



*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 17 Number 12

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

December 2010

## Hatters Join Big Apple Chorus in Holiday Tree

*By Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox*

**New York** - On the chilly morning of Saturday, November 27, 2010, Nick Godano, Andy Bayer, Dave McKee, and Wynn Wilcox embarked on a journey to Manhattan to form a part of the "Singing Tree" at South Street Seaport and perform two concerts of Holiday music with the Big Apple Chorus.

We were sent off from the Exit 1 Park-and-Ride in Danbury by our fearless leader, Joe Hudson, who came to wish us well even though he was incapacitated by a severe bout of bronchitis and was unable to join us on the trip.

The other three of us learned that Dave does not fire up his Hyundai in the morning without turning on the Mad Hatters learning CD. Any improvement in the bass and baritone sections can be attributed to taskmaster Dave, as chorus songs were rehearsed all the way down and up--each song as many as three times!

The two performances, at 3:00 and 4:00 pm respectively, were very well attended by crowds of shoppers and passersby who stopped to listen and who eventually lined an entire block of Fulton Street.

We benefited from the generosity of the Big Apple Chorus throughout as they welcomed us, sang polecats with us, and even lent us their uniforms.

After the performance, the Big Apple Chorus generously invited us to their afterparty.

Reflecting on the event, Nick reported that he "never thought I could have so much fun while not knowing most of the words and notes," and that "we certainly saw some different ways of presenting our music to an audience and some different ways to engage an audience (at least an audience that stays awake). There were, also, many similarities with the way we do things. Even though, outdoor, the sound was something to behold."



*Mad Hatters at the Slouth Street Seaport. L to R: Nick Godano, Andy Bayer, Dave McKee, and Wynn Wilcox  
Picture by Random Stranger*



*Andy Bayer, Dave McKee. Picture by Wynn Wilcox*

# Mad Hatters Perform at Maplewood Holiday Festival

By Bob Bradley

**Danbury** – On Thursday, December 17, we few and proud Mad Hatters became singing wallpaper at Maplewood at Danbury, an assisted living and memory care center near the Danbury Hospital. We performed for their annual Holiday Festival.

We arrived at Maplewood and began to warm up. We prepared for the debut of the Greek chorus method of song introduction.

Turns out we could have said (and sung) most anything, as no one was listening. Instead, the large crowd was mulling through the holiday goodies, munching on snacks served by waiters and waitresses, while we sang in what appeared to be a dining room off to one side.

One of our chorus quartets, Traveling Men, waded through the crowd bringing song and cheer to whomever was on that side of the building. The rest of us were taken by guard to the “maximum security” area on the third floor where we brought holiday cheer to those whose only crime was in getting old.

At least the weather outside was not frightful," said tenor, Augie D'Aurelli.

Joe Hudson, the chorus's music director, stated that paid rehearsals are not the worst thing that we can do on a Thursday evening.

At least the cookies were free.



*Greek Chorus entertains at Maplewood of Danbury*



# Quartet Corner

*News from our chorus quartets*

## Real Chemistry – John Bradley

On Saturday, December 4, Real Chemistry made its annual appearance at the Hamlet of Carmel's Holiday of Lights celebration, on the banks of Lake Glenida in Carmel, NY.

The quartet started the evening by singing Christmas carols and it's favorite cold evening song, "Coney Island Baby," for a large crowd at Cornerstone Park, as kids took hay rides, painted their faces, and everyone enjoyed hot soup and chowder, cookies and other goodies supplied by local businesses.

Starting at 6:45 pm, Real Chemistry's trusty elves, Vikki Bradley and Maggie Seligman, drove our float along the parade route as the quartet shivered and sang from the back of the pickup truck.

The crowd at the reviewing stand gave us a loud ovation after we sang "Angels We Have Heard on High." From there we headed for the back of the Historic Putnam County Court House and our warm cars as over 100 trees were lit along the lake.



*Real Chemistry rolls along the parade route during the Holiday of Lights Parade. Picture from the Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association.*

## Rare Occasion – Fred Baran

On Saturday evening, December 4, Rare Occasion provided the music for "An Evening of Wine & Song," our third appearance at the annual Holiday Wine Tasting Party sponsored by the New Milford Historical Society, held at their Museum.

We sang for two hours, in a very relaxed and festive atmosphere and strolled between the six connected rooms of the museum buildings.

*Continued on the next page*

## Quartets

*Continued from the previous page*

Our repertoire, with our new bass, Terry Dunkle, consisted of a mix of a half dozen holiday songs and about a dozen songs from the Rare Occasion repertoire. We were well received by our audiences, who changed throughout the evening, and we recognized many faces from our past appearances at the Historical Society.

There were several ladies who appeared to enjoy our songs very much, and were quietly singing along with us. After our sets we learned that their fathers had been members of barbershop quartets and they grew up listening to, and loving, barbershop harmony.

We also met another lady who was a retired music teacher, who was also very complimentary of our singing and enjoyed the style. Hopefully these ladies will send their husbands, and other male family members and friends, to sit in at a chorus rehearsal, giving us some "new recruits."

Several large gift baskets and centerpieces were raffled as part of the fund raising effort, and for the second year in a row, our lead, Robert Golenbock, took one home.

Needless to say that the delicious hors d'oeuvres and the great wine tasting make this one of our favorite appearances and we look forward to a return engagement next year.

Later that evening we traveled to Newtown, to the home of Dr. Ana Paula Machado, one of Robert's partners in the Center for Pediatric Medicine, where their annual office holiday party was underway. As in past years, we sang to a very appreciative and complimentary audience and enjoyed the food and wine and other holiday goodies. This evening of entertaining at holiday parties helped us shift gears and get into the swing of the "holiday spirit." We look forward to being able to carry this over and sing at First Night Danbury .

Also at this party was another lady who loves barbershop and whose father was a "barbershopper"- our own Wes Pollitt, who is now in his 90's and attended our annual show in October. Wes sang bass for many years with the Mad Hatters. He told me that he would still be singing, if he hadn't severely lost his hearing ability.

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### Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

**To write with a broken pencil is pointless..**



## 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

Recently I replied to an email message from our music director, Joe Hudson, writing I would appear at a chorus function "with bell's on." Where did this expression come from and what does it mean? Was it ever a literal expression? In Harmony, Chuck Kreiger, Mad Hatter baritone.

*Chuck, that's an interesting question. In my research, I found that the phrase refers to a practice peddlers had when they roamed the area west of the Appalachians selling wares. To avoid Indians, they traveled as silently as possible until they reached a settled area. Then they unmuffled bells hung around their horses necks to announce their arrival to outlying cabins. Hence, "I'll be there with bells on." The peddlers' arrival was a much anticipated major event in the mostly tedious and hard lives of settlers, not only for the goods they sold, but also for the news, letters, and messages they carried from the outside world.*

*According to chorus bass, Nick Godano, the phrase is frequently used in reply to a party invitation and the common format in that case is to indicate one's enthusiasm with "I'll be there with bells on!" The phrase originated in the late 19th/early 20th centuries and most of the early citations of it suggest a U.S. origin. The first record of it that he found in print, which may not be the earliest usage, is in F. Scott Fitzgerald's, THE BEAUTIFUL AND THE DAMNED, 1922: "All-ll-ll righty. I'll be there with bells!"*

*The phrase is paralleled in the U.K. by "with knobs on," which means, "with additional ornament." This is recorded from the 1930s onward, as in the English novelist Margaret Kennedy's, THE FOOL OF THE FAMILY, 1930: "I'm waiting for the Marchese Ferdinando Emanuele Maria Bonaventura Donzati with knobs on."*

*The ornamentation is sometimes added to, using the intensified form "with brass knobs on." Eric Partridge, in A DICTIONARY OF CATCH PHRASES, 1977, states that "with brass fittings" was also known in the U.S. by 1930, but unfortunately omits any documentary evidence and, as yet, Nick has been unable to verify that assertion.*

*Whilst "with bells on" is largely reserved as being an enthusiastic response or as indicating additional ornament, both it and "with (brass) knobs on" are also used as aggressive responses to a challenge. One might hear all of these in conversation - or rather one might have heard, as all versions are now falling out of use:*

*Continued on the next page*

## Emails

*Continued on the previous page*

- *"Your 21st? - I'll be there with bells on."*
- *"Freddie Mercury was Mica with bells/brass knobs on."*
- *"You incompetent dummy!. Same to you with bells/brass knobs on!"*

*The knobs in the above are fairly easy to identify. The allusion is to the iron bedsteads which were commonplace items of furniture at the time the term was coined. The better class examples were embellished with brass knobs at the top of each bedpost.*

*The "bells" derivation is less clear-cut. Bells are often used to indicate ornament or exuberance, as in the late 20th century phrase "bells and whistles," and the earlier British expression, "pull the other one [leg], it's got bells on."*

*The explanation most often put forward as the source of the bells in "with bells on" is that they were those worn as part of jesters' costumes. The "going to a party" scenario certainly fits with that. However, the distance in time and place between the world of mediaeval court jesters and the emergence of the phrase in 20th century USA tends to call that explanation into question. Of course, many things had bells on and, like the "yards" of "the whole nine yards," people aren't shy of suggesting their favourite.*

*Jewish religious leaders were required to wear bells along the hem of their priestly robes. When performing their duties, they had to keep moving so that the bells could be heard. If the bells stopped, that meant he had done something illegal in the eyes of God and had died.*

*Another speculative suggestion along similar lines is that the bells are the bell-bottomed trousers that were worn by sailors. The US Navy and the British Royal Navy both issued bell-bottoms for their sailors in the 19th century, but, that aside, there's nothing to support a naval origin. "Pull the other one, it's got bells on" seems an apt response there.*

*While all the above are plausible, they are no more so than any other scenario that includes bells. Two stronger contenders, and they are stronger by dint of their emergence in the right place at the right time, i.e. the USA in the late 19th/early 20th centuries and because the circumstances match the meaning of the phrase, are the following.*

*Bells that were added decoratively to the harnesses of horses in parades and especially in circuses or other gala circumstances, as depicted on old Christmas cards and the like. Someone coming to a party "with bells on" wasn't just coming, he was planning to come in with a flourish to boost the festive spirit.*

*The settlement of U.S. immigrants in Pennsylvania and other states. Their preferred means of transport were large, sturdy wooden carts, called Conestoga wagons. These were drawn by teams of horses or mules whose collars were fitted with headdresses of bells.*

*George Stumway, in CONESTOGA WAGON 1750-1850, states that the wagoners personalised the bells to tunings of their liking and took great pride in them. If a wagon became stuck, a teamster who came to the rescue often asked for a set of bells as reward.*

*Arriving at a destination without one's bells hurt a driver's professional pride, whereas getting there 'with bells on' was a source of satisfaction.*

*Circumstantial evidence is the best we have at present so, as they say, the jury is still out. Any other questions, Chuck?*

I noticed in a recent *Hatter Chatter* that Don Smith, our Sunshine Chairman, will be celebrating his birthday. We all have been the recipients of Don's delightful anniversary and birthday cards throughout the year - it takes the better part of a day to read all the jokes and appreciate the goodies he includes with the basic message! Don puts so much effort into bringing sunshine into our lives on those special days.

I wonder if we reciprocate on his special days. If we don't, maybe we need to create a "Sunshine Reflection Committee" or "Sunshine Support Staff" just to make sure Don knows his thoughtful work is appreciated, especially when it is his day to "shine"!

If you need a volunteer, I'll be happy to do it and you can just call me Ray from now on.

Bass-ically yours, Dickson DeMarche

*Dixon, Don does a great job as Sunshine Chairman, and he doesn't get the credit he deserves. Thank you, Don. I hope you have a very happy birthday, and thank you Dickson, for helping us give credit to a member who does a great, unheralded job.*

Dear Mr. Walter,

The New Milford Public Library wishes to thank you for the inspiring concert you and the Mad Hatters presented yesterday at the library. You have certainly won some new fans among the patrons who attended, since everyone has commented on how much fun, how inspiring, and how moving the music was. Sally Tornow - Public Services Librarian





## The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

This year has gone by fast. We were a busy singing group with many different activities, some of which were: First Night, Danbury Men's Club, Singing Valentines, hosting the Divisional Contests, competing in the District Contests, numerous sing outs at nursing homes, The *News-Times* parade, Memorial Day in Southbury, Putnam County 4-H Fair, our Annual Show, New Milford Veterans Day program, Maplewood fund raiser and, finally, singing at the Danbury Mall.

In addition, we had chorus coaching which aided in the improvement of our singing and presentation skills. Thanks to Butch for working as our Singing A's coach. We also had Ray Schwarzkopf, from the Chicago area, to work with us one evening when he helped Joe with some directing skills which, in turn, improved the manner in which the chorus responded to Joe's direction.

There was coaching for the group that represented the chorus at District. This will carry over to help us all when we once again go to Regional competition.

I would encourage all who can to attend the COTS school January 7 and 8. Though some classes are directed toward the chapter officers, there are classes which will benefit you as an individual and, in turn, you will be able to help the chapter.

The fellowship at COTS with other barbershoppers is great. You will develop friendships and learn what is going right and what might be going wrong with different chapters. I have been to COTS several times and return to Danbury feeling very proud of our chapter because we are doing so many things correctly and there is little to no friction among the membership.

In 2010 we were blessed with several new members, all with excellent voices, who have all made contributions toward the improvement of the chapter.

A big thank you to Doctor Bob for being the show chairman this year. I want to thank our leading ad salesmen including Carl, Dick, Fred, Bill and Chuck, who sold the bulk of the ads. To all who sold tickets, thank you. This year's show was very profitable for the chapter. With our new members, we should have an even better show in 2011.

We will have our installation dinner January 21 at the Danbury Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, located at 18 Old Ridgebury Rd. This is located at Exit 2 off I-84. Plan now to be there with your wife or significant other. We will have a large room where we can visit, sing and have a good evening. The food will be served banquet style with several choices.

*Continued on the next page*

## There's Hope for Us Yet

By Dick Zang

Have you felt afraid that, like me, our best singing days may be behind us? Are we too old to keep up with the youngsters? Take heart. The news out of Switzerland this month should give us all a lift. It was reported that Hugues Cuénod, a Swiss tenor who dazzled critics in his Metropolitan Opera debut a quarter-century ago, had passed away at the age of 108.



The real news was not only did he sang extremely well but that he was nearly 85 when he made his debut as the Emperor Altoum in Puccini's *Turandot* at the Met in 1987. The production, which also starred Plácido Domingo and Eva Marton, was directed by Franco Zeffirelli and conducted by James Levine. Writing about it in *The New York Times*, John Rockwell said Mr. Cuénod "remains the best Emperor this writer has heard."

In his performances and many recordings, Mr. Cuénod was praised for his light, clean, almost ethereal tenor; refined musicianship; and faultless diction.

Hugues-Adhémar Cuénod, familiarly known as Huguie, was born in Corseaux-sur-Vevey, Switzerland, on June 26, 1902, to a family of bankers. He studied voice in Lausanne, Geneva, Basel and Vienna — he began as a baritone but with training became a tenor — before embarking on a concert career. As a recitalist, he became renowned as an interpreter of French song.

Mr. Cuénod made his operatic debut in 1928 at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris in *Jonny Spielt Auf* ("Jonny Strikes Up"), an opera about a jazz violinist by the Austrian composer

Ernst Krenek. The next year, he appeared on Broadway, singing a small role in *Bitter Sweet*, an operetta with book, music and lyrics by Noel Coward that ran for 159 performances. His recordings include the work of Bach, Couperin, Haydn, Brahms, Schubert, Debussy, Satie and Honegger



The debuts of Dick Walter and Don Sutherland (no relation to Dame Joan Sutherland) could be just a few years away, and I can look forward to following shortly thereafter. Thanks, Huguie.

## Podium

*Continued from the previous page*

Plans are in the works to advertise our Singing Valentines by using double-sided "yard signs."

We are looking to have an article in the newspaper concerning our singing to active duty spouses, possible radio, newspaper and the local use of flyers. I would encourage each member to schedule at least ONE Singing Valentine. This is a major fund raiser for the chapter and everyone should be contributing to booking these singing engagements.

I wish each member Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a happy and prosperous New Year.

## Repertoire Notes

"If I Loved You" is a show tune from the 1945 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *Carousel*.

The song was introduced by John Raitt as "Billy Bigelow" and Jan Clayton as "Julie". It was performed in the 1956 *Carousel* (film) version by Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones.

In the show, the characters of Billy Bigelow and Julie Jordan sing this song as they hesitantly declare their love for one another, yet are too shy to express their true feelings.

The song was in turn inspired by lines of dialogue from Ferenc Molnár's original *Liliom*, the source material for the musical.

## Choreography Corner

*By Joe Hudson*

This is a new column that discusses the different aspects found in BASIC choreography. This month I will identify and define various "moves" we will be doing in the chorus from time to time. We'll start with common choreography vocabulary and their abbreviations.

- RCP = Regular Chorus Position: One foot slightly in front of the other, facing the director
- DTT = Down The Tiles: Completely facing forward
- 2 – 10 = Times on a clock for body positioning
- CR = Chorus Right: STAGE RIGHT
- CL = Chorus Left: STAGE LEFT
- OH = Outside Hand
- OL = Outside Leg
- IH = Inside Hand
- IL = Inside Leg

Now you will know what each of these abbreviations mean in the upcoming months.



## December Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

*Proudly submitted to a grateful nation by Robert Golenbock, secretary.*

Meeting called to order by Danny, "I'll Be Down Home for Christmas," Anderson at 6:11pm on December 7, 2010 at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was discovered in the *Hatter Chatter* and given short shrift by the Board, which nevertheless approved the report on a motion by Lyle LaPlante, seconded by Dickson DeMarche.

TREASURER'S REPORT: More good news – we had additional income from our annual show. We note that we are donating our local dues, approximately \$10/person, to the Harmony Foundation. The report was received on a motion by Joe Hudson and seconded by Andy Bayer.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: No new members. No new uniforms.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: We are working on a mechanism to identify families of active servicemen overseas. We will set up a free Yahoo e-mail address to receive requests for free singing Valentines. We are contacting Congressman Murphy's office and talking to the *News-Times*.

We approved a motion by Joe Hudson and seconded by Andy Bayer, to buy 50 lawn signs, 16"x24", at \$10 each. We approved \$400 for newspaper ads.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Songs for the coming year have been chosen after an arduous procedure. No waterboarding was used to get agreement of the Committee. All of these songs will be used in next year's show and for singouts.

OLD BUSINESS: In order to finish on time we tabled the discussion of new equipment and how to develop an overall yearly budget.

NEW BUSINESS: Tony Nasto will be coaching us in December. In 2011 we will be having some active judges coming from NYC. The suggested budget is pending.

MEMBERS PRESENT: T; Kaiser, C. Kreiger

OFFICERS PRESENT: D. Anderson, A. Bayer, J. Hudson, D. Demarche, L. LaPlante, F. Baran, R. Walter, A. Roberts, R. Golenbock, J. Hopper.

Next meeting: January 4, 2011. By general consensus we suddenly stopped talking and ran off in all directions at 7:19 pm.

## Quartets

*Continued from Page 3*

### Loco Fedora – Dick Zang

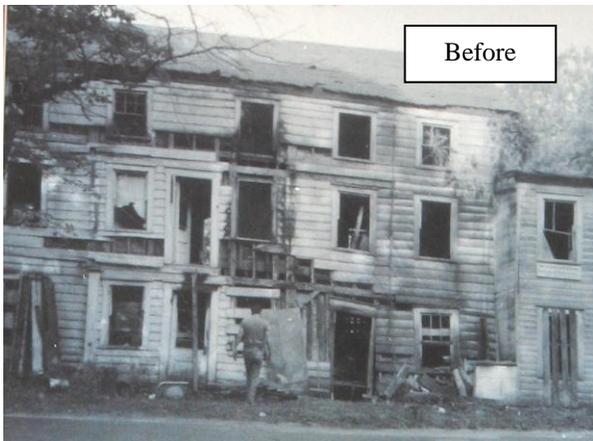
Loco Fedora spent the evening of December 3 caroling at the picturesque Merwinsville Hotel in Gaylordsville.

After a jarring trip off Route 7 with all four of us wondering if this really could be the way, we suddenly came to the 170-year-old structure in the middle of nowhere lit up like a – well, a Christmas tree.

Once safe inside the cozy building we were surrounded by exhibits, decorations, holiday merchandise, and people in good spirits. It was a pleasure to sing for them all.

We enjoyed the wine and goodies and toured the hotel that has been under restoration for forty years.

Visit their web site at [merwinsvillehotel.org](http://merwinsvillehotel.org) to get the history of the hotel and the work that is being undertaken to restore it.



## Do You Recognize This?

Below is a venue at which the Mad Hatters sang. Do you recognize it? If you are the first to respond by email with the correct answer, you win 100 points!



## Thirty-three Cents a Day

Would you spend \$0.33 per day to guarantee the future of the Barbershop Harmony Society? That's all it takes to become an Ambassador of Song and donate a total of \$120 per year to Harmony Foundation International. Today, less than 7% of our membership contribute roughly \$800,000 per year to HFI - with \$350,000 of that amount per year sent directly to districts and chapters using the "donor's choice" option whereby up to 30% of donations to HFI may be sent directly to a designated chapter and district.

There are only a few ways organizations like us can raise money. From our own pockets and from the pockets of others. But one of the first things outside donors look at is what percentage of our own members support the organization financially? They assume that if the organization isn't valuable enough for its own members to support, then why should they do so?

We all love our Society and love to sing barbershop. We love the fellowship we share. We love to experience overtones. We love to enrich the lives of others with our song. And we don't want to be the last generation of men to have this much fun.

So, if you are not already a regular donor to HFI, I urge you to commit to giving \$0.33 per day and sign up to be an Ambassador of Song. Check out the article by Society President Bill Biffle on this same subject in the most recent Harmonizer.

If you have questions, please contact Ryan Killeen ([rkilleen@harmonyfoundation.org](mailto:rkilleen@harmonyfoundation.org) or 615-497-1497), Director of Major Gifts at HFI for immediate answers. You may also check out all the options for donating by visiting the HFI website at [www.harmonyfoundation.org](http://www.harmonyfoundation.org).

Thank you, Joseph Hudson, Director/Harmony Foundation Guy...Danbury Chapter



## Society and District Notes



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### Leadership Academy (COTS)

It is almost here! Leadership Academy is an amazing day of barbershop inspiration and education. It will be held on Saturday January 8, in Worcester MA. There are educational opportunities for all members of the BHS, HI, SAI and guests. Sign up information is available at [www.nedistrict.org](http://www.nedistrict.org). There is also a website link to a quality local hotel, which is available to us at a discount rate until December 24 for those who prefer to stay overnight.

There are programs for the general membership, for Chapter Officers, and for Directors and Assistant Directors. **THIS EVENT IS NOT JUST FOR ELECTED OFFICERS OF YOUR CHAPTERS.** There is something for everybody. Heck, Dr. Tom Steiner's program would make a great professional development day for your spouse or partner too. The Northeastern District Association of Champions (NEDAC) will host a Quartet Dinner Showcase on Saturday night. I hope you will join us. If you have questions, please send them to me at [rogmenard@aol.com](mailto:rogmenard@aol.com).

In harmony, Roger Menard, NED President

### NED Leaders

As your NED President, it is my privilege to work side by side with some of the best leaders in our Society. I have collaborative relationships with literally dozens of men who each complete important tasks everyday to help us all enjoy our hobby more. In 2011 there are many needs to be filled to keep our Leadership Team running smoothly and I am searching for several key men who are willing to serve all the chapters that make up our great Northeastern District by donating a few hours a month. Are you willing to volunteer or do you know someone who you think could succeed at one of the positions below? If so, I would sure like to hear from you.

As of today, Mike Klein, NED Executive Vice President, and I am seeking replacements for **Patriot Division Manager** and **Yankee Division Manager**. Both of the men in these positions have served multiple years successfully and will soon be utilized in other areas. The Division Manager job is fun and rewarding and is important to our operation. It involves visiting neighboring chapters and being a conduit between them and the District Leadership. I am also seeking **Assistant Division Managers** for the Granite & Pine Division - NH Chapters only and for the Mountain Division - Southern areas primarily. In both of these cases, we have active Division Managers already, but the significant geographical challenges we face would make having a partner much more effective. Division Managers report directly to Mike.

We also have a vacant position on our NED Board of Directors. The position of **Chapter Support and Leadership Training (CSLT)** needs to be filled soon. This person will work with the Society CSLT committee to provide training opportunities and support for our local chapters and will oversee our highly successful Leadership Academy and CAPCOTS programs.

Jim Kissack (Providence) is our current Credentials Committee Chairman and has been for many years, but he is looking for an assistant that he can train to take over the job. The primary responsibility of the post is establishing the credentials of the members attending the twice annual House of Delegates Meeting.

I am also seeking several committee members for our Ethics Committee. This team investigates any reports of unethical behavior of Society members within the NED and works with the BOD and reports to the HOD.

Finally, I have had the pleasure of the service of the best Laws & Regulations Chairman in our Society in my first term. But, now that Alan Lamson has been promoted to Society President (woohoo!), it is time for us to find a person who can fulfill this post as he is plenty busy ;-) A detailed job description is available upon request.

To volunteer or to nominate someone for consideration, please contact me at [rogmenard@aol.com](mailto:rogmenard@aol.com).

In harmony, Roger Menard, NED President

# Ye Olde Joke Boarde



*Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper*

A man is driving down a road when he spots a barbershop baritone standing in the middle of a huge field of grass. He pulls the car over to the side of the road and notices that the baritone is just standing there, doing nothing, looking at nothing.

The man gets out of the car, walks all the way out to the baritone and asks him, "Ah, excuse me mister, but what are you doing?"

The baritone replies, "I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize."

"How?" asks the man, puzzled.

"Well I heard they give the Nobel Prize to people who are out standing in their field."

## Barbershop Personal Ads

*Winning Smile: Active Grandmother with Original Teeth Seeking a Dedicated Flosser to Share Rare Steaks, Corn on the Cob and Caramel Candy.*

*Beatles or Stones? I Still like to Rock, Still like to Cruise in My Camaro on Saturday Nights and Still like to Play the Air Guitar. If You Were a Groovy Chick, or Are Now a Groovy Hen, Let's Get Together and Listen to My Boss Collection of Eight-track Tapes.*

*Memories: I Can Usually Remember Monday Through Thursday. If You Can Remember Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Let's Put Our Two Heads Together.*

## Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

### Performance A

Always  
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do  
Give My Regards to Broadway  
Goodnight Sweetheart  
Heart  
Hey, Look Me Over  
How Are Things in Glocca Morra  
I Feel a Song Coming On  
I Found a Million Dollar Baby  
Wait Til The Drugs Work, Nellie  
Lullabye in Ragtime  
On the Sunny Side of the Street  
Over the Rainbow  
Please, Mr. Columbus  
Thanks For The Memory  
There is Nothing Like a Dame  
Don't Tell Me Your Problems (I Won't Tell You Mine)

### Contest Songs

Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue  
I Don't Mind Being All Alone

### Patriotic

Star-Spangled Banner  
This Land is Your Land/America the Beautiful Medley  
God Bless America

### Inspirational

Amazing Grace  
I Believe  
Lord's Prayer  
You'll Never Walk Alone

### Upcoming Songs

Loch Lomond  
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas  
If I Loved You

### Holiday Music

Angels We Have Heard On High  
Jingle Bells  
O Come All Ye Faithful  
Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Silent Night  
We Wish You a Merry Little Christmas

### Future Songs:

Shenandoah  
Armed Forces Salute  
Bare Necessities  
Ten Feet Off The Ground  
Can You Feel The Love Tonight  
When You And I Were Young,  
Maggie  
My Honey's Lovin' Arms  
River Of No Return  
Blue Skies  
They Say It's Wonderful  
How Deep Is The Ocean



"He who sings  
scares away  
his woes"  
Miguel de Cervantes  
Saavedra

## The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

PO Box 5149  
Brookfield, CT 06804-5149

President:	Danny Anderson
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Music Librarian:	Lyle LaPlante
Sunshine Chairman:	Don Smith
Package Show Chairman:	Dick Walter
Chorus Manager:	Robert Golenbock

## The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

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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 whatever, and we'll turn them into Pulitzer Prize copy

## January Milestones

### Birthdays:

4 - Pat Sutherland  
4 - Craig Johnson  
6 - Charlie Rosa  
6 - Don Smith  
30 - Chuck Kreiger

### Wedding Anniversaries:

14 - Bill and Gloria Keenan

## Mark Your Calendars

**December 23:** Chapter Singout. John C. Prendergast Elementary School, Ansonia, CT. Arrive 9:00 AM.

**December 31:** Chapter Singout. First Night Danbury. St James Church, 15 West Steet. Arrive 3:30, sing 4:00 - 4:45. Palace Theater, Main Street. Sing 6:30 - 7:15.

**NED Leadership Academy (COTS):** Worcester State College, Worcester MA, January 8th from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. NEDAC dinner show in evening.

**January 21:** Officer Installation Dinner. Danbury Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 18 Old Ridgebury Rd.

**January 27:** Chapter Singout. Danbury Men's Club, Hatters Park, Danbury, CT. Warmup 10:30 AM, sing 11:00 AM.



**Saturday, January 15th, 2011**

**Shows at 1:30 & 7:30**

Manchester High School  
134 Middle Turnpike East  
Manchester CT, 06040

## Mad Hatters on YouTube

Want to see the Mad Hatters in contest? Just tell your browser to take you to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tapAVQ2aQZY>

and you can enjoy the chorus's performance at the 2010 Northeast District contests in Portland, ME.