



*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 18 Number 10

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

December 2011

## Hatters Hooked on Hockey

*By Dick Zang*

Danbury, CT - A good showing of chorus members - hockey fans all - were on hand at the Danbury Ice Arena to open the Friday night game between the Danbury Whalers and the Thousand Islands Privateers. by singing "The Star Spangled Banner" on December 9.

The game was delayed for half-an-hour, so the fourteen of us had plenty of time to warm up on the mezzanine level.

This year we were given the red carpet treatment. That is, we were directed to a crimson colored remnant, too small to hold the entire chorus contingent, placed at center ice out of reach of all but the most sure-footed among us.

We dropped our coats in the penalty box and dutifully made our way to our appointed spots and burst forth with a much appreciated rendition of our national anthem. The handful of us who stayed for the game - and yes, this year we had complimentary seats - were told by Claudia Downey that we sang marvelously.

The game looked like a blowout in the first period. There were four goals by the Whalers and four fights. But alas, it was not to be. The Privateers rebounded to win 5-4 in overtime and dropped the Whalers to below .500. Their season record is now 9-10.

We can take part of the blame. The Downeys, Walt and I left after the first period when we thought the game was well in hand.

Had we known what impact our early departure would have on the morale of the home team, we would have continued to lend our support to the impolite chanting coming from our bleacher mates in Section 102. John Downey was really getting into it before we left.



*Greg Holt (21) scores unassisted in the first period. John Downey goes wild. News-Times photo by Jason Rearick.*

## Chorus Croons Christmas Carols

*By John Bradley*

Carmel, NY - On December 3, a small contingent of Mad Hatters travelled to Carmel, NY, to perform in the Holiday of Lights Celebration, sponsored by The Hamlet of Carmel Civic Association.

The chorus kicked off the evening's festivities by singing Christmas carols to a large, happy throng at downtown Carmel's Cornerstone Park. Barbershop chords filled the air as kids rode hay rides hosted by Samta, painted their faces, and everyone enjoyed hot soup and chowder, cookies and other goodies supplied by local businesses.

"In all the years we (Real Chemistry) have performed at this event, it's the first time the temperature has above freezing," said chorus lead, Bob Bradley.

*Continued on the next page*

## Carmel Christmas Celebration

*Continued from the previous page*

Following the chorus on the risers, a number of local musical groups performed, then the Christmas tree was lighted, and the holiday parade marched along the banks of Lake Gleneida, illuminated by over 100 decorated trees.



*The Christmas tree at Carmel's Cornerstone Park*

## Lions Like Limited Lineup

*By Dick Zang*

Danbury, CT - The Danbury Lions were pleasantly surprised when thirteen Mad Hatters walked into their luncheon at the Holiday Inn on Thursday, December 15, because they were expecting only a quartet. Under the direction of Jim Hopper, the Very Large Quartet that did arrive mixed a few chorus repertoire songs in with some caroling to entertain the crowd of over 100 club members and guests.

It was a great performance because we had the right combination of parts, and it was a lively audience. Even Bob Bradley, our normally laid-back raconteur for the event, was impressed with the sound. And it was a nice introduction for two of our newest members, Dave Noone and Al Paparesta, who both showed up in green sweaters that almost matched the regular chorus issue.

All in all, it was a good warmup for our upcoming gig at First Night.



*Danbury Lions enjoy lunch as Mad Hatter Chorus performs.*

## Quartet Corner

*News from our chorus quartets*



### Rare Occasion – by Fred Baran

On Monday afternoon, November 28, Rare Occasion paid a special visit to Mad Hatter Chorus assistant director, Don Sutherland, who was a patient at Danbury Hospital and was about to undergo surgery to repair a hernia.

Don had undergone some intestinal surgery the week before. When we reached his room, both he and his bed were missing. We were told that he was down in dialysis on the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor. We were also told that only a single person was allowed to visit him during dialysis, but we prevailed upon the nurse to let the four of us "who are a single unit" in to sing.

Don, while a little groggy, seemed to enjoy our serenade. We wish him a speedy recovery and return home.

On Wednesday, November 30, we appeared at the Stonehenge restaurant in Ridgefield and sang for about 90 guests at a dinner for the Danbury Hospital Donors Group. This gathering of the wealthy "movers and shakers" of the Greater Danbury Area included Mr. John Murphy, CEO of Danbury Hospital, Mr. Neil Marcus and our hosts, Mr. Jay Walker (founder of Priceline) and his wife, Eileen.

This was the Rare Occasion appearance that was auctioned in May at the Matrix Center and won by the Walkers for a bid of \$1500, which was donated to the Danbury Women's Center. We had a great time singing to and meeting some very interesting people during the cocktail hour.

On Friday afternoon, December 2, we sang for about 35 members of the Danbury Senior Center on Elmwood Place. We combined a mixture of our holiday songs and Rare Occasion repertoire to entertain an appreciative audience who very much enjoyed our performance. We look forward to singing there again in the future.

On Saturday evening, December 3, we appeared at the Fourth Annual Holiday Wine Tasting Party at the New Milford Historical Society's *An Evening of Wine & Song* as the featured entertainment, where we sang both holiday and repertoire songs for two hours. This was our fourth appearance at the event.

During the course of the evening we estimate that we sang to over 100 guests and we have been invited back to sing next year.

Needless to say, this is one of our favorite venues. Where else do you get to drink wine and eat hors d'oeuvres, sing barbershop, meet interesting people and get paid? Terry Dunkle, our bass, also won one of the gift baskets that was raffled-off.

*Continued on the next page*

## Quartets

*Continued from the previous page*

On our way home from New Milford on Saturday night, we stopped and sang at a house party in Newtown. The event was a birthday party for Laurie Kilchevsky, wife of Dr. Eitan Kilchevsky, a neonatologist and friend of our lead, Dr. Robert Golenbock. While we were only scheduled to sing three songs we wound up doing a half dozen, including a request for "Lida Rose," a favorite wherever we go.

We wound up our whirlwind weekend on Sunday afternoon, December 4, singing to about 30 residents and staff at Lockwood Lodge (Masonicare) in Newtown. We won over our audience singing many songs that they related to, and they sang along with us. For me personally, and for the other members of Rare Occasion, there is no greater feeling of satisfaction and enjoyment than knowing you have reached and won over your audience and left them wanting more.

On behalf of Rare Occasion, we wish you all and your loved ones a happy, healthy and joyous holiday season.

## 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*



Since some of you guys sing very high notes, I thought you might be able to help me. Is there any special technique, method, etc. to developing a strong falsetto voice? I have been appointed a high harmony part by my bandmates and would appreciate any help on this you could offer so I don't hurt myself. Thank you.

Nappo from Newtown

*Nappo (are you a descendant of one of the Marx Brothers?), Estrogen treatments might help, as well as a bandmate with size 12 steel-toed boots. Apply judiciously just before a gig.*

*Seriously, this is an interesting question because it parallels a conversation I had with a chorus mate not long ago. I did a little research into this. The best advice I found, and the way I have worked to strengthen my falsetto, is to try to imitate some song that you've heard sung that way. If you can't think of one, buy a Four Seasons CD. I sing with old Johnny Mathis recordings while in the car.*

*Start by singing quietly - falsetto comes easier at a low volume. Relax all singing "apparatus."*

*The ability is natural. Most people I have spoken with can't say how they do it. But, once you get the hang of it, you'll find you can switch easily between falsetto and your normal voice*

*Then, when you've got the ability to sing falsetto quietly, increase the volume slowly. With time, you will build the power of your falsetto voice.*

*Imagine having a lot of empty space in your head (very easy for me to do), and fill it. Then imagine filling the space in the room. Keep everything open. Once you have the falsetto, start at the top and slide down into your chest voice. Pretty soon you should be able to do the reverse, and connect the head voice, chest voice, and falsetto.*

## Repertoire Notes

"Anchors Aweigh" is the fight song of the United States Naval Academy, and strongly associated with the United States Navy. The song was composed in 1906 by Charles A. Zimmerman with lyrics by Alfred Hart Miles.



Zimmerman was at the time a Lieutenant and had been bandmaster of the United States Naval Academy Band since 1887. Miles was Midshipman First Class at the Academy, in the class of 1907, and asked Zimmerman to assist him in composing a song for that class to be used as a football march. Another Academy Midshipman, Royal Lovell (class of 1926) later wrote what would be adopted into the song as its third verse.

The song was first played during the Army-Navy football game on December 1, 1906, at Franklin Field in Philadelphia. Before a crowd in excess of 30,000. Navy won the game 10-0, their first win in the match-up since 1900.

"Anchors Aweigh" was gradually adopted as the song of the U.S. Navy. Although there is a pending proposal to make it the official song, and to incorporate protocol into Navy regulations for its performance, its status remains unofficial.

The song's lyrics were considered too specific to the Academy and not representative of the Navy at large (note the reference to "farewell to college joys"), and so were rewritten by George D. Lottman. Its melody was also slightly rewritten by Domenico Savino.

The song is also used in the US Navy bootcamp in Great Lakes IL. Recruits when passing through an underground tunnel heading away from the barracks, sing the first verse and then sing the second verse on the way back.





## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December

*Submitted by Robert Golenbock - Secretary*

Meeting called to order by Danny “They’re paying me how much to do this job?” Anderson at 6:10pm on December 6, 2011 at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY’S REPORT was published, e-mailed, and handed out. Dick Walter still didn’t see it. Report accepted on a motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Lyle LaPlante.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The report was received on a motion by Robert Golenbock, seconded by Wynn Wilcox. The final tally on our annual show is still pending as at least \$1000 in receipts have not yet been received by our treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Jim Williams has taken an application to renew his membership. Dave McKee, who moved to Westchester, informed us that he has joined the Westchester Chordsmen. We hope to see him occasionally when he has the time.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: We need to print updated chapter business cards. Our Facebook page is being updated, as is our website.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: We are planning a Spring Show, which will have a theme related to music from the movies. In addition to bringing back some songs from our repertoire including *Over the Rainbow*, *Cabaret*, and *Heart*, we will be learning *From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye*, *Somewhere Out There*, *It’s Only a Paper Moon*, and *The River of No Return*. Eventually we will be receiving (and learning) a Tony Nasto arrangement of *If Ever I would Leave You*. Tony has not finished (started) the arrangement yet, but it is on his To Do list. Also on his To Do list: Prepare for Y2K.

We are ordering a dozen songs from David Harrington since we paid a one-time fee for unlimited arrangements. We just pay the per copy fee.

We will be continuing to get coaching from Joe Hunter with occasional assistance from Justin Miller. The coaching will not be limited to contest songs, but will strive for the overall improvement of our chorus. We expect everyone to learn every song and to attend every coaching session even if he is not going to contest. We expect the budget for coaching to be the same as last year.

OLD BUSINESS: In the critique of our Annual Show we recognized the difficulty of trying to prepare so soon after contest. Also we will plan to schedule any power outages for after our show. This year our attendance was down.

The lingering power outage, the economy, and the dearth of support from NEDistrict barbershoppers in spite of the appearance of Men in Black have all been cited as contributory.

We will be meeting on Saturday (December 10) to begin developing an overall strategy for improving our chapter as well as planning our next show. Some suggestions made at the business meeting included having a high school group on the show, moving our show to a more central location, taking advantage of e-mails, encouraging on-line ticket sales, and sending an emissary to visit nearby chapters. For the spring we have yet to decide on a date, a location, or a group to engage, but we need to do all three very soon.

NEW BUSINESS: For those not at the December 8 meeting, we urge you to sign up for the installation dinner. The date is Friday, January 20, 2012, and the place is the same as last year. The cost is \$25 perperson.

Andy Bayer is looking to purchase tuxedos for those participating in our First Night Concert who don’t already have a tux.

The Leadership Academy is January 7, 2012.

Robert Golenbock discussed the possibility of singing at Danbury Hospital as a benefit for Handhelp.org, the hand surgery mission in Honduras he is involved in.

The Board needs to meet to discuss the director’s contract and salary.

Our brainstorming session is at Terry Dunkle’s house on Saturday, December 10 from 10 am to about 1pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Zlamany

OFFICERS PRESENT: D. Anderson, L. LaPlante, W. Wilcox, J. Hopper, R. Golenbock, J. Hudson, R. Walter, A. Roberts, D. DeMarche, A. Bayer, M. Ali.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. Next meeting on January 3, 2012.

### Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

When the diva's vacuum cleaner broke, she refused to use a broom because it just wouldn't be Hoover





## The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

It is great to be a Barbershopper and to be a part of this chapter!

It has been my pleasure to be the president of this chapter for the past two years and to work with the members of this year's Board of Directors.

These men have met each month to discuss the needs of the chapter. Several of these men serve as section leaders and members of other committees.

The new Board met this past weekend to discuss plans for 2012 and years to come. One of the action points for the membership is to encourage all our members to be involved in some aspect of the chapter's life. Our VP's will be reaching out to the membership to request your assistance.

We have set a goal of 99 men in the chapter by 2016. This is an ambitious goal, but can be obtained with the help of each man in the chapter. We will be checking to see if we can have a monthly practice at the college in an effort to bring our music to the men there.

I encourage each member to think of a friend, club member, church or synagogue member you could invite to come to one of our practices. Pick them up, bring them to practice and help them to have an enjoyable experience. Sing tags with them.

This is something each of us can do. Then, if every one of these new people brings just one friend our numbers will explode.

Jim Hopper invited Lyle, Nick and me to come to a practice several years ago. We all sang tags, heard the chords ring and enjoyed the experience. We were hooked. You too can offer this opportunity to your friends.

We will be looking for additional opportunities to perform in venues where we can attract new members. This may require us to sing for non-profits, businesses, social groups, schools, clubs, etc. An active campaign will begin to seek these venues. Wynn will need help with this work. There could be mailings, emails, phone calls, and visits to these different venues which will need to be made.

We will be asking each member to commit to spending time between practices working on his music by listening to the practice tapes. This will allow Joe to direct us in the interpretation of the song and help us to build a unit sound more quickly.

Regular attendance is encouraged! This year we have had trouble having consistent attendance, particularly within the lead section. To solidify and to have consistent attendance in this section we are asking some members to move from the bass or baritone section to lead.

Plans are being made to have two shows this year. The first one will be in April or May with our theme being songs from the movies and the second a holiday show in early December. The December show may be billed as a "sing-along."

This has been a banner year for the chapter, winning several awards at contests. We have worked hard improving our craft. Next year we will continue to bring in guest coaches to work with us to help us with our performances, each sing out is a performance.

At each performance we should be singing better than the time before. The performance should be such that it would cause men to want to join us. Once again to get to that level we need to practice at home and be at practice to develop a unit sound within our sections.

Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends and best wishes for the New Year.

## Musings from The Music Committee

By Jim Hopper



New songs in the hopper (pun intended) were chosen, and the next four new songs will be (drum roll please):

- "From The First Hello"
- "It's Only a Paper Moon"
- "River of No Return"
- "Somewhere Out There"

These songs will fit nicely with the theme of our next show, *The Mad Hatters Go To Hollywood*, which will be in May. Also to be included in the show will be: "They Say It's Wonderful," "Blue Skies," "How Deep Is The Ocean," "Over The Rainbow," "Cabaret," and "Heart." Some of these songs will be chorus songs and some will be sung by quartets and learned later as chorus songs.

We have contacted Tony Nasto and requested that he write an arrangement of the famous song from *Camelot*, "If Ever I Would Leave You," just for the Mad Hatter Chorus. We are giving him the flexibility to arrange the song for best appeal regardless of whether it is contestable.

In addition to these songs, we will soon be ordering 12 songs from David Harrington for review, with the probability of choosing maybe four for future chorus numbers.

We are excited to be able to acquire the coaching services of both Joe Hunter and Justin Miller for the coming year. This year our coaching sessions will not be limited to preparing for contest, but will also be focused on improving the singing of the entire chorus. Dates of these coaching sessions will be announced

Thanks to all for your ongoing suggestions for how we can continue to improve as a chorus.

# Member and Meeting Notes

By Joe Hudson

We had 21 members present at our December 13 meeting, with a former member (Don Smith), and a guest who signed up to reinstate his expired membership (Jim Williams).

To help the chorus find a better balance in its sound, five members are switching parts, so we say thank you to them:

Chuck Kreiger and Lyle LaPlante are moving to bass, Nick Godano and Wynn Wilcox are moving to lead and Ed Feinberg is moving to tenor.

We also saw the return of Dan Griffin after a small hiatus from us.

And, also on December 13, we sang a key change the right way the first time!



## 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](http://www.bgsu.edu/voice/singing.html)," 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.

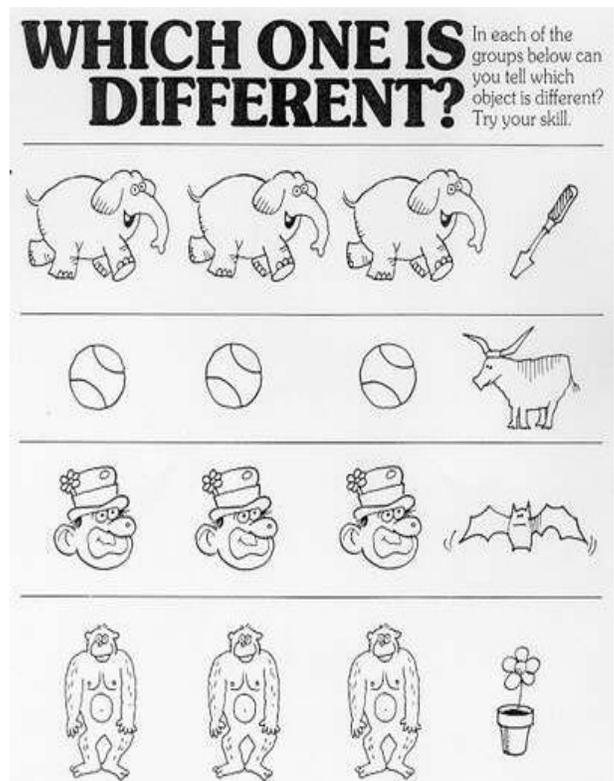
**Take care of your health!** Avoid smoke and alcohol, postpone partying until after the final performance! Get plenty of sleep and aerobic exercise. Hydrate--drink plenty of fluids. Use common sense when you are sick. Better to miss rehearsal than to expose others to your "bug."

**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.*

<http://www.bgsu.edu/voice/singing.html>

## Baritone Quiz



# Origins of Various Christmas Songs

*Submitted by Nick Godano*

“**Silent Night**” is a poem that was written in 1816 by an Austrian priest called Joseph Mohr. On Christmas Eve in 1818 in the small alpine village called Oberndorf it is reputed that the organ at St. Nicholas Church had broken. Joseph Mohr gave the poem of “Silent Night” to his friend Franz Xavier Gruber and the melody for “Silent Night” was composed with this in mind. The music to “Silent Night” was originally intended for a guitar and the simple score was finished in time for Midnight Mass.

“**God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**” was first published in 1833 when it appeared in *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern*, a collection of seasonal carols gathered by William B. Sandys. The lyrics of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen are traditional olde English and are reputed to date back to the 15th century although the author is unknown.. It is believed that this particular carol was sung to the gentry by town watchmen who earned additional money during the Christmas season. “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” continues to be enjoyed. The lyrics to this simple carol are reputed to be one of the oldest carols.

“**The First Noel**” is unknown in origin but is generally thought to be English dating back to the sixteenth century. There is a misconception that “The First Noel” was French and it is believed that this is because of the French spelling of Noel as opposed to the olde English Anglo-Saxon spelling of the word as in Nowell. After England was captured by the Normans numerous words were adopted from the Norman French language and Noel was re-spelt as Nowell, early printed versions of this carol use the Nowell spelling. The First Noel was first published in 1833 when it appeared in *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern*, a collection of seasonal carols gathered by William B. Sandys.

Rector Phillips Brooks (1835-1903) of Philadelphia, wrote the words to “**O Little Town of Bethlehem**” in 1868, following a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He was inspired by the view of Bethlehem from the hills of Palestine especially at night time hence the lyrics of “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” His church organist Lewis Redner (1831-1908) wrote the melody to O “Little Town of Bethlehem for the Sunday” school children's choir.

“**Away in a Manger**” is often the first carol that children are taught. Away in a Manger was originally published in 1885. The publication of “Away in a Manger” was in a Lutheran Sunday school book and this created the misconception that the lyrics of “Away in a Manger” were actually written by Martin Luther himself. The author is unknown. The music to “Away in a Manger” was composed by William J. Kirkpatrick in 1895.

The words to the carol “**O Come All Ye Faithful**” were originally written in Latin (Adeste Fideles) and was intended to be a hymn.

It is attributed to John Wade, an Englishman. The music to “O Come All Ye Faithful” was composed by fellow Englishman John Reading in the early 1700s. The tune was first published in a collection known as “Cantus Diversi” in 1751. In 1841 Rev. Frederick Oakley is reputed to have worked on the familiar translation of “O Come All Ye Faithful” which replaced the older Latin lyrics “Adeste Fideles.”

The words and lyrics for “**All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth**” are by Don Gardner. The first publication of this song was in 1946.

Believe it or not, “**Jingle Bells,**” one of the most famous American Christmas songs, was originally written for Thanksgiving! The author and composer of “Jingle Bells” was minister James Pierpont who composed the song in 1857 for children celebrating his Boston Sunday School Thanksgiving. The song was so popular that it was repeated at Christmas, and indeed “Jingle Bells” has been reprised ever since. The essence of a traditional Christmas is captured in the lyrics of “Jingle Bells” and the sound effects using the bells have become synonymous with the arrival of Father Christmas or Santa Claus to the delight of children of all ages.

The words and music to the Christmas song “**Little Drummer Boy**” was composed by Katherine K. Davis, Henry Onorati and Harry Simeone in 1958. The lyrics of ‘Little Drummer Boy’ consist of no less than 21 ‘rum pum pum pum’ - a major part of the song and therefore presenting an apparently easy task for the lyricist! However, “Little Drummer Boy” has been a huge hit for several artists. The most notable rendition was created by the most unlikely combination of Bing Crosby and David Bowie. This version of “Little Drummer Boy” was a massive hit for the artists and was in fact Bing Crosby's most successful recording since the legendary “White Christmas.”

The famous Christmas song, “**Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**” started life as a poem created by an American advertising executive Robert May. He was requested to produce a poem that could be given away to children by the Santa Claus employed by Department Stores at Christmas! Working as an Advertising Executive Robert May had a natural flair with words and was able to compose the “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” poem which was specifically designed to appeal to children. This marketing ploy was a massive success and approximately 2.5 million “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” poems were given away in the first year of its publication! In 1949 the singer Gene Autry recorded a musical version of “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” composed by Johnny Marks.

The famous Christmas song “**Winter Wonderland**” was first published in 1934. The composer was Felix Bernard (1897-1944) and the lyricist was Richard B. Smith (1901-1935). Probably the most popular versions of this classic Christmas song, “Winter Wonderland,” were recorded to high acclaim by the Andrews Sisters and Perry Como. The lyrics of “Winter Wonderland” have undoubtedly contributed to the magical vision of snow at Christmas together with the tradition of building snowmen and therefore turning fantasy into reality by creating a real winter wonderland.



## Society and District Notes



### Great Nothern Workshop

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

February 4th, 2012, in St. Lambert, Quebec!! New classes, new teachers, and new schedule!!

Check out the details on:

[www.gnhw2012.webs.com!!](http://www.gnhw2012.webs.com!!)

More details to come soon.

Steve and Jen, Staff of GNHW

### NEDYankee] Leadership Academy - January 7th is Coming!

Happy Holidays everyone. It's not too late to Register! The special \$40 tuition rate is good through 12/30/11. It goes up to \$50 thereafter.

If you have unused Chapter assessment coupons, please use them! Check with your chapter treasurer to see if there are any available.

Some great Full day courses:

President: Roger Menard  
Secretary: Dick Shea  
Treasurer: Dick Newton  
Director's Workshop: Steve Tramack and Joe Cerutti

Half-day courses:

Youth In Harmony: Joe Hudson  
Marketing & PR: Steve Salamin  
Social Media for Barbershoppers: Mike Klein, David Eng  
Music & Performance: Ed Fritzen  
Running a Successful Show/Cabaret: Ron Menard

1 ½ hour courses:

Operations: Harold Hill- Paul Wietlisbach and David Cole  
Community Service programs for the Chapter: Guy Haas  
Fundraising Techniques: Steve Isherwood  
Getting Chapter and Quartet Gigs: Steve Isherwood  
Groupanizer: Tom Metzger

See the Course descriptions on the NED website at:

[http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page\\_id=197](http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=197)

Register at:

<http://nedleadership2012.eventbrite.com>

Any questions? Please feel free to call me at 603-707-9990.

See you there!

Guy Haas, NED VP CSLT (Chapter Support and Leadership Training), Dean- Leadership Academy 2012

### Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention



#### Earlybird Housing

Register by September 1st to get "earlybird housing" (available December 15th).

#### General housing opens January 15<sup>th</sup>

#### 2012 International Convention – Earlybird Registration Pricing (valid through Jan 15th)

Member: \$149  
Non-member: \$169  
Youth: \$79

Family Package: \$379 (2 adults and 2 youth from the same household. Each additional youth from same household - \$25). Enter Promo Code "familypackage" to receive discount.

#### PRICES AFTER JANUARY 15th, 2012:

Member: \$175  
Non-member: \$189  
Youth: \$99

Register by phone: 800-595-4849, or

<http://barbershop.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=381268>

# Ye Olde Joke Boarde



*Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper*

An octogenarian, who was an avid golfer, moved to a new town and joined the local country club. He went to the club for the first time to play, but he was told there wasn't anyone with whom he could play because they were already out on the course. He repeated several times that he really wanted to play.

Finally, the assistant pro, who was also a barbershop baritone, said he would play with him and asked how many strokes he wanted for a bet. The 80 year old said, "I really don't need any strokes, because I have been playing quite well. The only real problem I have is getting out of sand traps."

And he did play well. Coming to the par four 18th they were all even. The pro had a nice drive and was able to get on the green and two-putt for a par. The old man had a nice drive, but his approach shot landed in a sand trap next to the green. Playing from the bunker, he hit a high ball which landed on the green and rolled into the hole! Birdie, match and all the money!

The pro walked over to the sand trap where his opponent was still standing in the trap. He said, " Nice shot, but I thought you said you have a problem getting out of sand traps?"

Replied the octogenarian, "I do. Please give me a hand."

...

On a TV game show a contestant, who is a barbershop baritone, needed only to answer one more question. One simple question stood between him and one million dollars! "To be today's champion," the show's smiling host intoned, "name two of Santa's reindeer."

The baritone contestant gave a sigh of relief, gratified that he had drawn such an easy question. "Rudolph!" he said confidently, "and...Olive!"

The studio audience started to applaud (as the little sign above their heads said to do) but the clapping quickly faded into mumbling, and the confused host replied, "Yes, we'll accept Rudolph, but could you please explain... "Olive?"

"You know," the baritone circled his hand forward impatiently and began to sing, "Rudolph the red nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose. And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glowed. Olive, the other reindeer..."

---

## Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

### Performance

Bare Necessities  
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do  
Can You Feel The Love Tonight  
Give My Regards To Broadway  
Heart  
If I Loved You  
Over The Rainbow  
Please, Mr. Columbus  
Shenandoah  
Ten Feet Off The Ground  
Thanks For The Memory  
There Is Nothing Like A Dame  
Billy Broke My Heart at Walgreen  
and I Cried All the Way to Sears

### Patriotic/Inspirational

Amazing Grace  
Armed Forces Medley  
God Bless America  
I Believe  
Lord's Prayer  
Star-Spangled Banner  
This Land Is Your Land Medley

### Contest

It's Only A Paper Moon  
On The Sunny Side Of The Street

### In Progress/Upcoming (In Order)

From The First Hello  
It's Only A Paper Moon

River Of No Return  
Somewhere Out There  
How Deep Is The Ocean  
My Honey's Lovin' Arms  
They Say It's Wonderful  
When You And I Were Young,  
Maggie  
Get Off the Table, Mabel (the \$2 is for  
the Beer)



"He who sings  
scares away  
his woes"

Miguel de Cervantes  
Saavedra

## The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

PO Box 5149  
Brookfield, CT 06804-5149

<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>Wynn Wilcox</b>
<b>Music VP:</b>	<b>Jim Hopper</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Robert Golenbock</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Dickson DeMarche</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Chuck Kreiger</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Art Roberts</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Dick Walter</b>
<b>Program Committee</b>	
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Lyle LaPlante</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</b>
<b>Package Show Chairman:</b>	<b>Dick Walter</b>
<b>Chorus Manager:</b>	<b>Robert Golenbock</b>

### The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

John Bradley, Hatter 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>
--	--

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

## Mark Your Calendars

**December 23, Chapter Singout:** John G Prendergast School, 59 Finney St., Ansonia, CT. 8:45 warm-up, 9:00 sing National Anthem, 9:45 show for grades 2 - 4..

**December 31, Chapter Singout:** First Night Danbury. St. James Episcopal Church, 25 West Street, Danbury. 3:30 warm-up, 4:00 - 4:45 sing.

**January 20, Officers' Installation Dinner:** Danbury Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 18 Old Ridgebury Road Danbury, 18 Old Ridgebury Road Danbury.

**The USA-Japan Goodwill Concert - Carnegie Hall, New York City, December 26, 2011, 7:30pm, Free admission (tickets required). Donations benefit the Japan-USA Friendship Disaster Fund. About 300 high school- and college-aged youth from various choruses across the United States, Canada, and Japan will perform babershop, choral harmony music.**

[www.barbershopatcarnegie.com](http://www.barbershopatcarnegie.com)

## December Milestones

### Birthdays:

3 - Bob Bartley  
4 - Sam Connolley  
13 - Patty LaPlante  
18 - John Downey  
19 - Diane Johnson  
24 Wynn Wilcox  
25 - Lyle LaPlante  
26 - Carolyn Wixted  
26 - Joseph Hudson



### Wedding Anniversaries:

19 - Bob and Joanne Bartley  
21 - Carl and Bette Zlamany  
29 - Joe and Liz Hudson

**Manchester Silk City Chorus**  
**Saturday, January 14th, 2012**  
**Shows at 1:30 & 7:30**

Everybody Loves A Hero-

Featuring Crossroads Quartet and De Capo

Manchester High School,  
134 Middle Turnpike East  
Manchester CT, 06040

<http://www.silkcitychorus.org/annualshow/index.html>

**Northeastern District**  
**Leadership Academy**

YOUR CONNECTION TO: ★ Great Ideas ★ Great People  
★ Exceptional Experiences ★ Essential Tools

**Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
at Worcester State University

2012 Leadership Academy  
Very Special General Session Guest Speaker !  
Classes for Chapter Officers and Directors  
Classes for Chapter Planning & Organization !