



*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, 7:15 p.m. at Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, Connecticut

Volume 21 Number 6

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

July 2014

## The Mad Hatters Go To School

*By John Bradley*

Ansonia, CT – On the morning of June 9, a contingent of Mad Hatters visited Ansonia High School in Connecticut's Naugatuck River Valley to perform for Maria Tangredi's choral classes. The visit, arranged by Danbury music director, Joe Hudson, who is also a music teacher in the Ansonia school district, was an opportunity to introduce the students to barbershop music.

The chorus performed a number of its regular repertoire songs for the kids, including "It's Only a Paper Moon," "Happy Together," "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "Shenandoah," and "Kentucky Babe." Then Joe taught the students a tag, "It's My Song," which they performed *with* the chorus, then *for* the chorus.

A couple of the boys enjoyed the session enough to show up twice. Wonder which classes they skipped?

From the reactions of both the kids and the chorus members, the event was a success. Who knows. Maybe we planted the barbershop seed in some young minds.



*Joe Hudson directs a chorus of Mad Hatters and high schoolers. Picture by John Bradley*



*The Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus singng at Ridgefield Crossing on June 10. Picture by John Bradley*

## What I Did On My Summer Vacation

*By Dr. Robert Golenbock*

I spent a week at the International Barbershop Convention in Las Vegas recently, and I must say it was like two separate vacations. If you have a lot of time and money, by all means plan a trip to Las Vegas. Many of the hotels are magnificent and interesting to visit, there are tons of fabulous restaurants, and there are shows featuring musicians, singers, comedians, and magicians. And there are a bunch of Cirque du Soleil shows.

I guess everybody knows about that image of Las Vegas. If you haven't been there, you might not realize that it's also like a small town but duplicated many times. Each large hotel is like a mall except that all the stores are overpriced and in the center is a smoke-filled casino filled with sad people who think they're going to beat the slots.

*Continued on the next page*

# Vacation

*Continued from the previous page*

And in the summer when it's 114 degrees outside, you don't want to walk five or 10 blocks to find a reasonably priced Chinese restaurant.

If you do rent a car, you can go out to Red Rock Canyon, to the Hoover Dam, or even to the Grand Canyon. Really anywhere except one of those casinos. In short, being at one of those large hotels is like being at Disneyland for very drunk adults.

What about the Convention? I admit my wife, Jane, and I spent a lot of time at some really great restaurants, and we did almost fall asleep (jet lag) at Cirque du Soleil. And I lost \$20 in a slot machine! But mostly we sat in the cavernous arena listening to great barbershop music. Believe me, it has to be good. Jane is not really a barbershop fan, but she sat enthralled with me for eight to ten hours a day being entertained by quartets and choruses. I learned a lot about dedication and effort and paying attention to the basics. Everything Joe and our coaches have talked about I saw put into practice.

I saw giant choruses put on professional performances. I saw choruses our size getting scores in the 70's and 80's, not because they had great sets and choreography, but because they sang beautifully and precisely with great emotion. I saw quartets so good I bought their CD's. But wait, there's more!

No barbershop convention is complete without some late night tagging, and I had the opportunity to sing with people from all over the country, including some barbershop celebrities, as well as friends from the NED. Try a tag. Try it again and see if you can get it better (or louder). Try switching parts. I even got to teach a bunch of people to sing "Through the Long and Lonely Night." We whispered her name, we shouted her name, we forgot her name. It was great.

I'm not finished yet. The last day of the convention started very early with "Sing With the Champs." In a very intimate setting you got to hear Crossroads, Vocal Spectrum, OC Times, Ringmasters and Storm Front singing their favorite tunes and then allowing good singers to replace one of their members. I had the opportunity to sing lead with OC Times. Sean Devine very generously allowed me to take his place (Clearly there's more than a little resemblance. We both sing barbershop, for example, and at least one of us has hair.). My video is available on demand. Seriously, you're going to have to beg because it turns out that I don't sing as well as the members of OC Times do. I know Jane thought I did well. I have a series of excuses that you will have to read before I let you see it. (It was early, I had a cold, I'm a lot older than they are, etc.).

The day got better. After a lovely lunch (three courses, three wines) at the restaurant in the Eiffel Tower at the Paris Hotel with great views of the Bellagio Fountain, we had plenty of time to take a nap before a spectacular show which included some great quartets from the past and a rare reunion of all four

members of Boston Common! The evening continued with the quartet finals that included a moving ballad by the Musical Island Boys and, in their only top ten appearance ever, the swan song of the fabulously funny Lunch Break singing their hearts out in their last competitive event.

Afterward, of course, hundreds of people rushed off to the chorditorium to hear – and sing -- more barbershop until morning.

Yes, the International Convention is like one of our local conventions on steroids. Next year it's in Pittsburgh.

Carpool, anyone?

## The Las Vegas 76th BHS International Convention

*By Chase Brantley*

After many years as a baritone for the Danbury Mad Hatters, I finally decided to attend a Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention. The fact that the Convention was in Las Vegas made it even more exciting – I've never been inside a casino!

I arrived at the McCarran International Airport outside of Las Vegas airport at about noon on July 2. My plan was to check into the hotel, get a bite to eat, then head over to the quartet quarter finals. As I walked from the plane into the terminal, I was amazed to see dozens of slot machines and to hear their clanks, bells and other sounds filling the terminal.

"What's a couple of dollars lost in Vegas," I said aloud to myself, and deposited a few coins into a slot machine just vacated by an elderly woman who was muttering obscenities as she walked away.

After an initial winning streak I was down about \$50 three hours later. I knew I had to leave immediately to get to the contest – just a few coins more.

I got to the MGM Grand Hotel around 9 PM. By this time, it was too late to see much of the contest, so I took a walk around the hotel, passing the casino. "Busy place," I said. "Might as well look inside and see what's happening."

I slipped into an empty seat at the baccarat table, scotch in hand. Hours passed, the money flowed as freely as the scotch. Light was pouring through the windows of my hotel room when I finally staggered in. 3 PM? I know I maxed-out at least one credit card. If the name of the game does come from the Italian word "baccara" ("zero" or "nothing"), then it was accurately describing my bank account.

There was a message from Bob, the lead of my quartet, who also made the trip to International. "Guess you got in late. See you at the semis."

*Continued on the next page*

# Vegas

*Continued from the previous page*

“A couple of hours of sleep, then I’ll meet Bob,” I muttered, then passed out.

The Fourth of July dawned hot, as, I guess, does every Las Vegas morning. I had missed two days of quartets, but the good stuff was just coming up: the choruses and quartet finals. I ordered a room service breakfast, showered, dressed and strode to the elevator with a purpose.

In the lobby I met an old friend, Bill, who is a member of the Hunterdon Harmonizers in New Jersey. “I want to play a few hands of blackjack before heading to the contest,” Bill said, “but I hate playing alone. “Here’s \$200 bucks. Sit with me and maybe you’ll bring me luck.”

Bill went broke fast, but I knew it was my day. The \$200 became \$300, then \$400, then \$700, then... \$20,000! Waitresses started bringing me free drinks and one, named Squeaky Bubbles, passed me a note with her name and number. I gave her my room key.

But Lady Luck is fickle, and before I knew it I was down \$10,000 and on the phone with my bank. In college I was a pretty good poker player, so I found a spot across the table from a guy with inky eyes named Murray the Squid.

Drunk, busted, depressed, I slunk back to my hotel room and collapsed on the bed. There was a message from my wife wondering what was going on – she bounced a couple of checks – and another from Bill who reminded me I owed him \$200. Plus my laptop and a few other items were missing. “Guess Squeaky cleaned-up,” I thought.

There was a knock on the door. “Hey, man,” Bob exclaimed as I opened it a crack. “Where the hell have you been? You look awful. We’re heading for the quartet finals. You coming?”

It was Saturday night and I knew I had one last chance to get back to even. “I’m going to call home. Meet you in a little while,” I lied to Bob.

I was so tired. I stretched out on the bed, but instead of counting sheep I saw cards. Cards 2 through 6, I saw with a +1 count. 7 through 9, a 0. 10 and the face cards, -1. I envisioned a blackjack game and calculated values as the cards were flipped. I was winning! If I can count the cards – I win big!

To make a long story short, I missed the quartet finals, missed my flight on Sunday and missed work on Monday. I spent a night in a dark room, somewhere under the MGM Grand, surrounded by very large security men who threatened to break my legs and beat the money I won out of me. I then had to beg my wife to send me money for my flight home.

Oh, by the way, Vocal Majority won the chorus championship, Musical Island Boys the quartet prize. I found that out on my cell phone – the only thing I had left.



## Quartet Corner

*News from our chorus quartets*



### Traveling Men - By Wynn Gadkar Wilcox

The Traveling Men has had more or less a down month, as baritone Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox has been away in Utah and upstate New York, and bass Andy Bayer has been recuperating at home. We are working toward several performances soon and for an exciting fall. Stay tuned!

### Real Chemistry – By John Bradley

Real Chemistry is on temporary hiatus while we search for a new tenor. Our former tenor, Augie D’Aurelly, had to leave the group due to professional and personal reasons. We will still be meeting Thursday evenings as a trio to keep our repertoire fresh.

So, if you are a tenor and would like to stop by and sing with us on a Thursday night, we meet at 7:30 pm at the Holly Real Estate office on Route 311, Lake Carmel, NY.

Even better – if you are a tenor or know a tenor (or a bass with a good falsetto) who would like to join an established quartet, stop by or give me a call: 914-319-6572. No barbershop experience necessary.

## Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

*I'm reading a book about mazes. I got lost in it.*

## Repertoire Notes

"Wouldn't It Be Nice" (part of our "Beach Boys Medley," is the opening track on the 1966 album, *Pet Sounds*, and one of the most widely recognized songs by the American rock band, the Beach Boys. It was composed and produced by Brian Wilson, with words largely by Tony Asher; Mike Love having a hand in the coda's vocal arrangement and lyric. It was released as a single two months after the album's release.

Brian Wilson described the song as "what children everywhere go through ... wouldn't it be nice if we were older, or could run away and get married." Wilson added in 1996, "'Wouldn't It Be Nice' was not a real long song, but it's a very 'up' song. It expresses the frustrations of youth, what you can't have, what you really want and what you have to wait for."

The song talks about "the need to have the freedom to live with somebody," according to Brian. "The idea is, the more we talk about it, the more we want it, but let's talk about it anyway."

The lyrics describe a couple in love lamenting about being too young to run off to get married, fantasizing about how nice it would be if they were adults.



## 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 high school choral teacher told us to sing with a slight Irish accent. According to him, the Irish accent is the perfect accent for singing because it allows you to sing in a very relaxed way. Is that true and if it is, how do I learn to speak with an Irish accent?

Rod from Redding

*Rod, that's really interesting - something I've never heard before. Fortunately, I have a friend, Seamus, who is Irish and a singer, so I asked him.*

*According to Seamus, singing with an Irish accent will engage only the correct muscles required to sing. The troublesome muscles (that try and interfere with the process) will sit perfectly still. He gave me an example.*

*If you say the word "ARE" with an exaggerated wide mouth, you will feel the muscles under your chin begin to tense up. These are the muscles that you don't want to play a part in the singing process. Give it a try - really exaggerate the "A" and feel your chin begin to get tight.*

*But, if you say it with an Irish tone, like a pirate would say "ARRRRRgh matey," you can feel how your mouth stays narrow and relaxed.*

*Of course, this is helpful if you already have an Irish accent. To perfect one, you could move to Ireland for a while, probably not possible for a high school student, or do an Internet search. There's a whole bunch of stuff out there that might help.*

## Interesting Musical Fact

The house fly hums in the middle octave key of F.



## District Doings

By Bob Bradley



I know I've mentioned the Northeast District House of Delegates (HOD) during our chorus's business meetings, but I realized that some, especially newer members, might have no idea what this body of barbershoppers does.

According to the NED by-laws, adopted January 1, 1971, and revised January 4, 2013, the House of Delegates is the supreme legislative and governing body of the Northeast District. Each duly chartered chapter is allowed to name a designated delegate to the HOD. In addition, members include all District officers and all past presidents.

In order to conduct business, the by-laws require a quorum to be present at a meeting, which consists of 30% of delegates or alternate delegates. Each delegate has one vote. All meetings follow Roberts Rules of Order.

The House of Delegates approves contest locations, elects NED officers and approves changes to the operating code of NED.

*Continued on the next page*



## The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

Summer has arrived and with that, the travel of our membership has increased. It was good to see several members return from their vacations/trips while others started their vacation plans. With the number of men showing up to practice each week varying, it is imperative that each member spend time working on the new music and keeping the current repertoire fresh by listening to the learning tracks placed on Groupanizer. Joe has worked hard at keeping this current, and I applaud this work.

Harmony College is scheduled for August 8 and 9 in Worcester, MA. Each year, a good time is had by all who attend. The school offers classes designed to help each chapter become better, to improve your personal singing, prepare for shows, conduct marketing and much more. In addition, there is time to sing in the hospitality rooms and, of course, the great Saturday night show. Plan on attending and you will want to go back year after year.

It is exciting to have men visiting our practices. These men have good voices and would be a valued addition to the chorus. They are coming because our members are talking about the chapter and the fun they are having. If each of us did this, the growth of the chorus would be tremendous.

Almost weekly I have someone ask me if I am still singing. This provides me with an opportunity to talk about the chorus, plus a chance to invite them to come to practice. Few have taken me up on the invitations, but that does not stop me from asking them to come. One day one of them will show up.

Richard Schoonmaker submitted a membership application at the end of last night's practice. We welcome him to the chapter. Richard is a tenor, with several years of experience singing with other choruses, a couple being Big Apple and Vocal Majority. According to Jim Hopper, "Rich can read music and is on pitch."

I encourage each chorus member to log into Groupanizer and mark their intentions of attending the many events scheduled for the chorus. We announce these events and need to know in advance those who will attend to ensure we have a balanced group performing. The more time we spend in front of live audiences performing, the more comfortable and confident we become.

While in Groupanizer, take a minute to print out the new music we will be singing in the near future.

We will be having coaching sessions in preparation for the District competition in October. We will get the most benefit from the coaching sessions by having all the notes, words and music "down cold." This way we can work on interpretation and presentation. Please spend time each week, outside of practice, to work on the contest music, get it off paper, and start performing the song.

It is evident that our membership is improving and putting in the time to learn the music. If you are one who is not doing this, please commit to start working on the music. As Joe said last night, it only takes one voice to mess up the song.

I was that voice last night when I moved to the tenor melody instead of remaining on the lead notes. Believe me, you don't want to be that voice which messes up a song. We know that the judges at competition and our audiences pick up on mistakes. Let's set a personal goal of being the best that we can be and prepare to perform the music to portray the meaning of the song and show that we enjoy singing.

As always, it is great to be a part of the Danbury Mad Hatter Chorus.

## House of Delegates

*Continued from the previous page*

It meets two times a year in January and August, January at Leadership Academy, August at Harmony College.

Whoever attends the HOD from a chapter should provide the chapter with a report, detailing what went on at each meeting. After all, this is your district. On our organizational chart, the first and most important position on the chart is held by the members. Act like you deserve to be the most important members of the District.

Recent actions have included the election of the next set of District officers. We are also working on changing the contest system so we have only one contest each year open to all who want to compete. We'll name the chorus and quartet champs at that time. Division contests will be eliminated, replaced by jamborees in which members get together to sing informally.

Have any thoughts on this? Talk to me at practice!

By the way, this year's fall contest will be at the Convention Center in Providence. Details to follow.



*The Northeast District House of Delegates in session.*



## The Director's Den

By Joseph Hudson

### The Importance of Practicing at Home

“When we sing, we need to know our parts backwards and forwards.”

How many times have all of us heard this phrase? Millions probably. It's a phrase that has been spoken by either a director or a fellow chorus member or a coach or a judge or just a listener. Well, that statement is true. But there is something else that goes along with that phrase and that is: THE FEELING OF CONFIDENCE!

It isn't enough to just know the song, to know the notes and the words. No, you also have to be confident that you know the notes and the words. And that comes from my favorite word, PRACTICE!

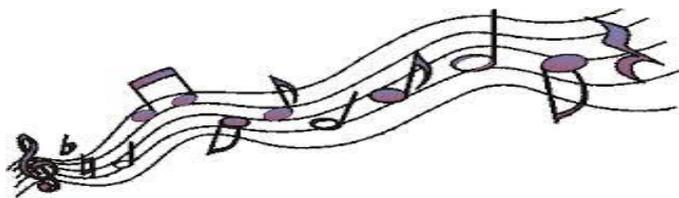
Practice is something you do on your own in order to make REHEARSALS a place that is just that: a place to REHEARSE what you have already PRACTICED.

A way to do this is to take a song note for note and word for word, not as a whole, but by phrases. For the words, actually write them out as if it were a poem. Then, recite the first two lines of that poem. That would be a comfortable phrase. Do it so you can do those two lines, just the words, to make it sound like poetry and not just WORDS, because then you can get the FEELING of the song.

Then, take the words and add the notes to them but try to keep the same rhythm you had for the poem. When you add notes, the music becomes just that: MUSIC, and not just NOTES and WORDS. Then, and only then, is when our chorus can sing with confidence, because every member of the chorus took it upon themselves to make the song his own.

Once the words and notes are learned, they need to be practiced the way we will perform the song each time, to build proper habits. And, as we have learned during rehearsals, always perform at your personal “A-Level” because that brings the level of each song up.

So, take fifteen to twenty minutes every day. Yes, I said EVERY DAY, and work on the songs for the following week. Do this with both old and new songs since it is always good to refresh a song, even once it is learned.



## June Board of Directors Meeting



Respectfully submitted by Robert Golenbock, Secretary

Meeting called to order by “Kentucky Colonel,” Danny Anderson, at 6:09pm on June 3, 2014 at the Church of Christ.

**Secretary's Report:** The report is tabled. I blame the U.S. Postal Service. How many stamps do you put on an e-mail anyway?

**Treasurer's Report:** Corrections were made to the March and April reports. Our cash flow is positive even before we add our ticket receipts. The report was received on a motion by Jim Hopper, seconded by Al Paparesta.

**Membership Report:** Andy Bayer recommends having guests at our InterChapter meeting. Also we considered doing the singing lessons program and using Facebook to advertise. Wynn suggested that members doing recruiting works better. Jim feels we should have a special guest night with a special program, and challenge members to bring guests. We can use e-mail and Facebook. We can also invite previous guests.

**VP Public Relations:** Al has sent out letters to contacts that might want us to sing, such as the Bridgewater Fair. On July 25, In Harmony will be singing at the Danbury Green. We should try to attend their concert with the idea of having them as our major talent for next year's show. Al has also developed a template for the Public Relations Department divided into Imaging, Publicity, and Marketing.

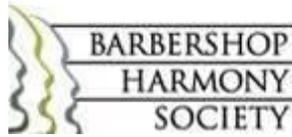
**Music Committee:** The committee is winnowing down our list of songs for *Feelin' Groovy*, next year's annual show. Next up: “Beach Boys Medley” and “Blue Velvet.” Also we appointed Wynn Wilcox as #1 assistant director and named Art Cillie to the Committee. A motion to the Board for a budget of \$500 to spend on music and learning tracks was passed on a motion by Jimmy Hopper, seconded by Wynn Wilcox.

**Old Business:** Andy Bayer handed out actual versus projected disbursements and income. Thanks to the efforts of our members we exceeded our expectations. Andy also wrote a report and analysis. He included six new initiatives which we attempted this year and recommendations for future shows. Wynn remarked that we also learned that big name outside barbershop talent doesn't bring a big increase in ticket sales.

**New Business:** The Harmony College Northeast scholarship drawing will be held the first Tuesday in July. Our incorporation filings are up to date.

**Members present:** J. Hudson, V. Lombardi.

**Officers present:** A. Cillie, J. Hopper, P. Daubner, D. DeMarche, W. Wilcox, A. Bayer, D. Anderson, R. Golenbock, A. Paparesta.



## Society and District Notes



### Harmony College Northeast

It's a little over a month away. July has traditionally been our biggest month as far as registrations go, and I'm hoping that again this year we'll have a large number of registrations in the next three weeks. Please, if you haven't registered yet, it is not too late. Go to the NED website and you'll find all the information you need there to register and select which courses you'd like to take. I'll remind everyone that online registration ends on July 30, 2014. After that date, if you want to attend HCNE you'll need to register on site at Worcester State University on Friday night or Saturday morning. So in other words, you can register on-site, but it is preferable to register online.

Speaking of classes, I'd like to bring your attention to a couple of new and very interesting classes being offered this year at HCNE.

**DARYL BORNSTEIN (Sound Designer) Audio Producer, Audio Engineer, Production Manager:** Mostly Mozart Festival, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, Houston Symphony, Metropolitan Opera, Billy Taylor Trio, Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Christmas at Rockefeller Center, Lincoln Center Great Performers., Live from Lincoln Center, PBS Great Performances, MTV Video Awards, Hispanic Heritage Awards, Billboard Latin Music Awards, You Tube Video Awards, Woodstock '94, Conan O'Brien, The Today Show, Good Morning America, The View, Rachel Ray, Garrison Keillor, Heinekin Jazz Festival, Michael Feinstein on Broadway, Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables, Smokey Joe's Cafe, Pump Boys and Dinettes, Chicago, Conversations with my Father, Rock of Ages, The Actors Company Theatre, Leonard Bernstein, the Rolling Stones, Lou Reed, Roberta Flack, Donnie Osmond, Andrea Bocelli, Michael Jackson, International Barbershop Quartet Society, Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, 1997 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies. A.B. Music, Dartmouth College.

Not mentioned in his bio is that Daryl also served as a technical consultant for many years for our International Conventions. He's a barbershopper and he has competed with a quartet in the NED. During his course, you'll learn everything you need to know to achieve clear, natural sound reinforcement for Barbershop Shows and Contests. You'll learn about sound systems, microphones, mixing consoles, equalizers and loud speakers. We are truly honored to have Daryl on our faculty this year, and I hope you'll consider taking his class. I'm sure you'll find it very interesting and worthwhile.

Another new class being offered this year is being taught by Raymond Schwarzkopf and is entitled: **Singing in the Barbershop Style aka "How to Succeed in Barbershop without Really Trying"**. Raymond is a director, arranger, Certified Music Judge, and has done just about everything in barbershopping. Since this class was just added, the course description has not made it online yet so it is presented here.

This class is for everyone from novices to experts and will explore what the "Barbershop Style" is, and why, even though a song may be arranged in "the barbershop style," you may not be performing it "in the barbershop style." This class will help you understand what barbershop is, and how to use your understanding of the barbershop style to transcend being a "notes and words" singer and use the arrangement to your advantage to create a total performance.

So there you have it. Two outstanding reasons to attend HCNE 2014. And to think we have such talent teaching in addition to Crossroads, the Big Saturday Night Show, great food, air conditioned dorms, pizza party, other afterglows and lots of great singing. Get your registrations in, and I hope to sing with you all in Worcester in August.

More info at the NED Harmony College Northeast web page:

[http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page\\_id=246](http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=246)

Edward Fritzen  
NED Vice President Music and Performance

### Harmony College Showcase

On Saturday, August 9, 2014, at 7:00 pm, a culmination of the work, learning and talent of Harmony Explosion Camp Northeast (HXNE) and Harmony College Northeast (HCNE) will come together for an amazing Showcase! The Northeastern District is hosting a "Saturday Night Showcase" at Worcester State University's Sullivan Auditorium!

Featured Choruses include:

- HXNE2014: Men's Chorus, Under the direction of K.J. McAleesjergins
- HXNE2014: Women's Chorus, Under the direction of Debbie Cleveland
- HXNE2014 & HCNE2014: Adult Chorus, Under the direction of Dr. Jim Henry

*Continued on the next page*

## Notes

*Continued from the previous page*

Featured Quartets include:

- Crossroads, BHS 2009 Intl. Quartet Champions
- GQ, SAI 2012 Rising Star Quartet Champions
- 'Round Midnight, 2013 Semi-Finalist Quartet
- Other Features include:
- Downtown Crossing, BHS 2013 NED Quartet Champions
- Trade Secret, BHS 2014 NED Senior Quartet Champions
- Timepiece, BHS 2014 NED Collegiate Quartet Champions

This is a show you don't want to miss! To purchase tickets please visit [www.hxne2014.eventbrite.com](http://www.hxne2014.eventbrite.com) and select the "Standalone Ticket" option. Participants attending HXNE2014 and/or HCNE2014 do not need to purchase tickets as it is included in their registrations.

Antonio L. Lombardi  
District Secretary, Board of Directors, Northeastern District

### For Sale

Over 40 complete sets of WW1 ("Doughboy") uniforms that I would like to sell to some chapter that might be contemplating a show with a WW1 theme (this being one hundred years from the event, itself).

The sets consist of a tunic (top), trousers, a "Sam Browne" sort of belt, "puttees" (tan long cotton stockings) and a "soup tureen" helmet. The uniforms are located "chez moi" here in Concord, Mass., and I would think that \$ 950 would be a fair price for the lot. OBO. (Tunic, trousers, belt, puttees, helmets, raincoats).

There are 45-50 of everything (depending on the item)."

CONTACT : Smiley Ruggles: [smileymr@aol.com](mailto:smileymr@aol.com)



*The Mad Hatter Chorus 30 years ago, under the direction of Ray Wixted – front row 2<sup>nd</sup> from right.  
How many faces do you remember?*

## Ye Olde Joke Boarde



*Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper (with help from Nick Godano)*

As Mr. Smith, a barbershop baritone, was on his death bed, he attempted to formulate a plan that would allow him to take at least some of his considerable wealth with him. He called for the three men he trusted most -- his lawyer, his doctor, and his clergyman. He told them, "I'm going to give you each \$30,000 in cash before I die. At my funeral, I want you to place the money in my coffin so that I can try to take it with me."

All three agreed to do this and were given the money. At the funeral, each approached the coffin in turn and placed an envelope inside.

While riding in the limousine back from the cemetery, the clergyman said, "I have to confess something to you fellows. Brother Smith was a good churchman all his life, and I know he would have wanted me to do this. The church needed a new baptistery very badly, and I took \$10,000 of the money he gave me and bought one. I only put \$20,000 in the coffin."

The physician then said, "Well, since we're confiding in one another, I might as well tell you that I didn't put the full \$30,000 in the coffin either. Smith had a disease that could have been diagnosed sooner if I had this very new machine, but the machine cost \$20,000 and I couldn't afford it then. I used \$20,000 of the money to buy the machine so that I might be able to save another patient. I know that Smith would have wanted me to do that."

The lawyer then said, "I'm ashamed of both of you. When I put my envelope into that coffin, it held my personal check for the full \$30,000."

• • •

A travelling barbershop quartet was suffering from bad word-of-mouth. As the performers prepared for their final show in one town, one of them asked the stage manager how things looked in the audience.

"Better than last night," he replied. "But don't worry, you guys still have them outnumbered."

• • •

Our chapter always asks our baritone section to supply their special tuna surprise for our annual picnic. It's the best thing we've found to keep the flies away--and to punish the flies that do show up.

---

## 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  
I'm So Miserable Without You It's  
Almost Like Having You Here  
Ten Feet Off The Ground  
There Is Nothing Like A Dame

### *Patriotic/Inspirational*

Amazing Grace  
Armed Forces Salute  
God Bless America  
I Believe  
Impossible Dream  
Lord's Prayer  
Star-Spangled Banner  
This Land Is Your Land/America The  
Beautiful



### *Coming Soon*

They Say It's Wonderful  
Beach Boys Medley  
Blue Skies  
Come Go With Me  
Crazy Little Thing Called Love  
Happy Together  
How Deep Is The Ocean  
Moonlight Brings Memories  
Billy Broke My Heart At Walgreens  
And I Cried All The Way To Sears

## The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

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

<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>Al Paparesta</b>
<b>Music VP:</b>	<b>Jim Hopper</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Robert Golenbock</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Dickson DeMarche</b>
<b>Program VP</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Peter Daubner</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Art Cilley</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Wynn Wilcox</b>
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	<b>Robert Bradley</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>Peter Daubner</b>
<b>Sunshine Chairman:</b>	<b>Don Smith Package</b>
<b>Show Chairman:</b>	<b>Dick Walter Chorus</b>
<b>Manager:</b>	<b>Robert Golenbock</b>

### *The Hatter Chatter*

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

John Bradley, hatter editor	Dick Zang, chatter
editor 39 Beekman Drive	2 Camelot Crest
Lake Carmel, NY 10512	Sandy Hook, CT 06482
<a href="mailto:Jbrad1313@earthlink.net">Jbrad1313@earthlink.net</a>	<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 whatevers, and we'll turn them into Pulitzer Prize copy

## Mark Your Calendars

### *Performance*

**Thursday July 17, Danbury Westerners baseball game. Warm-up 5:45pm, Game Starts 6:30 pm. Sing at beginning of game and 7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch. Rogers Park, 101 Memorial Drive, Danbury, CT.**

### *Performance*

**Saturday July 26, Putnam County 4-H Fair. Warm-up 4:15 pm at Holly Real Estate, Route 301, Kent, NY. Sing 5:00 pm at Putnam County Fair Grounds, Gypsy Trail Road, Kent, NY.**

### *Inter-chapter Night*

**Open House, Inter Chapter Night BBQ at the Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT. Tuesday, July 29, 6:00 pm. Invite your friends, family members, or whomever to come and enjoy the evening with us!**

### *Performance*

**Macy's Shop for a Cause. Saturday, August 23. Macy's at Danbury Mall. Tables 10 am – 4 pm, warm up 2:00 pm, sing 2:30 pm.**

### *Coaching Session*

**Tuesday August 26, 7:15 pm at the Church of Christ. Scott Brannon is the former director of the Big Apple Chorus (directing them to the top 10 four times), current director of Harmony Celebration SAI Chorus (three time champions), Lead of Cincinnati Kids (1986 4th Place medalists) and Lead of OUR TOWN (2008 NED Champs with the Bass and Bari of the Boston Common).**

### *Performance*

**Sunday, September 7, Taste Of Danbury, Danbury Green. 186 Main St, Danbury, CT. Warmup and singing times TBA.**

### *Performance*

**Sunday, September 14, Newtown Arts Festival. Warmup 10:15 am, sing 10:45 am.**

### *Performance*

**Sunday, September 28, Maplewood of Danbury, 22 Hospital Ave, Danbury, CT, Warmup 2:00 pm, sing 3:00 pm.**

### *Northeast District Convention*

**Friday October 17, Providence, RI. Quartet Semifinals (Traveling Men & SUREFIRE!) Saturday October 18, Chorus Finals & Quartet Finals. Details TBA.**

### *Holiday Performance*

**Saturday December 6, Church Of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Rd., / Danbury, CT. Warm-Up Time: TBD.**

## July Milestones

### *Birthdays:*

2 - Paul Just  
3 - Linda Horhota  
4 - Sujata Gadkar Wilcox  
12 - Peter Daubner  
14 - Carol Rosa  
16 - Bob Bradley  
17 - Art Cilley  
22 - Ed Feinberg  
27 - John Bradley  
27 - Mary Dunkle

### *Wedding Anniversaries:*

5 - Art and Charlotte Cilley  
7 - Frank and Veronica Fehling  
7 - Steve and Linda Horhota  
14 - Terry and Mary Dunkle

