



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

February 2014

Singers Slip and Slide to Satisfy Valentines

By John Bradley

Danbury – Quartets of the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus fanned-out over western Connecticut and eastern New York State on February 12th through 16th, delivering songs, roses and cards to 37 valentines.

Weather was not on love's side on Thursday the 13th, as the area got socked with another storm in this season of sub-zero temperatures, ice and two-feet deep snow. But Valentine's Day broke with some sun, and the quartets were able to deliver their messages with and without four wheel drive.

"We are lucky the weather broke in our favor on Valentine's Day" said Real Chemistry bass, Dick Walter. Not only is this day a lot of fun but it's an important fundraiser for the chorus."



*Traveling Men deliver a Singing Valentine.
Photo by Linda Anderson,*

Lead, Robert Golenbock, probably should have waited until after Valentine's Day to trade in his SUV. "We had a final gig in Ridgefield," Bob explained. "The driveway was very long and followed a roundabout course up and down a number of small hills. We swerved around at a high rate of speed because we would have gotten stuck if I used the brake. We delivered our valentine and made it home alive."

Just proves even snow and ice can't stop a barbershopper on a mission of song!

What Annual Show???

By Andy Bayer

Lest anyone forget, our 49th Annual (and BEST ever) Show will be taking place on Saturday evening, May 17th, at the Ives Concert Hall of Western Connecticut State University. And you, my fellow Mad Hatters will be integral to making it a success. How???

First of all, by putting forth your absolute best effort to consistently attend and be prepared for our rehearsals. You need to know more than just the words and notes. As we have learned from our coaches, our artistry and the magic for the audience starts once those bare minimum basics have become routine. So, be especially attentive to the story we are telling, sing with emotion and follow Joe's direction. Those elements only become mastered and perfected with repetition - both at home and, even more importantly, at weekly rehearsals. We want to continue on our upward "growth" trajectory and peak at just the right time in front of our biggest audience!!

It's also important to work seriously and steadily with your annual show committee partners. We have subdivided the logistical preparation work for the show into 11 committee assignments. I have been impressed with the talent already exhibited by those whose committee assignments had early "due dates." To date, we have a performance venue, contracted headliner talent, hotel accommodations for Vocal Spectrum, flyers announcing our show to multiple audiences, a program book cover, an advance sale ticket program and a specialized roll-out program for soliciting program ads for our book. Other committees will be beginning their work shortly and will become more active as our performance date approaches. If you are not already assigned to a committee (or a committee finds that it is in need of additional support), you may be asked to assist. Please do so. Our success is literally dependent upon more than just moral support!! The most highly valued support we need is "hands-on."

I have come to learn that organizing the logistics of the Annual Show is an effort, much like rowing a boat, that benefits most from all participants pulling in the same direction at the same time to propel us forward.

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Annual Show

Continued from the previous page

Therefore, our true success is dependent upon each of us doing his share to help us meet our goal of organizing and putting on the most remarkable show that we are certainly capable of doing

As show chairman, I want you to know some of the specifics of our commitment: the expense budget for the annual show is approximately \$6,700. This is a much more significant financial commitment than in years past and we are going to need your specific energy and help in bringing in program ads, angel ads, and filling seats (selling tickets) in order to make this show as much of a financial success as an artistic one!

The ticket sales committee has recognized this and believes that Vocal Spectrum's appearance on our show is unique since it is their only east coast appearance on their calendar this year. We have, therefore, made a special effort to make NED chapters in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and several chapters in the nearby New York area aware of their appearance and our desire to provide them with an opportunity to see this International Championship quartet by purchasing a block of tickets at a favorably reduced rate---as long as they place their ticket order by April 4th. You, as members of the Mad Hatter chapter, will have the same option to purchase tickets for your family and friends at a favorably reduced rate if your purchase order occurs prior to April 4th (Find details elsewhere in this newsletter).

The program ad sales committee will be training all members soon on how to have the greatest opportunity for a successful ad solicitation. We recognize that not all of us are "sales" people and we therefore need to learn and practice those approaches that will put us at ease when attempting to solicit a program ad. Please approach this training in a positive way - we are attempting to make it "fun" as well as productive. And we will be asking each of you to put to use what you have learned in the training and commit to making this part of the program book and income producing side of the Annual Show budget a success by approaching a couple of businesses for their support.

I want to thank you all for bringing me "out of retirement" and giving me the opportunity to work alongside you as we collectively produce the most successful of our annual shows. Let's spread the joy of harmony to as many of our peers and other civilians as possible this May!!

Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

Drivers who speed in the snow often find themselves adrift.

Annual Show Advance Ticket Purchase Program

By Andy Bayer and Art Cilley

I am writing to you about what I believe is a fantastic opportunity for all barbershoppers in the Northeastern District: Vocal Spectrum, 2006 International Quartet Champions, featuring Tim Waurick, will be performing at our Annual Show on Saturday evening, May 17th.

This is their only scheduled performance on the East Coast this year.

If this weren't (great) news enough, we want to make it possible for you, your family members and friends to see this phenomenal quartet in person at a **favorably reduced rate!!** If you take advantage of this advance ticket purchase program you will be able to save up to four dollars per ticket (that's a 20% discount) compared to the regular general admission price. Consider it our Valentine's Day gift to you!

This advance ticket purchase program incorporates the following operational processes:

- **Members** within the chorus chapter can participate and purchase tickets for themselves, family and friends.
- Once a total number of ticket requests per chorus **member** has been determined, complete the attached order form, place it in an envelope along with your check and hand it to me at a chapter rehearsal.
- The per ticket fee will be determined by the total number of tickets ordered by the chapter **member**:
 - 1-4 tickets = \$18/ticket
 - 5-10 tickets = \$17/ticket.
 - 11+ = \$16/ticket.

Payment must be made by check made out to the **Danbury Chapter of the BHS**

Completed order form and payment must be received by April 4, 2014.

Tickets will be retrieved at the "Will Call" table in the auditorium lobby of the venue: Ives Concert Hall of the Western Connecticut State University, 181 White Street Danbury, Connecticut 06811. You will have to indicate whether ticket envelopes will be picked up by a chapter designee or by individual chapter attendees. It is strongly urged that attendees be at the venue by 7:10 pm to retrieve their tickets and find their seats. Seating is on a first come first serve basis and there is not a bad seat in the house!

In addition to Vocal Spectrum, you will hear the Mad Hatter Chorus, its quartets and SUREFIRE! (2013 Yankee Division Champions) present "Almost Like Being In Love." We are truly excited to be presenting this opportunity for you to hear such outstanding barbershop talent at our annual show this May and look forward to having you join us for what is sure to be THE barbershop event of the spring!!

Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus
2014 Annual Show - May 17th, 2014
Advance Ticket Order Form

Order Form must be received by April 4th, 2014 to receive special pricing

Contact Name: _____ Chapter Name: _____
E-mail Address: _____ Contact Phone: (cell) _____
(other) _____

of Tickets Ordered: _____

Price per ticket: (____ 1-4 @\$18)
(____ 5-10 @\$17)
(____ 11+ @\$16)

Amount due by Check: (# of Tickets x Cost per ticket) = \$_____

Complete one of the two options below to expedite ticket pick-up at the "Will Call" table:

a) Name of chapter designee who will be picking up envelope of tickets ordered above to distribute to other attending chorus members:

b) Names of persons picking up tickets and # of tickets/person to be placed in envelope:

<u>Individual's Name</u>	<u>(#)</u>	<u>Individual's Name</u>	<u>(#)</u>
_____	()	_____	()
_____	()	_____	()
_____	()	_____	()
_____	()	_____	()
_____	()	_____	()
_____	()	_____	()

No Refunds are available with this special advance ticket purchase program.

Return completed order form and check by April 4th 2014 to:

**Mr. Andrew Bayer
2103 Pinnacle Way
Danbury, Connecticut 06811**

Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets



Traveling Men – By Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox.

For the Traveling Men it is that time of the year again: time for the Division Contest. Two, sometimes three days a week, one will find the Travelers huddled in bass Andy Bayer's secret man-cave.

Our regular coach, Daryl Bornstein is, unfortunately, only occasionally available due to his now-regular appointments melting people's faces off with his wall of sound on Broadway while helping them put on a good face on certain morning telecasts. In his absence, he has loaned his trademark (semi-metaphorical) whip and chains to baritone Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox, who coincidentally is currently focusing his teaching and research on slicing, quartering, and other cruel methods of ancient torture. He has used these to great effect by forcing the group to spend hours singing only vowels while holding their lips in their hands.

Thus, the "Men" are rapidly becoming worthy of the second half of their name. We look forward to upcoming coaching sessions with Joe Hunter and continue to focus our repertoire on songs at least old enough to have been sung by Methuselah (who would undoubtedly fit in at many a barbershop convention).

The Traveling Men also were fully engaged in this year's Singing Valentine festivities. Over the course of several days, we serenaded Brazilian-American children, festively dressed hairdressers who would have made Morrissey proud and nice old ladies. In the hopes of maintaining peace on the home front despite our rehearsal schedule, valentines were enthusiastically given to tenor Art Cilley's wife, Charlotte, lead Danny Anderson's wife, Linda, and baritone Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox's wife, Sujata.

We even were asked to accompany a folk singer to two songs on the spot while he crooned to his wife (that was not our shining hour). We have all agreed that it is time to put "Sweet Roses of Morn" and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" on the back burner for a while.

Loco Fedor – By Dick Zang.

Loco Fedora stepped out on Friday, Valentine's Day, to carry musical greetings from romantic admirers to their beloveds. It was, appropriately, a sunny day. But because of the slush and snow banks from the previous days' storms, we had to forego our usual formalwear and instead appear in less impressive dress with only our four-in-hands in various shades of crimson to convey the message of the day.

We decided to begin our travels in my twentieth-century, four-wheel-drive Outback to improve our chances of a swift completion of our appointed rounds.



Only later, as highway and byway conditions improved, were we able to upgrade our transport mode to a modern vehicle more befitting the mission of our foursome.

Even so, our travels were not without inconveniences. At two of our stops, we were delayed by shovelers hurrying to clear our path. And we failed to deliver to only one person on our list.

Former member Paul Just, who now resides in Florida, wanted to make sure his three daughters, still in the Danbury area, weren't forgotten. Unfortunately, one daughter decided to take her family to Vermont for the weekend for some skiing, and with only one active skier in the quartet, we weren't quite up to that challenge.

As a quartet that has not rehearsed in a while, we were glad to have had the opportunity to brush up some old repertoire and try a few of the new chorus songs – all of which were well received. If the success of a valentine-singing quartet can be measured in the smiles and joyful tears of its audience, we had quite a day.

Real Chemistry – By John Bradley.

The quartet got off to a later than usual start for a Valentine's Day, mustering at the Holly Real Estate office in Lake Carmel, NY, at about 11 AM. This worked out pretty well for me, since I had plenty of snow to remove from the walks and driveway. I discovered that my biggest problem was not how much snow needed to be shoveled, but where I was going to put it all.

Our first stop of the day was at Cheryl and Joe's at Vista on the Lake in Carmel, NY. When we were finished singing, "I Only Have Eyes For You," Cheryl was ecstatic, saying "this is the best gift I have ever gotten."

From Cheryl and Joe's we stopped at a florist to replenish our rose supply. According to the owner, it was the first time in his 30 years of business that four guys walked into the store and started singing. We did get another valentine for the effort, to be delivered to a shopper's wife later that day.

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Quartets

Continued from the previous page

At Green Chimneys school, we were to sing for a woman named Sandi. Unfortunately, we didn't know which building she worked in or her last name. All we knew was we had to sing for a Sandi in Green Chimneys who had a mom.

Luckily, everyone there was very helpful and we found Sandi in the health center, where we sang two love songs to her and "Coney Island Baby" to a few kids and other staff members.

It wasn't the last time that day we'd have problems finding our valentine. We spent part of the afternoon bouncing about the back roads of Redding, CT, looking for one of our tenor, Auggies's, church choir mates. We found her, her daughter and dog at a large horse farm atop a hill.

Later, we arrived in a large condo complex in Danbury, knowing only the first name of our valentine. It's good to have a former detective in the quartet for those moments.

Our Valentine's Day ended at the Ridgebury Congregational Church where we performed for a small but very appreciative crowd. It was a fund raiser, they needed a new floor for their meeting area, and we were told after our show that the evening had been successful – they had the money they needed for their new floor and we were invited to sing for its installation.

We have our real estate song ("Who Will Buy"), a Chinese takeout song, a golf song, a song for optometrists ("I Only Have Eyes for You") – now we need to find a song for new floor installations. "Coney Island Baby"?

Emails to the Editors



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

I just joined a church choir after not singing anywhere but in my shower for many years. I find I'm always running out of breath when I sing. Is it because of age, not singing for a long time, or am I not breathing right?
Rich from Ridgefeld.

Rich, it could be a little of each of the items you mentioned, as well as you posture. There are various reasons why a singer runs out of breath during singing.

First, are you breathing enough? Are you taking in sufficient breath for you to control and support your voice?

That is something I need to concentrate on when I sing, especially on higher (falsetto) notes.

Second, are you using too much air when you sing? Check that your voice is not too airy, because this would mean that you are letting out too much air when you sing. Try to aim for a balanced sound,

Breathing efficiently when you sing is a combination of great posture and skillful inhaling and exhaling. Remember the importance of good posture; it allows you to get a deep, full breath. If you slouch or you're too rigid, your diaphragm locks and prevents you from getting a correct breath for singing. Your breathing and your posture work together as a team.

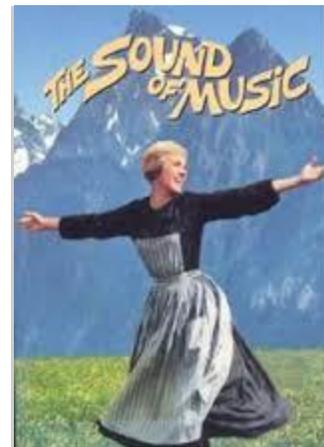
To sing your best, you want to develop good posture while you breathe. When your body is aligned correctly, taking and using an efficient breath is easier.

What is good singing posture? There are eight components of the ideal singing posture:

1. Feet slightly apart.
2. Legs straight but knees slightly bent.
3. Hips facing straight forward.
4. Spine aligned.
5. Abdomen flat.
6. Chest comfortably forward.
7. Shoulders down and back.
8. Head facing straight forward.

Interesting Musical Facts

Did you know that a theater manager in Seoul, South Korea, felt that THE SOUND OF MUSIC was too long, so he shortened it by cutting out all the songs? (Kinda like "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" without the vowels).



There is a reference to Singing Valentines in Chapter Thirteen of the popular book: HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS.

Three Things



Each time the chorus works with a coach, members are encouraged to submit three things they feel should be emphasized. Here is a sample from the February 11th coaching session with Joe Hunter.

- Develop and support an agreed-on emotional plan in “They Say it’s Wonderful.” Let that plan lead you dynamically and emotionally. This is a character who is frustrated and a little hesitant, but goes through a journey in the song.
- Make all the swipes be EMBELLISHMENTS - always add emotional depth and value addition.
- “Kentucky Babe” is all about UNITY - vocal, visual, emotional. We proved that with the last closed-eyes sitting-on-the-risers exercise.
- Feel the uncertainty “They Say it’s Wonderful.” Become certain by the final page.
- Stretch a hand to the baby when Andy puts it in the cradle. See the baby.
- Softer softs means better dynamics.
- Stress words in the introduction of “They Say It’s Wonderful”: con-CERNS, HEART aglow, HEAR are so.
- Softer on the echo of IN EVERY WAY before the tag.
- In “Kentucky Babe,” emphasize the consonants to add excitement.

Repertoire Notes



“I Believe” is the name of a popular song written by Ervin Drake, Irvin Graham, Jimmy Shirl and Al Stillman in 1953.

“I Believe” was commissioned and introduced by Jane Froman on her television show, and became the first hit song ever introduced on TV. Froman, troubled by the uprising of the Korean War in 1952 so soon after World War II, asked Drake, Graham, Shirl and Stillman to compose a song that would offer hope and faith to the populace.

The biggest Top-50 hit version of the song in America occurred with a performance by the Irish trio The Bachelors when their lavish UK-production with orchestra and chorus on London Records topped the American charts for several weeks in 1961.

The President’s Podium



By Danny Anderson

Within a few weeks, we will once again be on the contest stage. Prior to that time there is a lot of work we must do to be prepared to compete.

I am proud of the work that everyone has done to date in their personal preparation. Please continue to work every day on your music. We proved to ourselves how well we can sing “Kentucky Babe.” Our challenge now is to sing, “It’s Wonderful” as well and with feeling.

I encourage you to make plans to arrive Friday in Nashua to listen to the quartet competition. This competition is a preliminary for International, so the level of quartets will be high. There are several hotels listed on the Northeastern District web page that have special rates for this weekend.

A thank you to each man who participated in our Singing Valentines campaign. Whether you sang, sold a valentine or placed advertisement posters, we worked as a team. The weekend was a challenge with the weather, but the quartets jumped puddles and slid on ice to deliver songs of love to approximately 35 recipients. I had one gentleman reach out to me to tell me how much his wife appreciated the Singing Valentine and how many “points” he earned by having purchased the valentine. It was obviously money well spent!

Andy and his team have worked hard in preparing for this year’s Annual Show. They have prepared a training class to help with the sale of advertisements for the program. Our expenses for this year’s show will be greater than past years, as we are bringing in a gold medal quartet. Therefore, it is imperative that we all sell ads for the program book. Our desire is that the expenses of the show will be covered with the ad sales. Should we accomplish that, then the ticket sales will be all profit.

The publicity team is in full swing, informing other chapters of the show, seeking ads on Facebook, the Patches and other avenues to inform people about the show.

But all that being said, the best way to “fill the house” is to personally ask friends, workmates, church members and neighbors to come to the show. Word of mouth – it helped get people to our Christmas Show and will help fill the Annual Show. Begin making your own contact list of people to invite and sell tickets to.

We will again have an “Angel Gram” section in the program book. These grams are open not only to our members, but to anyone wishing to send a message to the chorus. Should a business not want to purchase an ad, ask if they would send an “Angel Gram.”

I put forth the idea in my last article that we each strive to bring one new member to our “hobby” this year. The only way to accomplish this is to tell people about what you are doing and the fun you have by being a part of the Mad Hatters.



February Board of Directors Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Robert Golenbock.

Meeting called to order by Danny “Heart of our Heart” Anderson at 6:15pm on February 4, 2014, at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: The following changes were recommended: “has been *examining* the close harmonies” and “Al would be seeking members for his committee.” All chapter members are advised to correct their archived copies of the Board of Directors minutes. With these corrections, the minutes were received on a motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Al Paparesta.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Dickson Demarche reported a positive cash flow for January. In fact, there is a positive cash flow for the entire 2014 calendar year to date! Dickson showed us the official BHS treasurer’s document, which is four pages long and in Excel format. Dickson will upload the long form to Google Docs, but will continue to present the one page summary which Board members find more useful. The link to the long form will be printed on the short form. The Board members will get privileges to open the Google Docs. The report was received on a motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Robert Golenbock.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Andy Bayer, referring to the discussion at the planning meeting, noted that we have not made a decision yet as to what specific methods we will use to increase membership. Joe Hudson will continue to pursue the possibility of singing at church services. Danny Anderson encouraged us to develop the promotional packets that include a promotional DVD of clips of our performances that Joe Hudson is producing. Al suggested that the material include a partial list of repertoire to show the breadth of our performances. Andy identified the need to have the membership committee work with Al’s PR and marketing people. Andy also noted that we need contacts with the Chamber of Commerce and other service organizations. Al promoted the idea of performing as a community service, for example, at soup kitchens. In general, we are committed to making the community aware of the Mad Hatters with the possibility of increasing our audience and our membership.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Singing Valentines ads start the Thursday after the Board meeting. The will be in print media in Danbury, Ridgefield and New Milford. Whofish has our ads. Also the cable TV stations are running our ads. City Center lists our ads on its site. The Connecticut Cultural Alliance ad placement is pending. Both Spanish- and Portuguese-language ads have been submitted to bilingual publications.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: The minutes from last week were submitted. We have cut “The Lord’s Prayer,” “Amazing Grace,” and “God Bless America.” We are looking at new songs such as “Fun in Just One Lifetime” for “There Is

Nothing Like A Dame,” “They Say It’s Wonderful” for “Over the Rainbow,” “Crazy Little Thing Called Love” for “Breaking Up is Hard to Do,” and “Happy Together” for “Ten Feet Off the Ground.” The two contest songs are “They Say It’s Wonderful” and “Kentucky Babe.” The committee also had a discussion about the 2015 Annual show – our 50th Anniversary. We are considering The Everly Brothers and the groups they influenced. Finally, the committee recommended that we change our schedule to 40 minutes on the risers, 10 minutes off, 40 minutes on the risers, 10 minutes off.

OLD BUSINESS: Annual show meeting is next week. There has been some positive feedback from other chapters interested in attending. We have four quartets to do Singing Valentines, but we need to get more performances.

NEW BUSINESS: Andy Bayer passed out a description of the chorus manager position according to the Barbershop Harmony Society and summarized the responsibilities that we are looking for. Some of the duties overlap. He noted that we need a position for someone to keep track of the items we discuss at meetings and follow up on these items so they don’t get ignored. We need a committee to develop a description of the chorus manager that works for the Mad Hatters. The Committee would clarify the role of the chorus manager and the roles of other positions as well. The committee would include Danny Anderson, Art Cilley, Dick Walter, Peter Daubner, and Dick Zang.

Contest pricing is \$30 plus \$1.74 per member. Last year we requested that each member donate \$20 to offset the cost. A motion that we request a donation of \$20 again this year was passed. The motion was made by Robert Golenbock and seconded by Wynn Wilcox. Members should be assured that they are not required to pay, and that the donation is voluntary. Dickson will collect the funds.

Al contacted a member of the singing group, In Harmony, a group with 2,000 followers in the Danbury area. They can do an a cappella set on our show for a base price of \$600. They may visit us at one of our rehearsals, and we might be invited to sing on their show during their break. Al also suggested that we need more help with our choreography, and he suggested bringing in someone who does Zumba classes for seniors. He will invite the instructor to see what we do and get a price on instructing us.

Dick Walter addressed the Board to speak in favor of Tuesday night singouts. He said that years ago the chapter decided to get as many Tuesday night singouts as possible to increase member attendance at the singouts. Otherwise, some members who rehearse with their quartets would be out three nights a week. Dick feels that a singout is not a loss of a rehearsal since we are performing our repertoire and have the opportunity to stay and rehearse afterwards. He recommends we review our decision at the next Board meeting. Andy commented that the reality is that most members don’t stay after a singout. The Board agreed to discuss the issue at the next meeting.

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Board Meeting

Continued from the previous page

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Downey, Thomas Edison.

OFFICERS PRESENT: J. Hudson, A. Bayer, D. Demarche, A. Paparesta, W. Wilcox, D. Anderson, Art Cilley, R. Golenbock.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. The next meeting will be held on March 4.

Music Committee Meeting

Submitted by Joseph Hudson

Meeting called to order at 6:17 PM, January 26, 2014.

The following repertoire changes are scheduled.

Current Song	Replacement
"Over the Rainbow"	"They Say It's Wonderful"
"Breaking Up Is Hard To Do"	"Crazy Little Thing Called Love"
"Ten Feet Off the Ground"	"Happy Together"

Other repertoire changes.

- "Amazing Grace" will be dropped.
- "God Bless America" will be dropped.
- "Lord's Prayer" will be dropped.
- "The Impossible Dream" has been moved to In Progress status.
- It has been recommended "Irish Blessing" be added.

Future songs: "Beach Boys Medley," "How Deep is the Ocean," "Moonlight Brings Memories."

Contest songs: "Kentucky Babe" and "They Say It's Wonderful."

Other topics: More time for sitting during meetings (40 minutes on risers, 10 minutes off), shorten the warm-up session, skills work immediately after break, and inform members of tags to be learned ahead of time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Barbershop History Quiz

*Author: Mark Axelrod,
editor of BLUE CHIP CHATTER, Teaneck, NJ.*

QUESTIONS:

1. Name a European form of four-part men's choral singing sharing many characteristics with barbershop harmony.
2. Describe a noteworthy shared characteristic.
3. Describe another shared characteristic.
4. What do these European singers call an audible overtone?

Woodshedding - An Introduction

(Part 1 of 5 in a series) --provided to PROBE by Toban Dvoretzky, President of AHSOW, ANCIENT HARMONIOUS SOCIETY OF WOODSHEDDERS, INC.

"Authentic woodshedding" is the way our Society began -- a tenor, bari and bass harmonizing to a lead's melody without referring to a printed or familiar arrangement. Authentic woodshedding is one of the most productive and fulfilling activities that barbershoppers could choose to do.

The question has arisen: "Is woodshedding an art that one has to be born with, or can it be learned?"

As with most other skills, effective woodshedding is -- and can indeed be -- learned. A basic sense of circle-of-fifths (barbershop) chord-progressions is necessary. Barbershoppers can gain this sense in several ways.

Folks with jazz or piano backgrounds have a beginning advantage, as should anyone with a year or two of college-level music theory. Barbershoppers who have sung more than one voice part in their chorus or quartet also have an initial advantage.

Barbershoppers who don't read music, or those whose first or only musical experience began when they entered barbershopping, can also most definitely learn to woodshed. The prerequisite is an understanding of scales and intervals (the space between one note and the next).

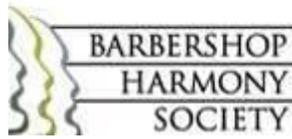
AHSOW strongly recommends that prospective woodshedders invest in the voice-part-predominant Barberpole Cat tapes produced by the Society. The Barberpole Cat songs are especially strong, pure barbershop, and listening to them intently and repeatedly will impart a strong sense of the *patterns* typical of each of the barbershop voice-parts.



2014
Harmony College
NORTHEAST
Aug. 8-10 • Worcester State University
Mark Your Calendars!

Plan Now to Join Us & Your Friends at
THE BEST Harmony College EVER!

August 8-9-10, 2014
Worcester State University



Society and District Notes



The #1 Reason To Attend The New England Harmony Brigade

Sing, Sing, Sing, until you drop! And take pride in the fact that you are an important part in the "Preservation and Encouragement of Quartet Singing In America!"

After all, isn't that what it's about? If you haven't registered yet, what are you waiting for? Go to www.nehb.net and apply now!

If you want to receive your music on time, you'll need to apply to the Brigade by March 31. After that time, we cannot promise that you will get your music on time in mid-April. And at that late date, we also cannot promise you a slot at this year's Brigade Rally. As pointed out before, we are limited by the part for which we have the smallest number of singers.

Because it is critical that we have a "whole number" of quartets, it may turn out that if we have only 20 leads, we can only accept 20 of each of the other quartet parts, not more.

Don't miss out....get your application in today!

Yours in Harmony,

Lee Daum

Lee Daum- President
New England Harmony Brigade
www.nehb.net
Tel: 781-643-7468

The NED's School During the Summer HCNE is Now Open For Registrations!

They have classes in Directing, Arranging, Quartet Coaching, Tag Singing, Private Vocal Instruction and even a class about Sound Reinforcement for Barbershop taught by Danbury's own, DARYL BORNSTEIN.

And, a Saturday night show featuring The HX Boys, HX Girls, HX Combined Chorus, Director's College Chorus, Round Midnight, GQ Quartet and a performance from the 2009 Champions Crossroads!

Register online today at:

http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=246.

Joseph P. Hudson

Donate to the Harmony Explosion Camp

I know you received frequent emails from me, so before you delete this... please give me the benefit of the doubt, and take a quick read! This IS important! As you may know, last year's Harmony Explosion Camp Northeast was a HUGE success! Personally, I am a "forward thinker", even though we've had the experience in the NED when Harmony Explosion Camp Northeast didn't happen. The idea of Harmony Explosion Camp is something that cannot be missed due to its eye-opening nature and the opportunity for life-changing growth for the young singer, especially in our art form.

We NEED to start thinking more about the "E" in SPEBSQSA and really Encourage our youth. Many are already experiencing barbershop while so many have not yet had the experience of ringing a chord. Naturally, this "youth experience" in turn will help us with the "P"... Preservation.

There is a pledge form posted on the NED web site for you to complete and send to us as soon as possible, please. You may mail in a check, or you may also donate online using a credit card. Please take a moment to consider a personal contribution, too. Please discuss with your chapter and/or quartet members today about contributing to this incredible cause. Click here for the form. We need YOUR help to send at least ONE guy or gal to HX Camp Northeast! The cost for one person to attend is around \$365, but we're trying to keep the actual "camper tuition" cost down to \$185 per camper.

All information about Harmony Explosion Camp Northeast 2014 (HXNE2014) can be found on our website:

www.nedyih.groupanizer.com/

Antonio L. Lombardi
BHS Harmony Explosion Camp Northeast
Director/Coordinator

Beverly Bash

Mark your calendars, gas up the bus and snowmobiles and come to the Beverly Bash! Wednesday evening, April 9th, 2014, at the Italian Community Center, 302 Rantoul Street, Beverly, MA.

It's a great night to strut your stuff! Email: northshorem@verizon.net if you're coming and want to "Strut."

Jack Dowd

Ye Olde Joke Boarde



Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

Sitting by the window in her convent, Sister Eulalia opened a letter from home and found a ten dollar bill inside. As she read the letter she caught sight of a shabbily dressed stranger leaning against a lamppost below. Quickly she wrote, "Don't despair, Sister Eulalia," on a piece of paper, wrapped the ten dollar bill in it and dropped it out the window.

The stranger picked it up and, with a puzzled expression and a tip of his hat, went off down the street.

The next day, Sister Eulalia was told that a man was at the door insisting on seeing her. She went down and found the stranger from the night before waiting. Without a word he handed her a roll of bills.

"What's this?" she asked.

"That's the 60 bucks you have coming to you. Don't Despair won by a nose in the fifth and paid five to one."

• • •

A barbershop baritone received a certificate for helicopter flying lessons for his birthday. One day he was bored and decided to take advantage of the opportunity.

When he arrived at the place, the pilot said, "Well, there's only one helicopter here, and it only has one seat. If I show you how to fly the helicopter, do you mind going up solo?"

"Oh, of course! I can handle it," the baritone replied.

Well, the pilot showed the baritone the inner-workings of the helicopter and sent him on his way, only asking that he radio in every 400 feet. As promised, the baritone radioed in at 400 feet saying, "Wow! this is so much fun!"

At 800 feet, he radioed in again saying, "This is pretty easy, I can do this all day!"

At 1200 feet the radio was silent. No word from the baritone. Suddenly there was a crash in the field next to the station. The pilot ran out to see what happened, the baritone had crashed and, luckily, survived.

What happened?" the pilot exclaimed.

"Well, I was doing fine," the baritone explained, "but, I started to get cold, so I just turned off the big fan!"

Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

Regular Repertoire

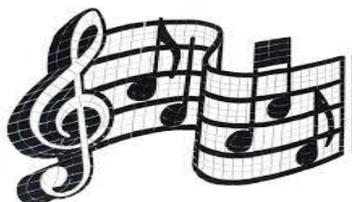
Almost Like Being In Love
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)
It's Only A Paper Moon
Keep The Whole World Singing
Kentucky Babe
On The Sunny Side Of The Street
Over The Rainbow
Shenandoah
My Every Day Silver Is Plastic
Ten Feet Off The Ground
There Is Nothing Like A Dame

Patriotic/Inspirational

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

Coming Soon

Fun in Just One Lifetime
They Say It's Wonderful
Crazy Little Thing Called Love
Impossible Dream
Beach Boys Medley
Happy Together
How Deep Is The Ocean
Moonlight Brings Memories
You Were Only a Splinter As I Slid
Down The Bannister of Life



The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

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

President:	Danny Anderson
Musical Director:	Joseph Hudson
Assistant Director:	Jim Hopper
Assistant Director:	Don Sutherland
Membership VP:	Andy Bayer
Public Relations VP:	Al Paparesta
Music VP:	Jim Hopper
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Member at Large:	Wynn Wilcox
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Harmony Foundation	
Chairman:	Danny Anderson
Music Librarian:	Lyle LaPlante
Sunshine Chairman:	Don Smith
Package Show Chairman:	Dick Walter
Chorus Manager:	Robert Golenbock

The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

John Bradley, Hatter editor 39 Beekman Drive Lake Carmel, NY 10512 Jbrad1313@earthlink.net	Dick Zang, Chatter ed. 2 Camelot Crest Sandy Hook, CT 06482 jezang@charter.net
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Proofreader: Miss Taralily

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

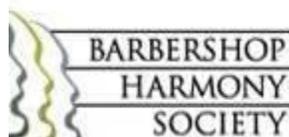
February Milestones

Birthdays:

5 - Linda Anderson
8 - Vikki Bradley

Wedding Anniversaries:

9 - Chuck and Judith Kreiger



Mark Your Calendars



Coaching Session

Tuesday March 4, 2014, Coaching Session with Joe Hunter. Warm-up @ 7:15pm.

Yankee Division Spring Contest

Saturday March 22, 2014, Yankee and Mountain Division Contest, Nashua High School North, 10 Chuck Druding Drive, Nashua, NH 03603. Two hours, 52 minutes from The Church Of Christ in Danbury.

Times:

8:00am – School Opens
10:00am – Contest Begins
12:00pm – Lunch
1:00pm – Announcements
1:30pm – Evaluations

Annual Show

Almost Like Being In Love, Saturday May 17, 2014. Western Connecticut State University Ives Concert Hall, 181 White St., Danbury CT. Appearing: Hatter Chorus and its quartets, a local high school group, 2013 Yankee Division Quartet Champions SUREFIRE! and the 2006 International Champions VOCAL SPECTRUM. Set- up/Warm-up 4:45 pm, perform, 7:30 pm.

Performance

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

Answers to the Barbershop History Quiz

1. "A Tenore" singing from the Italian island of Sardinia.
2. Chords lock in and ring. Pure - not tempered - tuning rules the roost, in other words, just as in barbershop.
3. The melody is sung by the second highest voice part, not by the tenor.
4. La Quintina. Literally, the little fifth.