



*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)

February 2010

## Hatters Heat-up the Hearth

*By Dick Zang and Danny Anderson*

**Brookfield, CT** – On Friday, January 15, about 40 members and their wives assembled at the Mad Hatters' home away from home, the Hearth Restaurant in Brookfield, for the annual Installation Dinner. Our new chapter officers were sworn in and immediately broke into song.

Hearing their rendition of "Keep the Whole World Singing" had some wondering whether they were elected for their voices or for their executive abilities. Others were able to answer quickly.

After the usual fine, and filling, repast at the Hearth, it was time for acknowledgements of past service.

First up was immediate past president, the Honorable Bob Bradley. Bob served for eleven years and did such a remarkable job that he never once was challenged for the nomination. He is now off to lead the Yankee Division, a much exalted position that will bring him undreamed of riches and fame.

Our new president, Danny Anderson, and music director, Joe Hudson, then presented framed certificates to chorus manager Robert Golenbock for Outstanding Service, Lee Smeriglio for Most improved, Andy Bayer who went Above and Beyond for his work in cleaning the storage closet and organizing the uniforms, and Dick Zang, Mad Hatter of the Year, for his contributions as section leader, *Hatter Chatter* co-editor, show chairman, and learning quartet member.

Then it was time to sing. The entire chapter sang a few favorites, followed by the HatterTones and the learning quartet.

But the highlight of the evening's entertainment may have been a surprise appearance by a mixed quartet, with Danny and Linda Anderson, Jim and Marti Hopper who sang "Rainbow of Love"

Move over, Honeymooners.

Their performance brought back memories of Bill Manion's chorus of members' wives, the Danbury Dolls, who regularly sang at these functions after a quick fifteen minute rehearsal.



*Left to right, Jim and Marti Hopper, Linda and Danny Anderson. Picture by Robert Golenbock*



*Dick Zang is Mad Hatter of the Year  
Picture by Robert Golenbock*

## Do You Recognize This?

Below is a venue at which the Mad Hatters sang a few years ago. Do you recognize it? Only old timers will get this one. If you are the first to respond by email with the correct answer, you win 100 points!



Congratulations to recently deceased Terry Dunkle for last month's recognition of Saint Peter's Church in downtown Danbury, site of our music director's marriage.

## Mad Hatters Return to Hancock Hall

*By Dick Zang*

On Tuesday evening, January 12, the Mad Hatter Barbershop chorus returned to Hancock Hall to provide residents with an hour of harmony and humor.

It was one of our better singing performances. Robert Golenbock handled the raconteuring duties skillfully - Joe kept him on a short leash.

The HatterTones sang, as did Rare Occasion with Dick Walter on bass. In the warm-up room we tried "The Way You Look Tonight" and decided we weren't ready to perform it.

But the audience was, for the most part, unresponsive. Only a few residents and the aides showed any enthusiasm - we had some dancing in the aisles. The mood of most of the patients was definitely off-putting to the point that Joe cut "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" for fear of fostering further depression.

According to the chorus's assistant raconteur, Robert Golenbock, "That's show business. The chords must flow on."



*The chorus prepares for the Hancock Hall gig.  
Picture by Robert Golenbock*

## Chorus Members Perform Tribute to Charles Ives

*By John Bradley*

On January 27, ten members of the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus performed an impromptu tribute to one of Danbury's noted citizens, Charles Ives, as they sang at the monthly meeting of the Danbury Men's Club at Hatter's Park on East Hayestown Road. Singing selections from the chorus's standard repertoire, the group managed to sing each song in what seemed like a variety of pitches and rhythms, with individuals inventing key changes that seemed to go mostly down..

"I guess this wasn't our finest musical performance," said Lyle LaPlante, Men's Club member and Mad Hatter bass, who organized the appearance.

But the audience gave the singers a standing ovation after the last song and seemed to enjoy and appreciate the group's effort.

"The main thing is, everyone in that room seemed to have a good time. That's why we do this hobby," said lead, Bob Bradley.

"It may have helped the audience's enjoyment that many of them have malfunctioning hearing aids," Lyle added.



*Men's Club members enjoying the Mad Hatters*

## Danbury Singer, Dreaming of Afterglow, Ends Up in Afterlife

Members were shocked to see the name of Terry Dunkle, popular Mad Hatter baritone, on a business-related leave of absence from the chorus, listed in the latest *Harmonizer* as a new member of the Chorus Eternal. They were even more surprised by his unexpected appearance at a regular Tuesday rehearsal on January 19. At first, some were reluctant to approach the figure garbed in a somewhat ethereal gray sweatshirt and matching Dockers trousers (38W, 32L). But, the *Hatter Chatter* editors took the opportunity to press him for answers to life's important questions.

**HC:** For the newer members, and those who have moved away, would you give us a few details of your demise and what you've been up to since?

**Terry:** Well, my business was making increasing demands on my time. That, and recovering from the surgery I underwent a couple of years ago, kept me from putting the time needed to stay on top of things with the chorus.

Business and family demands, stress, heart issues – they can add up, then, things can happen. A person can seem to disappear.

**HC:** Wherever you... ended up, do they treat baritones well?

**Terry:** I had this strange dream not long after I took my leave of absence from the chorus. I walked into an opening and entered what seemed like a long, dark funnel. There were people hanging around on the outer ring of the funnel, not doing much of anything. Kinda like they were in limbo.

I went further into the opening and came face-to-face with this huge, curly-haired, bearded man who grunted “baritone” and pointed to the left.

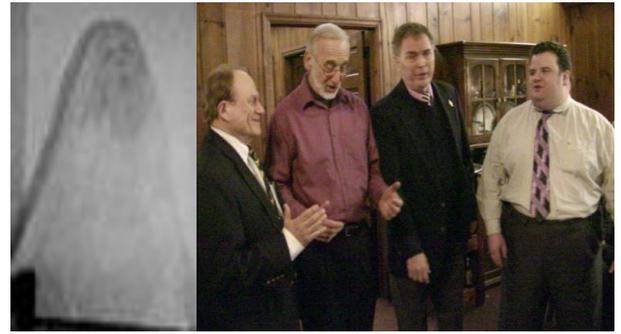
I went in the direction he was pointing and passed a number of groups of people. One group seemed to be caught in a whirlwind; another was sitting in a pile of garbage. I must have gone past about eight different groups until I came to a bunch of guys singing the baritone part of “Heart of My Heart” over and over and over again – they never stopped.

**HC:** Have you been able to keep singing? Is there a barbershop chapter in... wherever?

**Terry:** After I woke up from that dream, for some reason my wife and son were at my bedside. I was skittish about singing again. But, time passed, I started singing in the shower, then around the house, and I started to enjoy it again. The Mad Hatters seem to be the only group nearby. It's strange there were only baritones in my dream.

**HC:** Was Tuesday night's visit a one time deal or will you be haunting us?

**Terry:** We'll see how things work out.



*Terry Dunkle sings baritone with the HatterTones  
Picture by Robert Golenbock*

## Manion's Musings

*By Bill Manion*

Hello to all of you from the sunny, but cool, West Coast of Florida! It doesn't seem possible but I have been down here for six months! Recuperating from the excellent heart bypass surgery at Danbury Hospital and getting a new residence in order has made the time go by quite rapidly. I did have the pleasure of seeing some of you and singing with Rare Occasion on a recent long weekend visit, but, unfortunately, I couldn't stay to catch a chorus rehearsal.

I have been busy singing with the local barbershop chapter, the Hernando Harmonizers, and was appointed Assistant Director starting this coming Monday, January 5.

I plan to do pretty much what I was doing at Danbury, i.e., giving a weekly craft session. But since there is only one assistant in this chapter, I will also be doing the warmups, teaching a new song now and then and helping the new Director iron out the hard spots.

The Harmonizers are similar to Danbury in many ways. They enjoy a good time (particularly at a restaurant/bar after Monday rehearsals), they sing well, but could be better with more at-home preparation. They have three in-house quartets, including the 2007 Senior District champs. As soon as I find a lead (I have a good bari and a good tenor lined up), we will make it four quartets.

As you know, Paul Just is a member of the Harmonizers but he has been committed to one of the three quartets for over a year. I'd love to sing with Paul again, but I would never disrupt an existing quartet.

But all is not lost! One of the differences between Hernando and Danbury is that the Harmonizers get most of their men from relocated barbershoppers, just like Paul and me. In the last two weeks, we had four men drop in, all of whom are relocating or have relocated to our area and all are members of the Society. One in particular has my attention – Roger Brown.

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## Musings

*Continued from the previous page*

Roger was the lead in Family Affair, a good quartet from the Northeast District. Ask Fred for details. Roger is an excellent lead and I hope to convince him to sing with a very old bass!

I really look forward to the monthly issues of the *Hatter Chatter*. Dick and John just don't lose their touch. Every issue is interesting, informative, funny and most enjoyable! I really don't miss living in Ridgefield, but I sure miss the Mad Hatters. I wish Danny a most successful tenure as President. He will have a hard time matching the excellent leadership of Herr Bradley, but I know he will be up to the task.

I see you had a fine performance at First Night and a good showing at Joe's school. I'm very glad that Santa was able to make it. I understand he didn't even need any extra pillows! (Sorry, Bob – low blow). I was holding my breath that Joe would be able to find something that kept him in the area. That's a great relief. Danny said it quite well – the greatest strength of the chorus is Joe.

I will be interested in seeing how the two-at-a-time learning program goes. I bet it will work. Learning is something that has to be improved down here. The problem is that a number of our members are snow birds and travel North in the summer. So there is a reluctance to introduce new material when they are gone. Our new director (and his assistant) are working on solving that problem. Two at a time could be part of the solution!

The Mid-Winter Convention is fast approaching. I will be there and have a hotel room at convention center for both Friday and Saturday nights. Ray Wixted is going to make it. I hope that a number of Mad Hatters will make the trip as well.

Jet Blue out of White Plains has a direct flight to Tampa and it's cheap. I'm buying! Well, at least the first round. My seats are Orchestra, Row G, Seats 12 and 13.

I've also booked the national convention at the Marriott Philadelphia Downtown from June 28 to July 5. I hope a large contingent from Danbury will be there. My seats are Section A2, Row B, Seats 7 and 8.

Nancy and I are doing quite well. We've made many new friends but miss our long-standing ones. We do have one guest room! When we came down here last January as guests of Paul and Jan, we had no intention or even a remote idea of relocating. But, by the end of that week, we had bought a house! One never knows.

I wish all the Mad Hatters and their families a great 2010! Thank you, Mister Bradley, for six great years as our leader. You and Bob Smith were the best Presidents we had – and I saw them all.

Sing well Rare Occasion! Sing well, Mad Hatters! What a marvelous hobby!!!

## Quartet Corner

*News from our chorus quartets*



### Rare Occasion – By Fred Baran

On Monday evening January 18, we were invited to sing at the rehearsal of the Silk City Chorus in Manchester, Connecticut. This is the home chapter of our bass, Steve Holtz, and it was the second time in the past few months that we appeared before them. They had just held their annual show over the previous weekend and were looking forward to a relaxed evening of singing and camaraderie.

We sang "September Song," "Where Or When," "Don't Be A Baby, Baby" and "Swing Down Chariot," which were warmly received. The appearance allowed us an opportunity to perform some new songs with our bass as he learns more of our repertoire.

After the meeting, we joined the chapter at the Pub in Manchester for some libation and group singing. Rare Occasion taught the Silk City Chorus a new tag, "Trees," which is one of our favorites. It was a long ride, but an enjoyable evening.

Prior to the Tuesday night meeting on January 19, we rehearsed with Terry Dunkle singing bass as we prepared for Singing Valentines. Terry has graciously agreed to fill in at bass on those days that Steve is unable to join us for Valentines.

After our rehearsal, Terry stayed on to join the Danbury chorus rehearsal and we hopefully relit his "barbershop flame" to return to the meetings on a regular basis.

Terry has a wonderful bass (his natural range) and has been a tremendous asset to the Mad Hatters. He's been sorely missed during the past year. Along with the rest of the Mad Hatters, we look forward to his return.

Despite the erroneous report in the latest *Harmonizer*, Terry is in excellent health and "still with us." We won't have to learn "Zombie Jamboree."

### Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

**To me, boxing is like a ballet, except there's no music, no choreography, and the dancers hit each other.**



## 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

My husband and I enjoyed your performance very much at First Night. I'm a professional photographer, but that night I was taking photographs just for fun for myself. I do have two very nice photos of all of you singing, and one of the audience listening if you would like to have them.

Marleen

*Thanks Marlene. We'll be happy to share your pictures with our reader.*



The Mad Hatters performing inside the Palace Theater



*Spectators enjoying the performance in the lobby*

*Pictures by Marleen Cafarelli, PhotoArtWorks.info*

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## Stories About Songwriters

*By Fred Baran*

In many ways, Cole Porter's life reads like that of a theatre hero. Born to wealth, educated in the finest schools, he disobeyed family wishes by turning from a "respectable" career of a lawyer to that of a popular music composer.

After a tour of duty in the French Foreign Legion, he succeeded in popular music, was reinstated in his grandfather's affections, and with his wife, the beautiful Linda Lee, became a world traveler and renowned party giver. But, beyond the facade there was Porter the artist, who later overcame a crippling horse-riding accident to continue to supply some of Broadway's most memorable evenings.

Porter's family was wealthy thanks to his grandfather's success in West Virginia coal and timber speculation. Cole's mother saw to it that he began studying violin at six and piano at eight. By 1903, he had composed two songs, one of which, "The Bobolink Waltz," his mother had published. His grandfather, though, felt that Cole must become a lawyer.

Porter attended Worchester Academy in Massachusetts, then Yale. While there he wrote two of Yale's great fight songs, "Bingo Eli Yale" and "Yale Bulldog Song." In 1913, after graduating from Yale, he entered Harvard Law School. Finally, his grandfather relented and he soon switched to the School of Music. There he turned out his first Broadway score, *See America First* (1916), in collaboration with T. Lawrason Riggs.

When the show flopped, Porter took off for North Africa and joined the French Foreign Legion. He took along a portable piano and entertained his comrades, and during World War I, he helped teach gunnery to American soldiers in France.

Cole Porter was twenty-three when his first Broadway show *See America First* was written, but then, for the next twelve years, he not only saw America, but spent most of his time living in Europe and traveling around the world.

After the war, Porter sailed for the United States to ask his grandfather for a larger allowance. As his career took off, some of his early songs paid off so well, Cole was able to set up regal residence in Europe. His income was soon augmented by a million dollar bequest from his grandfather's will which allowed him to tour the world and give lavish parties. During most of the twenties, his musical output was slight.

In the late 1920's, his theatrical career began in earnest. He turned out a series of scores, both words and music,- for musical comedies celebrated for their sophisticated wit, outstanding performances and melodic inventiveness.

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## Cole Porter

*Continued from the previous page*

In 1930, he wrote *The New Yorkers* and in 1932, *The Gay Divorcee*. The former included the sultry "Love for Sale," and the latter include "Night and Day." Over the next few years, he wrote the score for *Anything Goes* (1934,) *Jubilee* (1935) and *Red Hot and Blue* (1936). But in 1937, he was riding at a friend's estate in Long Island when the horse fell on him and crushed his legs.

For a time, doctors thought that amputation of both legs would be necessary. He underwent dozens of operations to save them until 1958, when the right leg had to be amputated. Despite this, Porter went back to writing and also continued his worldwide travels.

In 1946, a motion picture was written about his life starring Cary Grant as Cole Porter. Among some of his more well known hits are; "Wunderbar," "From This Moment On," "C'est Magnifique," "It's All Right With Me," "Easy To Love," "You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To," "It's Delovely" and "My Heart Belongs To Daddy."

Among my personal favorites are "Night And Day," "True Love," "In the Still Of The Night," "Don't Fence Me In," "I Love Paris" and "I Concentrate On You."

Cole Porter was born on June 9,1891, in Peru, Indiana, and died on October 15,1964, in Santa Monica, California.

## Emails

*Continued from the previous page*

I noticed in the January *Hatter Chatter* that Don Smith, our Sunshine Chairman, celebrated his birthday this month. 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

P.S. I think the Baritone jokes are much funnier.

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

## The President's Podium

*By Danny Anderson*



This year already appears to be a busy time for the Danbury chapter. The first quarter alone has us working with our Sing A's coach, providing Singing Valentines, extended rehearsals, several sing outs and hosting the Barbershop contest in March.

As the new President of this chapter I attended the recent training session of COTS. Many interesting things were addressed concerning the business end of the chapter. Alan Lampson, soon to be President of Barbershop International and a member of the Manchester chapter, was the instructor of my class. Twenty one chapters were represented in these sessions of which 16 attendees are new presidents like me.

Also attending classes from our chapter were Andy Bayer, Dixon DeMarche, Bob Bradley and Joe Hudson. Each attended classes within their sphere of interest. Many new ideas were obtained about how to make chapter meetings enjoyable and to encourage our membership to invite friends to our meetings.

The Installation dinner was well attended and a good time was had by all. The food, fellowship and singing were all good. Most of our new members were present. Should our membership continue to grow we will need to take over one entire side of the restaurant. It was good to honor Bob Bradley for his years of service along with Andy, Dick, Bob and Lee for their various achievements last year.

We have had several different people commenting about how much the chorus has improved in its singing since the annual show. They talk about the blend and the confidence with which we are singing. We should be proud of this accomplishment; however we still have lots of work before us with respect to our choreography.

Singing Valentines has been a fun and profitable activity for the chapter. We have three, possibly four quartets preparing to sing, however we need people to sing to. There will be advertisements in area newspapers, however the best gigs we can have come from those we obtain from friends and associates. I would encourage each member to schedule one gig; that would be over 30 singing opportunities plus those received from the advertisements.

Many of our members have begun to volunteer their assistance during the competition. We will need the help of all members to make this a successful weekend. Bob Bradley has worked with the events people from the District to set up the hotel accommodations. The contest will be held at Danbury High School on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Let's have a good month, strive to work hard, practice our music and moves so that we will be the best chorus at the competition.

# Robert's Raconteuring

By Robert Bradley



Leadership Academy, formerly known as COTS, was, for the first time in years, interesting. Andy Bayer and I attended a seminar on chorus meetings and, it turns out, life in general. The instructor had the personality to pull off an entire day of talking without being boring. It turns out we could have used another day.

Andy and I came away with different takes on the day, which is a good thing. The course taught me that success comes from good management.

For quite a while I have asked that a course in management be taught at COTS, and we finally got one under a different name. There is nothing that can be taken back from that course that can be used unless the chorus has the wherewithal to implement it.

By this I mean you need a management team that will change with the times and a dynamic director to pull all of the ideas off. At the last rehearsal, you saw some of the ideas in play and more will be coming in future rehearsals. The basic idea is to involve as many members as possible in taking on chores that lead to a more successful chorus. This also calls for breaking with some long time held notions of what it is we do.

The instructor had an article from a scientific paper that only Steve Horhota (doctor of chemistry) could read. It explained that science has established harmony as being pleasant to humans. Not just slightly pleasant but pleasant in a big way. The history of man contains music from our very first cave residents up to the glorious beasts that we have become. Music did soothe the savage beast and still does.

Science has tracked areas of pleasure in the brain. When these areas are "hit" with human harmony, the brain "lights up." Seems we need food, shelter, water, sex and music to be a happy human.

Also of interest to all of us, a capella harmony seems to have a response in the mind that is off the charts. We are not only singers but keepers of an art form that has a tremendous ability to affect an audience. From the classic to the modern, music (except for Charles Ives) has perfected harmonies. Listen to Miles Davis' "Kind of Blue," or any truly harmonic music and you will feel how the dopamine flows in the brain.

When I was a kid and wanted to loosen up a lady, nothing worked better than Frank or Johnny Mathis and Amaretto. With that in mind, is it not our duty to humanity to sing as well as we can every time we get the chance.

An important point also was that when singing, most of the time the audience sees the rear end of the director and not us.

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# December Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



*Submitted in its entirety by Robert Golenbock, Secretary*

*Meeting called to order by President, "What Did I Get Myself Into" Anderson at 6:08pm on 1/5/10 at the Church of Christ*

SECRETARY'S REPORT was received politely. Motion to accept by Art Roberts, seconded by J. Hudson, because he can. Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A quiet month. Robert Golenbock suggested we look into putting some money into a credit union where the rates are higher but the money is more liquid than a CD. We received a \$500 grant from NY Life Insurance Company. which we are putting into a riser fund. Fred Baran suggested keeping a separate record of funds available for risers. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by R. Golenbock and seconded by Andy Bayer. Approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: For different reasons, Lyle, Joe, Danny, and Jimmy all need updates of our membership, including name, address, phone, and e-mail. The secretary will keep them apprised. Our new VP of Membership will present a report next month after attending the Leadership Academy.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: We are registering our chorus with [www.singingvalentines.com](http://www.singingvalentines.com). We are trying to rewrite a flyer so the Chamber of Commerce will distribute it. The Chamber will not accept copy with specific dates.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Report is in the Hatter Chatter.

OLD BUSINESS: Joe Millet, District VP-Events for the Northeastern District, gave a presentation about our responsibilities for the upcoming competition. Joe sang with the Mad Hatters years ago, so he is very excited and grateful for our participation. The Danbury High School and the Danbury Hotel and Conference Center are already set. Our chapter has a free hospitality suite. As hosts, we receive a fee of \$500 for our riser fund. All costs are borne by the District. We are also welcome to sell ads for the program and receive a cut of the proceeds. We do need to get volunteers for transporting judges to the event and back and forth from the competition site. Lyle will chair the transportation committee. We need backstage workers, drivers, movers, and equipment movers.

NEW BUSINESS: In view of our recent sing-out cancellation due to inclement weather, we discussed our policy. The President, Program Director, Director, and Music Director will communicate several hours before the sing-out and start the phone and e-mail tree in the event of a cancellation.

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## The Director's Den

By Joe Hudson

### Joel's Alphabet Returns

So far we have A, B, C, D, E, F and G. What else can come next besides...H! And no, I won't say it's for Hudson. Instead, "H" is for HAVE FUN WHILE YOU SING.

If while you are singing you are not smiling, how can the audience members know you're enjoying yourself? In the words of one of my favorite tags to sing, "A smile is still worthwhile, darn ya, smile!"

# H

How can we make sure we're smiling? A simple way to do that is through practice. Whenever you hear a pitch-pipe blow during rehearsal or performance, start smiling, and don't stop until the end of the show or rehearsal. Notice I didn't say to stop smiling at the end of the song.

It takes a lot of work, but believe me, singing becomes brighter, and the audiences have more fun when we smile. So, always have fun when you sing!

### Outburst!

The Yankee Division spring contest is going to see the return of Danbury's VLQ (Very Large Quartet) from last year, Outburst!

This year we are preparing a sentimental favorite and a comedy piece for contest. Our members are going to be Joe Hudson, Bob Bradley, Dan Griffin, Danny Anderson, John Bradley, Chuck Kreiger, Dick Zang, Dickson DeMarche, Dick Walter, and Andy Bayer.

Anyone who wants to form another VLQ for contest, please do. Also, you can be a member of more than one VLQ simultaneously. One year, when the contest was in Manchester, two VLQs performed and at least two singers were in both.

Just remember, a VLQ is more than four singers and fewer than 12.

So, as the host chapter, let's show them what Danbury can do in the quartet, chorus, and VLQ competitions!

### Changes in Rehearsals

Hello, members of the Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus. After sitting in on the Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings at Leadership Academy, we are going to be trying some new things during rehearsals. I would like to take this time to explain what some of the things and roles are going to be.

*Continued on the next page*

## Board Meeting

*Continued from the previous page*

We have 16 more rehearsals before the competition. As we have removed all qualifications for participation, we have decided to require attendance at a minimum of 11 rehearsals, including one Thursday rehearsal and the dress rehearsal on March 16, unless excused by the President. Please note the 5 extra Thursday rehearsals from 7:30pm to 9pm. The dates have been circulated. This decision was approved as a motion made by R. Golenbock, and seconded by A. Bayer.

Joe is trying to sell some of our old risers. We hope to make \$350-500/per riser and replace them with new light-weight ones.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm. Next meeting on February 2.

## New Member News

By Joe Hudson

At the Mad Hatter's January 26 meeting, potential new members Joe West and Nate Chester returned to sing with the chorus. Nate has handed in his application, Joe West is working on filling his out. We had another guest, Jim Panzarino, attend as well. We hope he comes back to sing with the lead section again. Thanks to their riser buddies: Jim Panzarino had Danny Anderson, Nate Chester has Bob Bradley, and Joe West has Dick Zang.

Also, we had some fun before the January 26 rehearsal just singing through some tags. Join us next time we do it and see how much fun it is.



*One more view of the Danbury Mad Hatters singing at First Night Danbury. Picture by Michael Duncan*

## Rehearsals

*Continued from the previous page*

We are now developing scripts for the meetings. These are basically similar to detailed lesson plans for teachers. This will help us focus on exactly what we are working on at a certain time and on a certain song.

The rehearsal script will be emailed to chorus members three to five days before rehearsal. If someone can print a copy for the members who do not have email and get it to them, it will be greatly appreciated.

Next are the roles people will play during rehearsals. And what each entails

*Guest Introducer* – The member who will introduce guests twice during rehearsals, once at beginning, and again at the business meeting, with a twist.

*Listeners* – members who will listen for certain things during each song.

*Audio Chair* – listens occasionally away from chorus to get the overall sound of the chorus as opposed to individuals.

*Watcher* – goes out in front of the chorus and helps with posture.

*Visual Coach* – helps with the visual package of a song (faces and moves).

*Audience Advocate* – these will be used during repertoire rehearsals and they will think as an audience member will.

*Entertainment Coach* – Works with the Audience Advocate to prioritize what the audience would want fixed.

*Mini-Group Coaches* – we are going to do mini-groups which are different from sectionals, as members are in four-part groups and do dueting.

The coach will work on intonation, synchronization, style techniques, and vocal production. While the coach is working with two singers, the others are learning from the coach, but learning how to be a coach themselves.

*Rhythm Coach* – listens for rhythm issues, tempo issues, etc.

*Meeting Evaluator* – asks one question – how well did everything work?

Don't worry if it seems a lot right now, it will all come into light in time, and before long, everyone will know what they are good at, what they enjoy doing, and how we will be working to make it a great chorus of 40 members (a goal).

## Requirements for District Convention

### GENERAL NEEDS - Local Host Provides

Transportation for judges to and from their arrival point(s).

Van(s) for Friday and Saturday transportation of judges, VIPs, and their wives. If necessary, quartet transportation from dressing/warm-up rooms to competition site.

Appoint one person to act as liaison between the Convention Team Judges, Host and the van drivers. His job is to handle Judges and VIP transportation only.

A machine to copy scoring summaries

Arrangements to have scoring summaries distributed. Paper size will be determined once method of recording the scores is chosen. Chapter to buy the paper (a different color for each session of the contests). The District will reimburse the chapter.

Maps showing the route from the hotel(s) to the contest site.

Mike tester quartet for Friday night and Saturday. The District Convention Team Chairman will arrange for a quartet if the chapter doesn't have a quartet to do the job.

Will Local Host Chapter director be available to direct both anthems prior to the contest start on Friday night and K.T.W.W.S. on Saturday night? Consider asking the director of the District Chorus Champion to direct K.T.W.W.S. on Saturday night at the Spring and Fall Conventions.

### NEEDS AT CONTEST SITE - Provided by Local Host

Tables and chairs set up in the orchestra area for the judges and practice panel as shown in Exhibit .

Arrange to provide light refreshments in judges room during intermission on Friday night and Saturday afternoon only.

Water for the judges' tables.

Podium for Master of Ceremony to be located on the same side of the stage as the Contest Administrators' table and the quartet entrance.

Risers for stage and, if necessary, a set of risers for the final warm-up room.

A quartet shell.

One table and two chairs set up near doors for ticket sales.

Five tables set up in the lobby for NED Shed sales.

*Continued on the next page*

# Contest Requirements

*Continued from the previous page*

Two tables set up in the lobby for Marketing/PR and/or Youth Outreach displays. Provide power to these two tables.

Flood or spot lights, if necessary, to light the entire stage.

Name cards on each room with the name of the contestant (chorus and/or quartet) assigned to the room. The rooms should be set in the order of appearance. Check with the Back Stage Coordinator. Also, label the judges' room, photography room, final warm-up room, and holding room.

A person on Saturday afternoon to act as curtain puller for the contest, if necessary.

Enough manpower to assist the Convention Team including arrangements to have enough men backstage after the contest on Saturday night to assist with the breakdown of risers and shell.

Public sales registrations are to be forwarded to Local Host Chapter for pre-convention sales. Local Host Chapter Chairman should contact the District Convention Team Chairman to make arrangements to receive these registrations.

Assign at least two members to the Competitor's Room on Friday afternoon and evening and on Saturday morning and afternoon.

Provide a sound system for the contest site.

Approval of the sound system must be obtained from the DVP of Events prior to any commitment for the system.

The system must be approved by the Contest Administrator prior to the start of the contests on the convention weekend.

## **DISTRICT CONVENTION TEAM TO PROVIDE**

Manpower to run a successful convention.

Masters of Ceremony for all events (except Division only contests)

Registration cards completed for convention (Spring, Regional and Fall Conventions only)

Programs for conventions (Spring, Regional and Fall Conventions only)

Local Host Chapter to prepare and provide programs for Division only contest (This is an expense that will be reimbursed by the District).

If Local Host Chapter decides to sell advertising for the program, the income (beyond the expenses of printing the programs) will remain with the Local Host Chapter.

Single event registrations provided to Local Host Chapter approximately six weeks prior to the convention.

Judges signal system.

# Raconteuring

*Continued from Page 7*

Although we are blessed with directors and assistants with lovely rears, it is much better that we sing directly to the audience and bring them into our performance. I always wanted Joe to wear a sign on his back that says, "This space for rent."

Getting to sing better is what the whole class was about, and to have more fun doing it. That is what Joe will be introducing during the coming weeks. Andy and I thought so much of the class that we brought Joe to audit the last session and gave him a CD with the entire program. There are some parts that we cannot use at this time, but I am sure that we will get there.

I am proudly one of life's great cynics and I stopped the instructor after the class and told him that of all the classes I have taken in life and all the seminars, (real estate is full of them), his was the only one where I was not bored out of my mind.

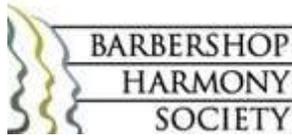
The ideas that work for him will not work for most of the choruses as they do not have the dynamic and inventive director that we do. The most important issue that was not brought up in class was: who will pull this off? We can and will and we will sing better and have more fun.

Rambling ideas: Looking at the *Harmonizer* this month, is that the Four Lads singing with the big harmony show? Sure is. At the International in Nashville, the Oak Ridge Boys were on stage. Will they be talking about barbershop?, Yes they will.

Will an audience come to see other singers and be exposed to us and say I can do that ?

In the words of a famous Alaskan politician, "You betcha.". Do we need to partner with more and different kinds of singing to expose our music to more and more people? "You betcha." When you look around at COTS and Harmony College, are there more and more women there? "You betcha". Do they have husbands and boyfriends and sons and nephews? I think you get the point here.

At our Installation dinner, I was given a very nice plaque by the chorus. The 13 years as chapter president flew by, and by and large, I enjoyed almost all of them. I want to thank you all for allowing me to be the president for so many years. Thanks to all for putting up with me. Change is important to me and something I find comforting. The ways that we do things are good if they work. We should never stop looking for new ways to improve and new ways to get our art to the public.



### Get Started on Facebook and Twitter

If anyone is looking to learn how to get started on Facebook and Twitter, here is a class offered by HP. It is free and it is online. The Society and my District are both working on creating classes that are more geared towards barbershoppers, but you will find this very useful. In fact, there are a lot of useful courses offered via HP that could help you in your barbershop life.

Here is the link:

[http://h30187.www3.hp.com/articles/viewArticle/p/courseId/38749/Facebook and Twitter getting started quick lesson .htm?courseSessionId=249157&campusId=11260&webPageId=1000012&hplcpSessionId=60fafaed074fc059e387edd8192b](http://h30187.www3.hp.com/articles/viewArticle/p/courseId/38749/Facebook%20and%20Twitter%20getting%20started%20quick%20lesson.htm?courseSessionId=249157&campusId=11260&webPageId=1000012&hplcpSessionId=60fafaed074fc059e387edd8192b)

### NED SHED

I am now taking orders from Chapter, Quartets and Individual Members of the NED. The NED SHED will be at the Western Regional /Prelims on March 19-20 in Danbury, CT. Also taking orders for the Eastern Regional Contest to be held in the Nashua, NH area April 9-10.

I am taking order for the following items: Chapter Supplies including MUSIC & Learning CDs, Special DVD's, CDs. Manuals, Anything that you can order from the Harmony Marketplace you can order from the NED SHED. The advantage is that you will NOT have to PAY for SHIPPING + HANDLING CHARGES. NO TAXES. So there is a savings for you. When Ordering PLEASE have the following items on the Order Form.

Name  
Address  
Phone Number  
email  
Item Number  
Item Name  
Quantity  
Price

When Ordering please put NED SHED Order in subject line. All Orders must be in mine hands by FEB 15th, as orders must be in 1 month prior to the contest date of March 19th. Please note no separate order will be placed for the Eastern Regional Contest.

Send questions and orders to Scott Salladin NED SHED Chairman, [LKahuna@hvc.rr.com](mailto:LKahuna@hvc.rr.com).

### Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival

[festival@harmony-sweepstakes.com](http://festival@harmony-sweepstakes.com)

#### Music Festival seeks a cappella groups

For over a quarter century, the Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival has been delighting audiences nationwide by presenting hundreds of top notch vocal harmony groups in eight major cities from coast to coast. Set as a competition, the winners of regional events are flown to San Francisco to compete in the National Finals and for the opportunity to be crowned National Champions. The Harmony Sweeps were the inspiration of the recent NBC hit show. *The Sing Off*, which demonstrated something the Harmony Sweeps audiences and performers have known for decades – a cappella singing competitions are lots of fun!

Well, here we go again for our 26th year and times could hardly be better for a cappella, with a rising tide of interest and main stream recognition, as well as the exposure and experience, the Harmony Sweeps has always been able to provide. There is the added bonus that the Sweeps web site has become a clearing house for people looking to book a cappella group. A regional Google search for a cappella groups brings up the relevant Harmony Sweeps page where we have scores of groups listed with photos, blurbs and links to their web sites.

Groups have been reporting numerous contacts including media appearances and the always welcome corporate gigs. Diversity has always been one of the strengths of the Harmony Sweeps and we take great pride in presenting a wide as possible variety of a cappella groups. We welcome all genres of vocal harmony including, vocal jazz, pop, gospel, barbershop, world, choral and any combination thereof. We also welcome all ages and types of groups including pro, semi-pro, collegiate, high school, kids, church and community groups.

If you can entertain an audience, then we want to hear from you! Groups of up to 8 members are welcome to apply.

There's a lot of fun and opportunity to be had for those who like to sing so we encourage groups to submit an application. Do remember that groups only need a maximum of 10 minutes of music so if you currently don't have a group there's time to get a handful of singing buddies together and create a short fun set and then come to the show and sing for us all. Who knows what might happen.. Entries are already coming in and we recommend submitting your material soon.

## American Harmony

American Harmony, the movie documentary, is coming to the Regent Theater in Arlington, MA, Friday February, 5th and Saturday, February 6th. This will be the first New England Showing of the movie that many of us have been wanting to see for months.

Every year thousands compete in the world's greatest singing competition that you've never heard of. *American Harmony* journeys deep into the ultra-obsessive, zany, and heartfelt world of competitive barbershop singing, where passion is equaled only by raw talent, and the reward is not fame or fortune, but simply victory.

The film focuses on four quartets vying to win the International Championships of Barbershop Singing, in what turns out to be the closest and most controversial victory in its 70 year history.

Max Q is the heavy favorite, a superstar quartet comprised of former Champions. Looking to upset them is OC Times (The Heart-Throbs), Vocal Spectrum (The Rookies) and Reveille, an aging foursome who that has been together for 30 years.

In total, fifty quartets duke it out for the coveted gold medal, while facing the pressures of quartet life - from big egos to brain cancer and everything in between.

In addition to a watching great movie, we will be doing what we love best...singing! We are combining the screening of the movie with an open mic session beforehand and we will be having an afterglow party, either at the theater, or perhaps at a Nearby Restaurant or Church Hall (we are working on that). Stand by for more detail..plan to have lots of fun.

Doors will open at 7:00 PM and we expect the movie to run 8:00-9:30. And after that it's pah-tee time. We will try to accommodate any quartets or choruses that want to sing.

Tickets and details are available at:

[http://www.regenttheatre.com/events/American\\_Harmony.htm](http://www.regenttheatre.com/events/American_Harmony.htm)

Be prepared to have a great time. Yours, in Harmony,  
Lee Daum  
VP of Membership

## Spring Convention Season

Hello, NED barbershop brothers! Welcome to another exciting spring season of conventions, contests, fun, and singing.

This spring we are holding three separate conventions:

NED International Quartet Preliminary plus Mountain and Yankee Divisions at Danbury, Connecticut, March 19-20.

The contests will choose our quartet representatives to the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Quartet Contest in Philadelphia in July, plus the usual Division quartet, chorus, district qualifiers, and VLQ awards for the Mountain and Yankee Divisions.\

The Regional Convention featuring the Patriot and Granite & Pine Divisions at Nashua, New Hampshire, April 9-10. The contests will choose the Division Champion quartets, choruses, district qualifiers, and VLQs from Patriot and Granite & Pine Divisions.

Sunrise Division Convention at Fredericton, New Brunswick. The contests will choose the Division Champion quartets, choruses, district qualifiers, and VLQs from the Sunrise Division.

Take note of these dates and locations, as some have changed since original posting on the NED website and other sources.

To register to compete in any of the above contests, your quartet, chorus, and/or VLQ needs to enter the CJ-20 process through the EBIZ portal of the BHS website. Go to the site and click on "Members Only." Find "Contest Entry" among the tabs at the top of the first page--click on that and follow instructions.

The first contests (Prelims, Mountain, and Yankee) are open for registration at this time. The other two conventions will be posted soon and another notification will be sent. All registrations must be completed 30 days before the convention date. The deadline for the March contests is February 17!

Please attend to this now and avoid "missing the boat."

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at these events and getting in plenty of singing and socializing!

Steve Plumb  
NED VP of Contest and Judging (a.k.a. NED DRCJ)



**February 12, 13 and 14**  
**Contact :**  
**Dick at 203-438-8154,**  
**Bob at 845-225-4919**  
**Email [prealty@snet.com](mailto:prealty@snet.com)**

# Ye Olde Joke Boarde



*Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper*

**A cruise ship hired a magician**, who was a barbershop baritone, to entertain the passengers. Since the passengers changed every four or five days, the magician was able to perform the same tricks over and over. Unfortunately, the captain of the ship had a parrot who sat around and watched the magician perform his tricks, over and over. Eventually, the parrot learned how the tricks were done and would interrupt the act.

"It's in his sleeve," the parrot would say. "He switched balls." "It's in his pocket." Etc., etc.

Naturally, the baritone magician was quite disturbed by the parrot but could do nothing about it, since it belonged to the Captain. The cruise ship had the misfortune of hitting an iceberg and sank to the bottom of the sea in a matter of minutes. As fate would have it, the magician and the parrot managed to grab hold of the same floating piece of furniture. For three days, neither said anything. The baritone magician stared at the parrot and the parrot stared back. Finally, on the fourth day, the parrot cracked and said:

"OK, I give up. Where on Earth did you put the ship?"

**Jane and her barbershop baritone husband** live in Chicago. One winter morning while listening to the radio, they hear the announcer say, "We are going to have 3 to 4 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even numbered side of the street, so the snowplow can get through."

Jane's husband goes out and moves his car. A week later, while they are eating breakfast, the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 4 to 5 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the odd numbered side of the street, so the snowplow can get through."

Jane's husband goes out and moves his car again. The next week they are having breakfast again, when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park...", then the electric power goes out.

Jane's baritone husband says, "Honey, I don't know what to do."

Jane says, "Why don't you just leave it in the garage this time?"

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## Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

### Performance A

Always  
I Feel a Song Coming On  
The Way You Look Tonight  
You Make Me Feel So Young  
Cabaret  
Heart  
Hey, Look Me Over  
There is Nothing Like a Dame

### Performance B

I Found a Million Dollar Baby  
I'm Always Chasing Rainbows  
Sh-Boom  
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do  
How Are Things in Glocca Morra  
Over the Rainbow

Please, Mr. Columbus  
Take Me To The Quarry And I'll Get  
A Little Bolder

### Patriotic

Star-Spangled Banner  
America the Beautiful  
God Bless America

### Inspirational

I Believe  
Let There Be Peace on Earth  
Lord's Prayer  
Amazing Grace

### Upcoming Songs

Give My Regards to Broadway

You'll Never Walk Alone  
This Land Is Your Land  
Lullaby in Ragtime  
If I Loved You  
Satan Gave Me a Taco



"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>Dickson DeMarche</b>
<b>Music VP:</b>	<b>Jim Hopper</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Robert Golenbock</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Dick Walter</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Fred Baran</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Art Roberts</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Charlie Rosa</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*  
46 Worthington Court  
Lake Carmel, NY 10512  
[Jbrad1313@earthlink.net](mailto:Jbrad1313@earthlink.net)

*Dick Zang, Chatter editor*  
2 Camelot Crest  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482  
[jezang@charter.net](mailto:jezang@charter.net)

*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*

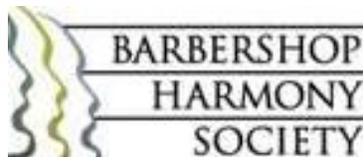
## February Milestones

### *Birthdays:*

5 - Linda Anderson  
7 - Jane Huester  
8 - Vikki Bradley

### *Wedding Anniversaries:*

9 - Chuck and Judith Kreiger



## Mark Your Calendars

**February 16:** Mad Hatter Sing-out, Bethel Health Care Center, Cascades. 13 Parklawn Drive, Bethel, CT. Warm-up 6:30 PM, sing 7:00 PM.

**March 6:** Mad Hatter Sing-out, Meadow Ridge.100 Redding Road, Redding, CT. Warm-up 3:30 PM, sing 4:00 PM.

**March 20:** Yankee Division Convention. Danbury High School. See details below.

**March 23:** Mad Hatter Sing-out, Ridgefield Crossings, 640 Danbury Rd., Ridgefield, CT. Warm-up 6:30 PM, sing 7:00 PM.

**October 2:** Mad Hatter Annual Show. Brookfield High School.

## Contest: There's Work to Do!

*By Bob Bradley*

Contest is March 19 and 20, plenty of time to mark calendars and get ready. Most of the work is being done by a few in the chorus and the NED events team, but we need help from all chorus members.

We are going to have to run the quartet contest on Friday evening. It starts at 7:00 PM and goes until it is over. Then, there is an open house at the Danbury Hotel and Conference Center off Exit 2 (I-84). On Friday, we need to be at Danbury High School after 4:00 PM and hopefully no later than 6:00 for those of you who are working.

Saturday, the school opens at 9:00 AM. We need volunteers badly on this day as we will be singing. Wives, sons, daughters and friends can all be recruited to pitch in. The chorus contest starts at 11:00 AM, followed by the VLQ. There is a break, then at 7:00 PM the International qualifying quartet finals begin.

We need quartet mic testers who are not singing in contest at all three events on Friday evening, Saturday at 11:00 and Saturday at 7:00. The sound of quartets must be good so that judges can evaluate the system.

Vounteers will man the doors, two people at each door outside and one inside (six people total). We also need people to shuttle competitors from class to ready room and off stage to photos. We need the door people to keep order outside in the hall while singing is going on. There are no stairs

Saturday evening there is an open house hosted by Danbury starting after the quartet finals, which should be over at about 9:00 PM