



*The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus*

# Hatter Chatter

Newsletter of the Danbury Chapter, Yankee Division, Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society  
Meeting every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, Connecticut

Volume 19 Number 1

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

January 2012

## Hatters Bring in New Year at First Night Celebration

*By John Bradley*

Danbury, CT – Friends and fans packed St. James Episcopal Church in downtown Danbury on December 31 to watch the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus say bye to 2011 and hi to 2012 with a rousing 45 minutes of harmony.

Dressed in their black tuxedos, white shirts and red bow ties, the Danbury barbarshoppers sang through their regular repertoire, with the audience joining in on the final song, “Auld Lang Syne.”

“This might have been our best first night ever,” said Lead Robert Glenbock. “We got a standing ovation without having to sing the National Anthem.”

Joining the Mad Hatters at the altar were three chorus quartets, Real Chemistry, Rare Occasion and Loco Fedora.

“City Center Danbury, must have heard our griping last year over our placement in the narrow Palace Theater’s lobby,” said chorus raconteur, Bob Bradley.

This year the audience had plenty of space to sit, stay warm and enjoy the show, although staying warm was not the challenge it had been in previous years.

“Isn’t this weather amazing,” said Real Chemistry tenor, Augie D’Aurelli. “Almost 50 degrees at 4 pm on New Years eve!”

It was First Night Danbury’s 22nd year as the city’s family friendly, alcohol free New Year’s Eve celebration. 2011’s theme was “Looking Up & Moving Forward,” a nod to the festival’s history and to the Danbury Main Street Partnership, for which First Night serves as a year-end acknowledgement of the good things that are happening in downtown Danbury.

St James was organized and incorporated in 1762. Its 25 bell Ella S. Bulkley Memorial Carillon is the oldest carillon in Connecticut and is also the first carillon made in America. It was dedicated on Easter Sunday 1928.



*Loco Fedora singing at St James Church. Picture from the Danbury News-Times.*

## Chorus Sings With Santa

*By John Bradley*

Ansonia, CT – A contingent of 15 Mad Hatters travelled to the banks of the Naugatuck River to join Joe Hudson and Santa Claus in entertaining the students of John G. Prendergast Elementary School in Ansonia, CT, on Friday morning, December 23.

The chorus opened the school day by singing the “Star Spangled Banner” over the PA system, then performed Christmas and a couple of repertoire songs for the second, third and fourth grades. The chorus had not spent much time practicing a few of the songs, but were able to make up unique harmonies on the spot.

The big star of the show, as always, was Santa, played by chorus raconteur, Bob Bradley.

*Continued on the following page*

## Santa

*Continued from the previous page*

Santa led the kids in enthusiastic (and loud) renditions of "Jingle Bells," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas", among other holiday favorites.

"If watching the expression of those little kids can't get you into the Christmas spirit, then you must be dead," said Santa.

At 10:30, the singers met principal Lawrence DiPalma, the Connecticut winner of the National Distinguished Principal Award, in his meeting room for pizza.

Said bass/lead Nick Godano, "It's been a long time since I've had third period lunch."

### Did You Know?

John G. Prendergast was a teacher and principal at Ansonia High School between 1915 and 1945. After 1945, he was a state welfare officer.

Ansonia was settled in 1652 and, for many years was known as the Copper City. It was named by Anson Phelps, a local industrialist (back when America actually made things).

## New Memorial Fund to Support Membership Growth

Mad Hatter bass Terry Dunkle and his wife, Mary, have donated \$2,000 to the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus in memory of their 30-year-old son, John Warfield Dunkle, who died on June 29, 2011.

Seeded by Terry's company, DietPower, Inc., the Mad Hatter Chorus Memorial Fund is designed to attract donations from other corporations and individuals who want to honor departed colleagues and family members.

"John loved barbershop music, even though he was unable to participate in it himself," Terry said. "We think this is a wonderful way to celebrate his life."

Besides Terry and Mary, John is survived by two brothers: Bill, 28, and Tom, 19.

At the Dunkle family's request, the Memorial Fund will be managed to support Mad Hatter membership growth. "We like the idea of donating money to help enlist new singers as older ones depart," Terry explained. He said one good method might be to solicit "In lieu of flowers" donations when a Hatter's fan or family member passes.

The exact rules and purpose of the Fund are expected to be approved by the Board of Directors in February, acting upon advice from the Membership Committee. Ideas and suggestions can be submitted to Membership VP, Andy Bayer.



*Santa entertains students at John G. Prendergast Elementary School in Ansonia, CT*



## Quartet Corner

*News from our chorus quartets*

Real Chemistry will go on temporary hiatus as lead and former Chorus president, Bob Bradley, undergoes surgery at Putnam Medical Center in Carmel, NY, on January 17. Bob hopes to rejoin the quartet and chorus around Valentine's Day, if all goes well. The quartet's first song when Bob fully recovers will be its hospital in winter song, "Coney Island Baby."

## eMails to the Editors

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



I saw your annual show a few weeks ago and enjoyed your version of "Armed Forces Medley" Not too long ago I joined the Navy to see the world. I've seen it. Now, how do I get out?

Dan from Danbury

*Dan, I'm not sure I'm the best person to give you advice on this, but I will pass your email on to my brother. He did a pretty good job of avoiding the Army back in the 1960's.*

My forty year old son has been paying a psychiatrist \$75.00 an hour every week for two and a half years. He must be crazy. Do you think joining your chorus could help him?

Bobby from Bethel

*Continued on the next page*

## eMails

*Continued from the following page*

*Wel Bobby, I know singing is relaxing and can make you feel good, which can reduce stress. It can also improve your self image if you do it well. I know I feel good when I perform well and hear the sincere applause of an audience. Why don't you and your son join us at a practice one Tuesday night. It sounds as if you might both be baritones.*

A friend of mine is a barbershop baritone and I have read a number of his *Hatter Chatters*. I see you occasionally provide advice to people who write in. Maybe you can help me.

Recently, my sister left me to babysit her kids (five and six years old), on the weekend and when I came home I found them playing a game called, "knifey-knifey," which involves jabbing a knife in and out of a power socket. Instead, I suggested a game called, "Mr. Toaster," which is similar, but involves jabbing a fork, knife, or metal spoon in and out of a toaster. They said it would be more fun to play if the toaster was turned on.

Are either of these activities dangerous?  
Sam from Sherman

*Sam, jabbing a fork into a turned-on toaster could complete the circuit, administering an electric shock to the holder of said fork. For a five or six year old child, such an electric shock could cause unconsciousness and possibly death, depending on the wiring in your house.*

*Not only is it dangerous, but possibly illegal and your sister may sue you for criminal negligence.*

*A bigger question is why she would do something so stupid as to leave them with you in the first place.*



### Baritone Deep Thought of the Month



**Did you see the movie about the cannibal that ate his mother-in-law? It was named *Gladiator*.**

## Repertoire Notes



"It's Only a Paper Moon," published in 1933, was written by Harold Arlen with lyrics by E. Y. Harburg and Billy Rose. It was written originally for an unsuccessful Broadway play called *The Great Magoo*, set in Coney Island. It was subsequently used in the movie *Take a Chance*, in 1933, and the bandleader Paul Whiteman recorded a successful version, sung by Peggy Healey.

But the song's lasting fame stems from recordings by popular artists during the last years of World War Two, when versions by Ella Fitzgerald and the Nat King Cole Trio became hugely popular. It has endured as a vehicle for improvisation by many jazz musicians.

The song was included in the Tennessee Williams play *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which opened in 1947. Polly Bergen performed the song on her 1957-1958 NBC variety show, *The Polly Bergen Show*, and it lent its title to the 1973 Peter Bogdanovich film, *Paper Moon*.

"It's Only a Paper Moon," with a newly composed counter-melody by Kander and Ebb, is a musical segment in the film *Funny Lady*, starring Barbra Streisand and James Caan. It was also used in a Star Trek: Deep Space Nine episode "It's Only a Paper Moon." The recording by Benny Goodman was featured in the film *The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep*. The last verse and a Japanese translation is used as an epigraph in Haruki Murakami's *1Q84*.



The song appears twice on Erin Mckeown's 2007 album *Sing You Sinners*, first in a standard jazz style, the second time as a waltz. Ella Fitzgerald's version is featured in the movie, *The Break-Up*. And, the song can be heard in the HBO series *Carnivàle*, at the beginning of the first season episode titled *Lonnigan, Texas*.

The song title refers to a practice in musicals of the early 20th century, where cardboard cutouts were used as scenery.

The song seems to be saying that life has no meaning and is pointless and fake without being with the person that truly matters, that being with the person you care about makes everything happier, real and makes life worth living.



# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – January

*Recorded in Spencerian hand by Robert Golenbock, Secretary*

Meeting called to order by Danny “Don Dan dela Mancha” Anderson at 6:06pm on January 3, 2012, at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY’S REPORT was handed out and approved on a reluctant motion by Lyle LaPlante, inadvertently seconded by Dick Walter.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Our financial situation is actually satisfactory, our balances being approximately equivalent to where we were in November of 2010. For the year, our cumulative outgoing and incoming dollars were about even. The report was received on a motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Robert Golenbock.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Joe has developed a First-Timer Take-Home Page to welcome guests and inform them of what is expected of members.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: We need to put out Valentine’s Day signs by February 1. Every member should plan where he will place signs for maximum effectiveness. The signs were responsible for bringing in several Valentines last year. Remember to get permission to place them on private property. These signs are reusable and must be recovered after Valentine’s Day! Also we need to start sending out Singing Valentines information to our friends and acquaintances by eMail and Facebook. We are looking into handing out “\$5 off” coupons. We are registering again with singingvalentines.com. We will have cards and flowers ready for the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday of Valentine’s Day. We also plan to give a free ticket to our spring show to every Valentine recipient. While Wynn is away in Southeast Asia, we need a Valentine’s Day Chairman.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Joe Hunter is coaching the chorus January 17. His emphasis will be on improving our performance rather than focusing on a contest set.

OLD BUSINESS: We expect to see Joe Hunter regularly for coaching. He will be able to identify areas where we are improving and areas where we need encouragement.

Any members who still need a tuxedo should see Andy Bayer. When Wester Connecticut State University is no longer on vacation, we will begin planning our annual show. For maximum visibility we would like to hold it at WCSU in May. We are also awaiting word from the college group we are looking to have on our show.

*Continued on the next page*

# The President’s Podium

*By Danny Anderson*



This year should be another great year for this chapter. The year 2011 proved to be a banner year for the chorus.

Our singing greatly improved, we earned most improved chorus, along with being selected as the best small chorus in the Northeast District. For the first time in many years one of our chapter quartets competed on the regional stage. Though having some vocal problems, Local Fedora gave a performance to be proud of.

The Board’s decision to bring in outside coaching and sending Joe to directors college last year led to improvement in our presentation and singing at our sing outs and performances. We plan to continue bringing in outside coaching this year with the anticipation that all members of the chapter will make every effort to attend these sessions.

In early December, the Board had a Saturday meeting to outline goals and directions for this year and for years to come. It is the belief of the board that we must grow in membership. We believe that every performance of the chorus or its quartets is a recruiting opportunity.

We will be joining the “Harold Hill” recruiting effort of the society. Information concerning this program is on the Society Web page. Andy Bayer will be our point person for this program.

In our future advertising we will be the Danbury Mad Hatter Chorus sings accupella music. Our mix of songs will continue to be 80% barbershop style of music. The Board feels that people have a predetermined impression of barbershop singing. We want to be able to be able to demonstrate the joy and excitement we have for singing.

Valentine’s Day is fast approaching. We need everyone’s help in displaying the yard signs to which advertise our Singing Valentines and we need to all sell at least one singing Valentine for one of our quartets to deliver.

Once again, I want to encourage each person to practice their music at home and come prepared to practice what you worked on at home. By doing this homework we can move forward quickly with fine tuning the songs.

double breve, whole semibreve, half minim, quarter crotchet, eighth quaver, sixteenth semiquaver

flat, sharp, natural

musical rests: whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth

## Board Meeting

*Continued from the previous page*

NEW BUSINESS: Terry Dunkle will be donating \$2000 to start a John Dunkle Memorial Fund to promote membership in our chapter. The fund will, with proper publicity, be a seed encouraging more donations. One possible use would be a small scholarship given to college students who are members. Another use might be paying for membership materials such as advertising.

We are very determined to send as many members to contest as possible. The requirements for contest are actually very straight-forward and flexible: a member must be able to sing his part in both contest songs reasonably well. Participation will be determined by Joe Hudson, Jimmy Hopper, and the section leaders. Our motto for this year: "Contest is just a huge singout." Please be there.

We are still looking for a Show Chairman.

There will be no meeting on Valentine's Day, Tuesday February 14.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Zlamany. Nick Godano

OFFICERS PRESENT: Danny Anderson, Dickson DeMarche, Art Roberts, Arnold Palmer, Lyle LaPlante, Robert Golenbock, Dick Walter, Joe Hudson, Terry Dunkle, Jim Hopper.

Next meeting will be February 7, 2012. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

## Member and Meeting Notes

*By Joe Hudson*

At our final rehearsal of 2011, we gained a new baritone. Welcome back Jim Williams. At our first rehearsal of 2012, we gained another baritone. Welcome to the Mad Hatters Daryl Bornstein. Keep up this trend - bring a guest a week! Things to prepare for:

We are looking to have an Annual Show in May this year. New songs for the show are: "It's Only A Paper Moon," "From The First Hello," "River Of No Return," "Somewhere Out There."

We are looking to have as many if not ALL active members sing with us at Division contest on March 17 in Schenectady.

Joe Hunter will be coaching us on January 17, focusing on "It's Only A Paper Moon" We'll be working on music items AS WELL AS presentation (Remember, presentation is more about the face than the moves).

## Developing a Repertoire for a Quartet

*By Brian Philbin*

*This article was written by Brian Philbin, bass of Metropolis, former bass section leader of the Masters of Harmony, and current commentator/columnist for youBarbershop.com. These articles appeared in The Masters Voice, the monthly bulletin of the Masters of Harmony.*

This is one of the single most difficult jobs a quartet has to undertake. Finding music can always be difficult. The key is to break the job down into its component parts. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. How many pieces of music are you looking for?
2. What is the purpose of the piece (show, competition, etc.)?

Once you have asked yourself these questions, stick with the answers. If you're looking for one piece of music, then look for one piece of music and stick with the parameters you've set for yourself and the piece. The idea here is to make the task as goal oriented as possible — then, once you've finished you can set a new task.

Don't get distracted by other songs in the process — list them for future reference, but make certain that you get the job at hand done first.

A couple of questions to ask yourself as you're looking through music:

1. Is this music appropriate to the voices in the quartet?
2. Is this music appropriate to the quartet and its image?

These parameters will help you to rule out music that will not work for you and your quartet, and also save time in rehearsal. You may not feel capable of making these decisions on your own, so make certain you have the ability to ask the advice of someone who is more comfortable making those determinations if this is the case.

If you are searching by song title, a few other questions:

1. Has it already been arranged?
2. Do you want an arrangement that is specific to your group?
3. If so, is there anyone you know capable of arranging it for you?

If you know of prolific arrangers whose music you are interested in, you might write to them and send them a self-addressed, stamped envelope to request their arrangement lists or have them send some suggested pieces.

*Continued on the next page*

## Quartet Repertoire

*Continued from the previous page*

Make certain to include a description of the type of songs you're interested in, and even perhaps the vocal ranges of your members.

This way the arrangers can determine whether or not an arrangement is appropriate for your quartet or not. You can find any member's address through the Society office in Nashville. Have your member number ready to identify yourself, as they don't usually give out addresses to just anyone who calls.

Once you have collected a few tunes that everyone agrees on, you should determine what purpose the music serves. A few more questions to ask:

1. Is the song and its arrangement appropriate for contest?
2. Does it fit well into your plan for performances?
3. Does your performance of the song generate the image that you and your cohorts wish to project?

All of the above questions have their own purpose in leading you to determine appropriate pieces for the quartet. However, they are all limiting factors. That is to say, they all narrow the scope of your search. If you should wish to do something out of the ordinary for your group, then by all means, do so. It is always a good idea to stretch your wings and find something different. A few questions in this area:

1. Is there any song that everyone has always wanted to sing?
2. Is there an interpretive measure or different spin that any of your members have always thought was overlooked by other quartets on a certain piece?
3. Is there a solo that one member has always wanted to sing?

These questions will lead you and yours toward your group's "guilty pleasures." It could also mean an entirely new direction for your group, musically speaking. All of these questions are designed to find the unexpected directions that your group might be capable of taking.

One suggestion: While you should always "keep it barbershop" when searching for competition pieces, you should never limit the scope of your performance music. Barbershoppers come from all walks of life and so do the members of every audience. While you can't please everyone, you can always choose music that suits your own collective tastes — this will give you enough variety to touch the folks in the audience who share your group's tastes.

Examine the questions suggested in this article and see what you might choose to do if taken in these different directions. Be bold, experiment and, most of all, enjoy your music.

## Groupanizer Tips

On Groupanizer, under MUSIC, you will now find the following:

- \*CLASSIC TAGS BOOK
- \*POELCAT SONGBOOK
- \*POLECAT LEARNING TRACKS
- \*CABARET SHEET MUSIC
- \*CABARET LEARNING TRACKS

Just go to:

<http://madhatters.groupanizer.com>

and click on the MUSIC tab at the top of the page to find it all.

## Chattertorial

*Thoughts of the "Hatter Chatter" editors*

This year the Board has decided to stage two shows - our annual show in the spring and a holiday show at the end of the year. We also are expecting our usual number of sing-outs during the year. Your editors welcome this renewed emphasis on performances with the full chorus and chapter quartets.

We also hope all of our members take part in the Society contests in which we will be competing. It's a team effort — we need the entire team.

The music team under Joe Hudson has already taken some necessary steps - asking some members to switch voice parts and dusting off some old favorites like "Cabaret." And the membership committee has been successful in bringing in some new members and has set ambitious recruiting goals for the coming years.

Nothing is more fun than singing well for a receptive audience. We all have to work hard to bring any weak songs in our repertoire up to Mad Hatter standards.



*The No Borders Youth Chorus singing at Carnegie Hall on December 26th, Joe Hudson is in the theatre somewhere.*



## Society and District Notes



---

### Operation Harold Hill

What is it?

Everybody talks about Harold Hill, now you can be him: a music man with a purpose.

Operation Harold Hill is a mobilization of the Society to increase membership for 2012. It is an opportunity for each chapter to select its own method of recruitment of members that fit its particular vision, not a new plan designed for everyone to implement in the same way. The goal is to increase the Society's recruitment by 25% over the previous five-year average for the first six months of the year.

The idea is to expose these men to activities beyond their immediate chapter's sphere of influence to show them the extent of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Their first singing experience as a member of the Society must be a memorable one to build that satisfaction that will drive them to renew. Remember your first performance?

Harold Hill may have been a lot of things, but he got the job done. Operation Harold Hill is not a new program which requires everyone to do the same thing, the same way at the same time. It is a chance to make a chapter's recruitment specific to its wants and needs. Operation Harold Hill is designed to be fun, easy, and doable by anyone!

By the way, Harold Hill is a character in *The Music Man*. He's a con man who poses as a boys' band organizer and leader and sells band instruments and uniforms to naive townsfolk before skipping town with the cash. In River City, Iowa, prim librarian and piano teacher Marian Paroo sees through him, but when Hill helps her younger brother overcome his fear of social interactions due to his lisp, Marian begins to fall in love with Harold. Harold, in turn falling for Marian, risks being caught to win her.

### From the District President

Dear NED Members, Family, and Friends,

We end the 2011 year by celebrating during a time of wonder, peace, and joy for all. The Barbershop Harmony Society is grateful that somehow, some way, your path lead to membership in this organization that was started just 74 years ago.

During that time men and women have been smiling and laughing as they learn to sing Barbershop Harmony, and shared their music with others.

Some succeed more than others, but we all try our best.

During this time, we have learned so much about the power of music, especially four- part harmony to bring happiness to to people, even at a time that they weren't sure they could be happy.

I am willing to bet that you all have stories of your own. Stories about being uplifted by the music and the people around you; whether it be a quartet or a chorus. Stories about a time that your music moved someone to applaud, to laugh, to hug, to kiss, or to cry. Maybe, A story about you coming to a chapter meeting exhausted and drained from work, yet driving home with more energy that you began the day.

Being a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society may or may not be the most important thing that you do in your life. Still, I hope that you are able to see its importance in a sometimes hectic and stressful world.

As I begin my District Presidency for 2012, I promise you that my work, and the the work of your District Board will always be guided by a commitment to have you experience these feelings of being uplifted by your participation. There are sure to be times that we miss our mark (even The Vocal Majority only sang a 96) but we will always look to adjust our work to that mark.

It is my wish that for everyone one of you, your biggest life's concern is that there is someone next to you that is having trouble hitting a note of keeping pitch. I

It is also my wish that all of us have the ability to recognize the beauty that each person's voice adds to the world, and that we don't need a judge to confirm that for us. It will be beautiful because we recognize that anyone that seeks to express themselves through song, speech, dance, motion, or the wink of an eye is doing their best to keep the world a beautiful place.

People are moved by what we do, and we should share our gift generously. I hope that you will be able to make that a goal for 2012. On behalf of your District Team, we wish you and the ones you love a joyous holiday season followed by a prosperous, healthy, and harmonious new year.

Mike

Michael Klein  
Barbershop Harmony Society  
Northeastern District, President Elect  
Lowell, MA Chapter

## NED Standing Ovation program

I am very pleased to report that the NED Standing Ovation program is back in the very capable hands of Joe Kopka. Joe started and ran the program here in NED for the past many years, and after a year of semi-retirement Joe has agreed to pick the reins back up full time.

The Standing Ovation program will give you feedback on all aspects of any show or singout that you care to have evaluated. From the venue setup to the scripting to the lighting and sound to the show flow to the audience conditions, the Standing O evaluation hits it all. (But don't worry, this does seek to coach or critique your singing!) The evaluation can help you tweak and improve your show so that the end result will be what every performer wants - a Standing Ovation!

Standing O evaluations are available to any chorus or quartet in the NED who requests them.

How much does this cost you? NOTHING! This is a service provided to you at no charge by the District. The only thing we ask is that you provide a ticket to the show for the evaluator (and his or her spouse if they also attend). The District takes care of the evaluator's expenses.

To request a Standing O evaluation, contact Joe Kopka at [CapnJoeK@aol.com](mailto:CapnJoeK@aol.com) with the date, time and place of your performance and he will make sure someone is assigned to review it for you.

In harmony,  
Jim Coates NED VP, Music & Performance

## Harmony Brigade

We're sure you've heard of the new movement in barbershop circles called the Harmony Brigade. It is spreading like wildfire throughout the Society and we are proud to say that, through the work of several dedicated individuals, we will be having our very own Brigade in NED this coming September.

News of the Brigade movement has been relegated to the new "quartet" Yahoo group in NED so we know that all those who might be interested are not getting the message. There are only 82 men who have joined the group and I can't believe there are that few men in NED who are interested in quartetting. That's only 4% of our NED membership. If you have any desire to be in a quartet, even at the most elemental level, you must join the Yahoo group. You'll find kindred souls and maybe new quartet mates. You'll hear of gigs that come up and need filling. You'll be part of a group with common interests. Maybe your very first quartet is out there waiting for you.

Joining is easy. Simply send an email to [NEDQuartets-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NEDQuartets-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and you're in. There have to be at least 100 men out there who would like to sing in a quartet. Let's hear from you!

Once you're joined, you'll be getting messages like the one below. It speaks of scholarships limited to the Atlantic Brigade being held this August. Scholarships are for 18-22 year olds who have never been to a Brigade before.

Find out more by going to the website for the Atlantic Brigade listed below. I know this for a fact. Every man who has ever been to one goes back! That has to tell you something about how much fun this is.

Sign up now!

## Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention



### Earlybird Housing

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

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

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

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

Family Package: \$379 (2 adults and 2 youth from the same household. Each additional youth from same household - \$25).

Enter Promo Code "familypackage" to receive discount.

### PRICES AFTER JANUARY 15th, 2012:

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

Register by phone: 800-595-4849, or

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



## Ye Olde Joke Boarde

*Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper*

A local United Way officer, who is a barbershop baritone, realized that the organization had never received a donation from the town's most successful lawyer. The person in charge of contributions called him to persuade him to contribute. "Our research shows that out of a yearly income of at least \$500,000, you give not a penny to charity. Wouldn't you like to give back to the community in some way?"

The lawyer mulled this over for a moment and replied, "First, did your research also show that my mother is dying after a long illness, and has medical bills that are several times her annual income?"

Embarrassed, the United Way rep mumbled, "Um ... no."

The lawyer interrupts, "or that my brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair?"

The stricken United Way rep began to stammer out an apology, but was interrupted again.

"Or that my sister's husband died in a traffic accident," the lawyer's voice rising in indignation, "leaving her penniless with three children?!"

The humiliated United Way rep, completely beaten, said simply, "I had no idea..."

On a roll, the lawyer cut him off once again, "So if I don't give any money to them, why should I give any to you?"

---

A barbershop baritone, wanting to earn some money, decided to hire himself out as a handyman-type and started canvassing a wealthy neighborhood. He went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any jobs for him to do. "Well, you can paint my porch. How much will you charge?"

The baritone said, "How about 50 dollars?" The man agreed and told him that the paint and ladders that he might need were in the garage. The man's wife, inside the house, heard the conversation and said to her husband, "Does he realize that the porch goes all the way around the house?" The man replied, "He should, he was standing on the porch."

A short time later, the baritone came to the door to collect his money. "You're finished already?" the man asked. "Yes," the baritone answered, "and I had paint left over, so I gave it two coats. "Impressed, the man reached in his pocket for the \$50. "And by the way," the baritone added, "that's not a Porch, it's a Ferrari."

---

## Current Mad Hatter Repertoire



### ***Performance***

Bare Necessities  
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do  
Can You Feel The Love Tonight  
Give My Regards To Broadway  
Heart  
If I Loved You  
Over The Rainbow  
Please, Mr. Columbus  
Shenandoah  
Ten Feet Off The Ground  
Thanks For The Memory  
There Is Nothing Like A Dame

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

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

### ***Contest***

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

### ***In Progress/Upcoming***

From The First Hello  
It's Only A Paper Moon  
River Of No Return  
Somewhere Out There  
How Deep Is The Ocean  
My Honey's Lovin' Arms  
They Say It's Wonderful  
When You And I Were Young,  
Maggie  
There Ain't Enough Room in my Fruit  
of the Looms to Hold All My Lovin'  
for You

## The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

PO Box 5149  
Brookfield, CT 06804-5149

<b>President:</b>	<b>Danny Anderson</b>
<b>Musical Director:</b>	<b>Joseph Hudson</b>
<b>Assistant Director:</b>	<b>Jim Hopper</b>
<b>Assistant Director:</b>	<b>Don Sutherland</b>
<b>Membership VP:</b>	<b>Andy Bayer</b>
<b>Public Relations VP:</b>	<b>Wynn Wilcox</b>
<b>Music VP:</b>	<b>Jim Hopper</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Robert Golenbock</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Dickson DeMarche</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Chuck Kreiger</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Art Roberts</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Dick Walter</b>
<b>Program Committee</b>	
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Lyle LaPlante</b>
<b>Uniform Chairman:</b>	<b>Andy Bayer</b>
<b>Harmony Foundation</b>	
<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Danny Anderson</b>
<b>Music Librarian:</b>	<b>Lyle LaPlante</b>
<b>Sunshine Chairman:</b>	<b>Don Smith</b>
<b>Package Show Chairman:</b>	<b>Dick Walter</b>
<b>Chorus Manager:</b>	<b>Robert Golenbock</b>

## The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

John Bradley, Hatter editor 39 Beekman Drive Lake Carmel, NY 10512 <a href="mailto:Jbrad1313@earthlink.net">Jbrad1313@earthlink.net</a>	Dick Zang, Chatter editor 2 Camelot Crest Sandy Hook, CT 06482 <a href="mailto:jezang@charter.net">jezang@charter.net</a>
--	--

Proofreader: Miss Taralily

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

## January Milestones

### *Birthdays:*

1 – Andy Bayer  
4 - Pat Sutherland  
4 – Craig Johnson  
6 - Charlie Rosa  
6 – Don Smith  
15 - Lee Smeriglio  
30 - Chuck Kreiger

### *Wedding Anniversaries:*

14 - Bill and Gloria Keenan

## Mark Your Calendars

**January 20, Officers' Installation Dinner:**  
Danbury Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 18 Old Ridgebury Road Danbury. 7 PM.

**January 28, Chapter Sing-out:** Meadow Ridge Assisted Living Center, 100 Danbury Rd., West Redding, CT. Warmup 3:30, sing 4:00.

**February 21, Chapter Sing-out:** Bethel Health Care (The Cascades), 13 Park Lawn Drive, Bethel, CT. Warmup 7:00, sing 7:30.

**MARCH 16-17, International Prelims,  
Yankee/Mountain Western Regional Convention  
Schenectady, NY  
Host: Scenectady (K-044)  
Details to be announced**

## Singing Valentines

Valentine's Day is not far off, so it's not too early to start planning for this important event.



The Mad Hatters have two major fund raising events each year: our annual show and Singing Valentines. For the new chorus members, the Mad Hatters devote Valentine's Day to driving all over western Connecticut and eastern New York State, delivering two songs, a rose and a card to someone's valentine.

It's a fun event and an important day for the Mad Hatter treasury. And it's an event in which all chorus members should get involved. How can you participate?

**Join/form a quartet.** All you need is four guys and two love songs. The more quartets we have, the more singing valentines we can perform.

**Sell a Singing Valentine.** It's an easier sell than annual show tickets. What guy wouldn't pay \$50 to have his loved one serenaded on Valentine's Day? He doesn't have to go to the store to buy anything, he doesn't have to be there and most importantly, he doesn't have to sing. Some guys even like receiving Singing Valentines, unless they work in a Harley Davidson dealership.

**Buy a Singing Valentine.** Your loved one would love to see you show up in a tuxedo to serenade her, as would your mom, grandma, aunt, great-aunt, sister, mother-in-law, business associates, probation officer...