention worth the time and money spent.

The Mountain and Yankee Divisions are a bunch of stiffs. For whatever reason, that contest is so small it is questionable that the time and effort is worth the turnout. In this age of merger and consolidation, the idea is to try one big convention in the fall. This would allow for any chorus to take part and the same with the quartets.

The International preliminaries would also be held at the same time. So we will try this for the next two fall contests, 2014 and 2015. My job as a member of the events team is to make this work and work well. Your job is to give it a try and to see how it works. This is an experiment.

After the HOD there was an outside dinner, a time to greet old friends, fellow chorus members and to make new friends over hamburgers and other healthy fare. At the school this year there appeared to be many more courses offered. We had a barbershop boot camp, a class on what barbershop is, an adult chorus led by Jim Henry and many more classes to satisfy the interests of even the most experienced barbershoppers. As happens every year, many quartets came to be coached and almost all the quartets I spoke with seemed very pleased with the quality of their coaches.

The food is always good and plentiful, the teachers were interesting and the show Saturday night with Crossroads could not have been better, except for next year's show. It is worth the trip to see the kids sing and to see the future of our hobby before us. I do not think that there was a young man or young lady who did not have a good time.

The only pall on the weekend was when I found out that my friend, Joe Millet, had died on Wednesday. Joe, for better or worse, got me involved with the NED events team. He and I visited sites for conventions and had many a heated discussion. We would often have different opinions and discussed great and small issues over many a Chinese food diner. I enjoyed working with him and enjoyed him as a man, an Events DVP and a barbershopper. He was the only quartet member to sing on the international stage announced as representing Danbury. He will be missed by all of us who knew him.

## Quartet Corner

*News from our chorus quartets*

**Traveling Men** - By Danny Anderson.

Traveling Men sang in Guilford, CT, to Charlie, a 90 year old World War Two veteran. His son contacted us from Texas asking us to perform for his dad's birthday. The picture was taken by Charlie's daughter Susan. Charlie sang barbershop in the past so he was able to join us in some Polecats and "Maggie."





## The Way We Were

By Dick Zang

The Mad Hatters were in top form in the early '80s. At the 1981 Northeastern District competition in Lake Placid, the chorus took fifth place under the direction of Ray Wixted. The following spring at the Yankee Division contest in Warwick, Rhode Island, the chorus, competing against 11 other choruses, took the top prize singing the Rosie package of "Meet Me in Rosetime Rose" and "Midnight Rose." And the quartet competition was swept by Mad Hatter quartets that spring. Harmony Accord, with Frank Golden, Stan Rushton, Jack Spenard and Bill Keenan, won the novice championship. Summertime, with Jack Foley, Bob Stewart, Mike Macfarlane and Len Carlson, took top honors, and Nutmeg Heritage, with Ray Wixted, Hal Kolp, George King, and Bob Allen, placed second.

The 1982 Annual Show entitled "To Broadway With Roses," was held in June at the Newtown High School. The photo above of the chorus at the district competition is from Bob Connolley's collection – that's Bob at the top right. Also featured are Gerry Otton as the policeman and Bert Rosendahl as the shoeshine boy.

## Repertoire Notes



"Barbara Ann" part of our "Beach Boys Medley," was not actually written or performed originally by the Beach Boys. It was written by Fred Fassert and performed (as "Barbara-Ann") by The Regents in 1961. The recording reached a peak position of #13 on the Billboard Hot 100 record chart.

The most famous cover version is by the Beach Boys, which was released as a single on December 20, 1965, with the B-side "Girl Don't Tell Me." The song peaked at #2 in the US Billboard Hot 100 (#1 in Cash Box and Record World) and at #3 in the UK. It also topped the charts in Germany, Switzerland and Norway.

A version recorded by the Beach Boys without the *Beach Boys' Party!* effects can be found on the *Hawthorne, CA* album.

The Beach Boys made a false start on the *Party!* album by singing "Baa Baa Black Sheep" instead of "Baa Baa Baa Baa Barbara Ann".

They the song as an encore on their *Live In London* album. Brian Wilson has a rendition on his live *Roxy* CD, and in 2001, performed it himself, with the ensemble, on *An All-Star Tribute to Brian Wilson*.

## Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

**Do birds know where they're going when they fly south for the winter or do they just wing it every time?**

## Interesting Musical Fact

Beach Boys leader Brian Wilson once had a giant sandbox built around his piano, so he could feel the sand beneath his feet for song writing inspiration



## 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 am a very aggressive driver. I've been pulled over a couple of times by local cops for cutting people off and speeding. I even gave the finger to a trucker when I raced in front of him in a parking lot. I spent a little time in the hospital after that one. One of the judges I faced told me singing in the car might relax me. Is that true?

Sam from Sherman.

Sam, I can assure you that singing in the car will relax you. In fact, I'm recording this while driving to work during rush hour on I-684. I've got one of my barbershop learning CDs playing, singing with my part on "Happy Together" and feeling happy and relaxed.

I'm moving along at about 70 miles per hour, and I'm amazed at how many people are flying past me. I like cruising in the middle lane, and people are passing me on both sides, turning and giving me dirty looks.

"What's your problem, jerk."

Sorry. Yes, listening to and singing with these harmonies relaxes me completely. Even that idiot in the blue VW sitting on my tail can't get me upset.

"If I should call you up, invest a dime..."

I think I'm going to break very slowly and really tick the bas\$@\*d off. HA!

"I can't see me lovin' nobody but you for all my life..."

Look at that fool coming up on my right. At one time people passed on the left, now it's do what you damn well feel like. I'll teach him...

HA – If he hadn't hit the brakes he wouldn't have a front end on that Prius."

"No matter how they toss the dice, it has to be, the only one for me is you, and you for me, so happy together..."

I've heard many directors and coaches say you can't be mad or upset when you sing.

I didn't know this little car could hit 120!

"So happy together ba-ba-ba-ba ba-ba-ba-ba..."

So you see Sam,, sinigng cam really change your attitude behind the wheel, relaxing you and giving you a really good...

COME ON GRANDMA – PUSH DOWN THE SKINNY PEDAL ON THE RIGHT.



I've been told my brother and I have similar resonance in our singing voices. Is this common?

Bernie from Bethel.

Bernie, I asked my friend, Dr. Ernest Syngh, this question. Ernie is a voice and throat specialist who has treated a number of well known vocalists.

He told me that the shape of an individual's vocal tract, which is very important in producing one's unique voice, is partly genetic, partly learned. Necks can be long or short; pharynxes may be narrow or wide. While these attributes are genetically determined (except for configurations due to trauma or disease), individuals may also manipulate vocal tract shape. Highly trained singers have many tricks to change the contours of their vocal tracts to improve the sound coming out of their mouths. Lip rounding lengthens the vocal tract, for example.

Likewise, laryngeal anatomy is partially determined at birth: the length of one's vocal folds is determined by genes. However, the general hydration of one's vocal fold tissues or muscular agility of laryngeal muscles can be at least partly controlled by vocal health and training.

The learned component of the equation could also be called vocal habits. These would be items such as rhythm and rate of speech and vowel pronunciation. Rhythm includes mannerisms such as periodic pauses to search for the right word, while rate refers to the speed of an individual's syllables and speech. (The average rate of speech for English speakers in the United States is about 150 words per minute, by the way.) A speaker's habits also influence how much air pressure is used to produce sound and how s/he uses laryngeal muscles to open and close the vocal folds.

So, you shouldn'd be surprised that you might sound like your brother. After all - for most of us - the home and the gene pool of our siblings, parents and children are shared.

### Musical Term of the Month

**Embouchural Minimalism.**



## The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

I am thankful that John Bradley reminds me each month to write an article for the *Hatter Chatter*. He truly has a talent when it comes to putting the publication together. It is always fresh, informative and full of humor. John, thank you for this contribution to the chapter each month.

The interchapter night was a good evening. We had plenty of food, good fellowship and lots of singing. The attendance was larger than last year, with six Yankee division chapters being represented. For me, the highlight of the evening was the mixed quartet singing. I especially liked Dick Walter's quartet's jazz rendition of a Polecat. To me, they should have won the competition.

A good time was had by all who attended Harmony College. We had ten men from our chapter attend. Traveling Men received quartet coaching, Joe attended director's classes, others received individual voice reviews and Jim participated in the adult chorus. Once again, it appeared the Danbury chapter, percentage wise, had the largest representation of any chapter attending the college.

District competition is right around the corner. A lot of hard work has been done by the chorus membership in learning the music. I am happy to see that there are several independent sectionals taking place. The sectional work indicates to me that the commitment level of the members has grown. I really think this extra work will pay great dividends for the chapter, and not just with a contest score.

The forthcoming coaching sessions are important also in our preparation for contest. I encourage everyone to be in attendance at our practice sessions. It is important that we retain the coaching given and build upon it during each successive meeting, instead of having to re-teach what we learned during the coaching session. Your attendance is important!

We have several sing outs scheduled between now and the fall competition. It is important that you attend these as well. Why? Because it places us before a live audience, and for those of us who have stage fright, the more you sing in front of a live audience the more comfortable you become. In addition, participating provides you with a chance to further practice the contest songs. The more reps you get the better you become. Plus, the more men we have singing, the better the sound. This gives us the opportunity to impress someone and, as a result, gain a new member.

A guest night is planned for the Tuesday following district competition. Generally, our attendance drops off that night, but it is important that you show up. In addition, I encourage you to start asking men now to come with you that night and experience the joy of harmony and the ringing of chords. We want to grow the membership of this chapter. Previous guest nights have helped us gain new members.

Please practice the contest songs daily, review the learning tracks, become comfortable singing before a live audience and be in attendance at every meeting.



## July Board of Directors Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Robert Golenbock, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Danny "Feelin' Groovy" Anderson at 6:05pm on July 15, 2014, at the Church of Christ building.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was deemed enjoyable by several members whose opinions could not be trusted. It was received on a motion by Art Cilley, seconded by Al Paparesta.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The news is good according to treasurer DeMarche. Our cash flow is positive. We received an additional rebate from Westconn. We also donated \$50 to the WCSU Music Fund. The report was received on a motion by A. Bayer, seconded by R. Golenbock.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: We are expecting a completed application and another application is pending. A third visitor is planning to come back in the future but has too many other commitments right now. Andy Bayer will be picking a new members' night in the fall after contest.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Al reviewed his breakdown of the Public Relations Department. He has assigned members to 11 subcommittees. He also announced that we have had a good start to sales of tickets for May's Shop for A Cause.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: We are prioritizing songs for the 2015 show. We have plans for coaches before the next contest. We are discussing the possibility that a few people will change parts.

OLD BUSINESS: Andy recapped some of the issues from this year's Annual Show:

- Venue – Westconn was a good venue overall. Their newer facility may be worth evaluating despite its small size. Dixon remarked that Westconn's ticket system was very unwieldy and difficult.
- Talent – Vocal Spectrum gave an excellent, albeit short performance, but we never felt connected with them as co-performers. They were also very expensive, and regional chorus members were not drawn to their performance.
- Script – There were a lot of positive comments about its professionalism and lack of unnecessarily hokey humor.
- Program Book – The book looked professional as well.
- Afterglow – Everyone was pleased with the venue, and the owners seemed genuinely glad to have us there.
- Marketing – Al did a great job getting our name out to the greater Danbury community. Kudos to Joe Hudson as well for using social media to spread our reputation.

*Continued on the next page*

## Board Meeting

*Continued from the previous page*

Andy pointed out six new initiatives in his report that were very important to our success. Andy will mentor next year's chairman and advise him on how to repeat our success using these initiatives. Andy's 400 page handbook, **A Short Overview for Guaranteeing a Successful Show**, is available online.

Our interchapter meeting is coming up. We still don't know how many people are coming, but we're all bringing supplies under the assumption that there will be a lot of large men with big appetites.

**NEW BUSINESS:** We have a NED Harmony College scholarship available, and we are looking for a recipient.

The District contest will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, on October 17 and 18. The cost is \$47 per person. To date we have 20 signed up, one maybe, and three no response. The total cost at this time is \$1,128. A motion to request \$25 from each participating member was approved on a motion by Jimmy Hopper, seconded by Robert Golenbock.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** S. Sotomayor, S. Breyer, S. Alito, E. Kagan, C. Thomas, A. Scalia, J. Roberts, A. Kennedy, R. Ginsburg, A. Ginsbug.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** D. Anderson, D. DeMarche, R. Golenbock, A. Paparesta, J. Hopper, J. Hudson, A. Cilley, A. Bayer, P. Daubner.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. Next meeting August 5, 2014.

## August Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting called to order by Grandmaster Funk "Jive Danny" Anderson at 6:07pm on 8/5/2014 at the Church of Christ.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** was reviewed by Danny Anderson. The report was approved for eventual reception by Al Paparesta, seconded by Andy Bayer, pending the Board's actually reading it.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dickson DeMarche reports that we have received some money from Shop for A Cause coupons. Our cash flow is positive for the year. We covered our expenses for our interchapter barbecue. The report was received on a motion by Al Paparesta, seconded by Andy Bayer.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** October 21 is the date for our guest night. We want to encourage members to bring their friends. Richard Schoonmaker is working with BHS to set up his membership. We are looking at attendance and considering the implications.

**VP PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Al wants comments, suggestions, and criticisms of the report he sent out. We have ads out for our Macy's performance. We need volunteers from 11am to 5pm. Warmup and performance run from 2:30pm to 4pm. After the Macy's performance, Al is planning a recruitment campaign. Andy Bayer suggested the we should revise our Easel Poster.

**MUSIC COMMITTEE:** We have narrowed down the list of musical selections for the 2015 show. The teaching quartet will be reviewing the music. Some of the songs are "50's Rock 'n Roll Medley," "Come Go With Me," "Long and Winding Road," "What a Day for a Daydream," "Blue Velvet," "Feelin' Groovy," and "Since I Don't Have You."

**OLD BUSINESS:** The script for our promotional DVD is ready to go. Joe Hudson will put together the DVD.

**NEW BUSINESS:** In Harmony is breaking up and thus is not a suitable candidate for our 2015 show. Dickson suggested that they might agree to have a reunion on our show. Al will contact the group and advise us. Meanwhile Andy was not impressed with their outdoor sound but could not comment on what they would have sounded like in a hall. Art Cilley thought their repertoire and energy were excellent, but the musicality not so much. However, they draw a great audience. If In Harmony is unavailable, Art recommends the Princeton Footnotes, which he sang with in college and which had a great showing on the Sing Off. Art will contact them. Dickson has been trying to contact the Whiffenpoofs, but so far they have not responded.

We are looking for a non-profit group that will have us as the performers on a benefit. We would be delighted to perform for free for the opportunity to expand our audience.

We need to get everyone off paper on the Pole Cats.

We are looking for a show chairman for 2015. Andy will work closely with whoever agrees to do it.

We have several pages of detailed notes to guide us in developing the position of chorus manager. Since the chorus manager will be responsible for making sure that everyone follows through on the plans and goals that he has accepted (or that have been assigned), the person taking on that task will have to be very organized.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carl Zlamany, Carl Yastrzemski, Carolus Magnus, Carl's Jr., Carl Ina (in the morning), Carl Alfalfa Switzer.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** D. Anderson, A. Paparesta, R. Golenbock, D. DeMarche, A. Cilley, A. Bayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm. Next meeting is 09/02/2014



## Music Team Meeting Minutes

*Submitted by Joe Hudson*

Meeting Called to order at 6:20pm on Tuesday August 12, 2014.

MUSIC TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Hopper, J. Hudson, R. Golenbock, W. Wilcox, A. Cilley, D. Zang.

2015 ANNUAL SHOW: Joe stated "Since I Don't Have You" is rhythmically and vocally too difficult. You could rearrange it, but the song loses its impact. Discussion about transposing down slightly and re-voicing the bass and baritone parts. It will be given to the teaching quartet and they will find the best voicing for them.

"Bye, Bye Love" will replace "Since I Don't Have You" as a chorus song

"Tonight, Tonight" was discussed about being the finale song of the next annual show. There was discussion about how it fits into the show. "Where Is love" and "Tonight, Tonight" will be in the second half of the show.

"50's Rock and Roll Medley" needs to be shortened."

Chapter Quartets will be invited to perform at the next annual show. They will get coaching again this year as it was a benefit for last year's show. Traveling Men will be given the music for "Yesterday,". Loco Fedora will learn "Lion Sleeps Tonight." Other quartets will be encouraged to learn songs from the 50's and 60's.

Song list for the 2015 Annual Show includes:

"50's Rock And Roll Medley" (Kevin Keller)

"Daydream" (Mel Knight)

"Come Go With Me" (Tom Gentry)

"59th Street Bridge Song" (Don Gray)

"Blue Velvet" (Curt Kimball)

"Bye, Bye Love" (SPEBSQSA)

"Long And Winding Road" (Jay Giallombardo)

"Where Is Love" (Tom Gentry)

"Tonight, Tonight" (Jay Giallombardo)

Next song to introduce after "Beach Boys Medley" will be "Blue Velvet" (will be introduced the first week of September).

HOLIDAY CONCERT: For this year, *Feast of Lights* will be done by a quartet, Learning tracks to be ordered for the quarter and used by the chorus next year. Other groups may be included such as church choirs, high school choirs, Coastal Chordsmen, Sweet Adelines

PREPARATION CALENDAR

January to May – Annual Show

May to October – Contest

October to December – Christmas Show

Meeting Adjourned at 7:11pm.

## Survival Tips for Barbershop Singers

*Reprinted from the June 1998 North Shore Harmony Rag*

Adapted from Teresa Radomski's article on the Internet "[Center for Voice Disorders of Wake Forest University](#)," as seen in *Nodakord Notes* (Bob Hankins, editor)

**Warm up, energize!** Most singers arrive at rehearsals exhausted from a day's work, so it's important to begin with a physical warm-up. Stretching and loosening exercises and relaxed humming get the voice going, before heavy vocalizing. Warm-ups should begin in the car!

**Think posture!** "Collapsed" posture limits breathing capacity. Sitting erect with both feet flat on the floor, music at eye level and shoulders relaxed is less tiring in the long run.

**Breathe!** This may seem obvious, but it is the singer's responsibility to maintain adequate ventilation--not "gasping" in order to maintain the director's beat. Good directors indicate breaths with their gestures, but they may not apply to each singer's capacity.

**Sing the right part!** It is hoped that all singers are in the best section for their voice. Trying to stretch your range can lead to vocal strain. If the part you sing is uncomfortable, request a change.

**Don't oversing!** Singing loudly in order to hear oneself over other singers usually stresses the voice. "Showing off" one's voice is inappropriate in group singing--it doesn't contribute well to a choral "blend," and it is usually resented by fellow singers! If you need to check the accuracy of your pitch, simply put a finger in one ear. Even when fortissimo singing is required, it is wise not to push the voice.

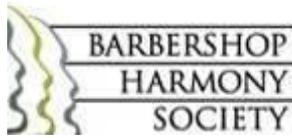
**Prepare your music!** Whenever possible, try to learn your part before coming to the rehearsal. If you are insecure about pitch, it is unlikely that you will sing well. Hesitation impedes good vocal technique.

**Avoid talking!** Not only is chatting disruptive to others (especially the director!), but it tires the voice.

**Take care of your health!** Avoid smoke and alcohol, postpone partying until after the final performance! Get plenty of sleep and aerobic exercise. Hydrate--drink plenty of fluids. Use common sense when you are sick. Better to miss rehearsal than to expose others to your "bug."

**Take voice lessons!** If you really want to maximize your enjoyment of choral singing, a few voice lessons can provide valuable insight. Ideally your teacher should understand and appreciate both choral and solo singing techniques.

*Teresa Radomski is a professor of voice and theatrical singing at Wake Forest University and a contributing editor of the Voice Center newsletter.*



## New Contest Format

Of great importance to all NED quartets is that this weekend the NED House of Delegates approved a trial change in the process for choosing the NED representative(s) for both the 2015 and 2016 International Quartet contest. The NED International Quartet Preliminary contest for Pittsburgh in 2015 will be held this fall in Providence, RI, concurrent with the weekend of the NED Fall Convention from October 17-19, 2014. There will be NO NED International Quartet Preliminary contest in the spring of 2015.

*The prelims contest is open to all quartets in the district.* If you would like to enter this contest please complete the CJ20 process found on [nedistrict.org](http://nedistrict.org). The deadline for completing the CJ20 process for the International Quartet Preliminary contest is the same as the deadline for completing the CJ20 process for the District Quartet Contest this fall – September 17th.

You are reminded that if your quartet wants to sing for qualification to sing in Pittsburg in 2015 but cannot attend the NED Fall Convention in 2014, you must seek approval from both the DRCJ of the NED (Kirk Young) and the President of the NED (Murray Phillips) as well as the DRCJ and President of the district in which you wish to sing for qualification. You must obtain this approval before September 17th, the date of the deadline for registering for the NED Fall Convention Quartet Contest.

Kirk Young, NED DRC, [kirkjyoung@gmail.com](mailto:kirkjyoung@gmail.com)

## President of the Year Award for 2013.

Time is running out to submit a nomination for the Alan Lamson Chapter President of the Year Award for 2013. Think about the accomplishments of your chapter's 2013 president and consider nominating him for this award. The nomination form is attached. Simply complete it and send it to:

Jim Kew at [kewjim@gmail.com](mailto:kewjim@gmail.com) or my home address 144 Firetown Rd, Simsbury, CT 06070.

When I look around the NED I see a lot more committed hard working, dynamic people than I currently have nominations for. Please pay particular attention to the characteristics for qualification on the nomination form which is attached. Remember we are looking for the chapter president who made

things happen in his chapter during 2013 and not the chapter president who happened to be president when things happened – an important distinction. Consider who should be your candidate and send your nomination soon. I need to have them by Sept. 15 to be considered. This award will be presented at the district convention in Providence in October.

Jim Kew, 860-305-9584

## Convention Information

On behalf of NED, we wanted to be sure you knew that information is now posted about the NED Fall 2014 Convention & Contest that is upcoming for October 17-18, 2014 at the RI Convention Center in beautiful downtown Providence, RI! The Narragansett Bay Chorus (Providence, RI Chapter of BHS) will be this year's hosts.

For all information and registration please go to:

[http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page\\_id=80](http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=80)

See you all soon, Antonio Lombardi

## Improve Your Singing and Grow Your Chapter Membership

On September 6, the Schenectady, NY Chapter presents Wavebox Singing and Supercharging Your Chapter!, with Paul Ellinger

The Schenectady Electric City Chorus is bringing Paul Ellinger back to the western edge of NED, for a one-day workshop designed to improve your singing and grow your chapter membership!

The morning session will be devoted to Wavebox singing, learning vocal production techniques specifically designed for Barbershop performance.

We will break for lunch, then in the afternoon, Paul will help us Supercharge! our chapters.

Supercharging Your Chapter! was designed to address the two "wants" that virtually every chapter has: to sing better and to grow!

*Continued onth next page*

## Notes

*Continued from the previous page*

It is built upon a sound, effective, simple approach which has been field tested and has chapters around the Society growing like they never thought possible.

Paul Ellinger is an accomplished barbershopper and has had many successful programs throughout the Society. What a personality!!!!

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 6, 2014

**TIME:** 9:30AM to 4:30 PM

**WHERE:** Faith United Methodist Church, 811 N Brandywine Ave, Schenectady, NY.

Parking available in adjacent areas, map sent upon request!

This great opportunity is open to all barbershoppers in the Northeastern District. Bring a fellow singer, barbershopper or not!!!!

Cost is \$15.00 per person, including lunch, with a \$90.00 cap for chapters. For more information and to register, contact:

Chris Jensen, 518-269-2410

## New England Harmony Brigade

The Third Annual New England Harmony Brigade is fast approaching, it is only 4 weeks away! The Brigade will be held on the weekend of September 19 – 21<sup>st</sup> where over one hundred men will come together for a weekend of Extreme Quartetting! One of the many highlights of the weekend is the Saturday evening show – “A Cappella Showcase.”

We hope many of you will be coming to see the show – So mark your calendars! This year’s show features:

- **The GrooveBarbers** - “A Capella Rock and Soul Royalty” (with three founding members of Rockapella).
- **Boston Accent** – 2013 Sweet Adelines Region 1 Champions
- along with the incredible NEHB 100 man chorus, plus Algonquin High Singers and a parade of our finest Harmony Brigade Quartets!

Tickets are on sale now through our website – [www.nehb.net](http://www.nehb.net)  
Don't Wait! - order now and make sure you get your tickets.

### THE DETAILS:

**WHAT:** New England Harmony Brigade – A Capella Showcase.

**WHERE:** Algonquin Regional High School.  
79 Bartlett St., Northborough, MA.

**WHEN:** Sat, September 20 at 6:00 PM.

**PRICE:** Adult (\$15.00), Student under 18 (\$10.00.)

**HOW TO BUY TICKETS ONLINE:** Go To [www.nehb.net](http://www.nehb.net)  
and click on the Show Poster

## Three Things

After each coaching session, the Mad Hatters are encouraged to list three things they took from the session that they want to reinforce and/or share with others.



At our meeting on Tuesday, August 26, Scott Brannon, former director of the Big Apple Chorus, current director of the Sweet Adelines’ Harmony Celebration Chorus, lead singer of the two-time men’s medalist quartet Cincinnati Kids and current lead with the Our Town quartet, shared his good humor and knowledge with us. Following is a listing of “three things” submitted by chorus members.

- Avoid audible catch breaths. Leave out an entire word or syllable every time and plan which one to leave out (not the same one as everybody else).
- You sing your habits in competition. Rehearse as if you were performing at 100% every time so notes, words, phrasing and emotional intensity all become habitual.
- Avoid excessive mouth movements. Practice embouchural minimalism.
- In *Where Is Love?*, don't just say (sing) the words, ask the question, “Where is love?”
- Repeated questions need to have a different intensity with each repetition.
- Use your face and body language to express emotion.
- Express with your eyes. During pauses, or a break in your part, keep the facial expression going.
- Stay on top of the thirds.
- Each singer has to express a song’s emotion in his own way, but the intensity of emotion needs to be matched by all to be effective.
- Imagine breathing through the open jaw hinges to produce a fuller more resonant sound. To make a more up front sound imagine breathing through the top of your nose next to your eyes. If that isn't enough air for you, breathe through your toes as well.
- Don't be afraid of using head voice to help the chords ring.

### 1980: Cincinnati Kids



Randy Graham, tenor  
Scott Brannon, lead  
George Gipp, baritone  
Steve Thacker, bass

Contest Date: October 17, 1980  
Location: Huntington, WV

## Summer Singing

*Continued from Page 1*

It was the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual fair, and it seems the chorus has made an appearance each year.

The Hatters closed out the performances at the fair's Shady Grove Theater for Saturday afternoon, then some of the singers walked off to enjoy the food, art and crafts exhibits, as well as the magic and animal shows.



*4-H Fair goes enjoying the Danbury Mad Hatters*

On July 29, the Mad Hatters hosted an interchapter night, inviting several chapters including Poughkeepsie, Bridgeport, Manchester, Central Connecticut, and Waterbury – Derby for an evening of food, friendship and song.

The climax of the evening, as with previous interchapter nights, was the Ultimate Quartet Challenge, where pickup quartets have only a few minutes to prepare, then perform a song, competing for a special prize.



*Does Joe finally get to direct a hundred- man chorus?  
Picture by JohnBradley*



*The Coastal Chordsmen during Danbury's Interchapter Night. Picture by John Bradley.*

The chorus closed-out its summer of sensational singing with an appearance at Macy's Shop for a Cause event at the Danbury Mall on August 23. The ladies shoe department might be a curious place for an all-male chorus in search of new members to perform, but the performance got the attention of many shoppers. Of course, having Joe's little kid there didn't hurt.



*The pumps I looked at last year are gone!  
Picture by John Bradley*



*Ya gotta get on top of those notes, leads.  
Picture by John Bradley.*

## Ye Olde Joke Boarde



*Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper, with help from Nick Godano*

A barbershop baritone walks into a hardware store and asks for a chain saw that will cut six trees in one hour. The salesman recommends the top of the line model. The baritone is suitably impressed and buys it. The next day he brings it back and says, "This chainsaw is defective. It would only cut down one tree and it took ALL DAMN DAY!"

The salesman takes the chain saw and starts it up to see what's wrong. The baritone says, "What's that noise?"

...

A barbershop baritone was recently hired at an office. His first task was to go out for coffee. Eager to do well his first day on the job, he grabbed a large thermos and hurried to a nearby coffee shop. He held up the thermos and the coffee shop worker quickly came over to take his order. "Is this big enough to hold six cups of coffee?" the bariton asked.

The coffee shop worker looked at the thermos, hesitated a few seconds, then finally replied, "Yeah. It looks like about six cups to me."

"Oh good!" the baritone sighed in relief. "Then give me two black and four with milk and sugar."

...

A barbershop baritone bought a parrot at auction; but only after some spirited bidding. "I suppose the bird talks," he remarked to the auctioneer.

"Talks?" the auctioneer replied; "He's been bidding against you for the past half hour."

...

A barbershop baritone goes into a restaurant for a Christmas breakfast while in his home town for the holidays. After looking over the menu he says, "I'll have the eggs benedict."

His order comes a while later and it's served on a big shiny hubcap. He asks the waiter, "What's with the hubcap?"

The waiter sings, "There's no plate like chrome for the hollandaise."

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## Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

### ***Regular Repertoire***

Almost Like Being In Love  
Crazy Little Thing Called Love  
Fun in Just One Lifetime  
Happy Together  
I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)  
Impossible Dream  
It's Only A Paper Moon  
Kentucky Babe  
On The Sunny Side Of The Street  
Shenandoah  
I Flushed You From The Toilets Of  
My Heart.  
They Say It's Wonderful

### ***Patriotic/Inspirational***

Armed Forces Salute  
God Bless America  
I Believe  
Star-Spangled Banner  
This Land Is Your Land/America The  
Beautiful



### ***Coming Soon***

Where is Love  
Beach Boys Medley  
50's Rock and Roll Medley  
Bye, Bye, Love  
Blue Velvet  
59<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Song  
Come Go With Me  
Daydream  
How Deep Is The Ocean  
Long and Winding Road  
Moonlight Brings Memories  
Sentimental Gentleman From Georgia  
The Pint of No Return

## 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 Paparesta</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 Cilley</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>Peter Daubner</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 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

## Mark Your Calendars

### *Coaching Session*

**Tuesday August 26, 7:15 pm at the Church of Christ.** Scott Brannon is the former director of the Big Apple Chorus (directing them to the top 10 four times), current director of Harmony Celebration SAI Chorus (three time champions), Lead of Cincinnati Kids (1986 4th Place medalists) and Lead of OUR TOWN (2008 NED Champs with the Bass and Bari of the Boston Common).

### *Performance*

**Saturday, September 6, A Taste of Greater Danbury for Ventura, Ruberio & Smith. Delay Street, Danbury, CT. Warmup 1:30 pm, sing 2:00 pm. Park in the parking garage.**

### *Performance*

**Sunday, September 14, Newtown Arts Festival. Warmup 10:15 am, sing 10:45 am.**

### *Coaching Session*

**Tuesday September 16, 7:15 pm at the Church of Christ. Joe Hunter.**

### *Performance*

**Sunday, September 28, Maplewood of Danbury, 22 Hospital Ave, Danbury, CT, Warmup 2:30 pm, sing 3:00 pm.**

### *Northeastern District Convention*

**Friday October 17, Providence, RI. Quartet Semifinals (Traveling Men & SUREFIRE!) Saturday October 18, Chorus Finals & Quartet Finals. Details TBA.**

### *Guest Night*

**Tuesday, October 21, 7:15 pm at the Church of Christ.**

### *Holiday Performance*

**Saturday December 6, Church Of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Rd., / Danbury, CT. Warm-Up Time: TBD.**

## September Milestones

### *Birthdays:*

4 - Jane Golenbock  
6 - Judith Kreiger  
7 - Bill Gleissner  
12 - Susan Roberts  
14 - Shirley Walter  
26 - Charlotte Cilley  
30 - Art Roberts



### *Wedding Anniversaries:*

6 - Al and Eileen Paparesta  
12 - Dick and Shirley Walter  
22 - Dave and Sharon McKee

