



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

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www.madhatterchorus.org

June 2014



View of the Danbury Mad Hatter Annual Show.

Hatters a Hit at Ives Hall

By John Bradley

On Saturday evening, May 17th, the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus filled Western Connecticut University's Ives Hall with the harmonies of love, entertaining an enthusiastic audience with their 49th Annual Show, "It's Almost Like Being in Love."

It was, perhaps, one of the most musically ambitious productions the chorus has put together, as music director, Joe Hudson, guided the chorus through songs from Irving Berlin, The Turtles and Queen (not Elizabeth – the 1970's British rock band).

Joining the Mad Hatters on stage were chorus quartets Real Chemistry, Traveling Men and Loco Fedora. Finishing the program's first half was SUREFIRE!, last spring's Yankee Division quartet champions and a top 10 finisher in the 2013 Northeastern District Competition in Portland, ME.

Vocal Spectrum, the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2006 International Quartet Champion, was the featured act. Hailing from St. Louis, the group has entertained audiences everywhere from England to New Zealand, and now Danbury. As annual show chairman, Andy Bayer, described them, "They were just phenomenal. They are the best of the best."

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Television Stars!

By Dick Zang

We hope everyone tuned in to the WTNH (Ch. 8 from New Haven) noontime show on May 13 to catch the Mad Hatters singing a couple of songs and plugging the Annual Show. Nine of us: Art Cilley, Jimmy Hopper, Danny Anderson, Robert Golenbock, Al Paparesta, Andy Bayer, Peter Daubner, Wynn Gadkar Wilcox and I, were there on Stage 8 early the day before, for the taping of the half-hour show called *Connecticut Style*, hosted by Teresa Dufour.

Daryl Bornstein, who has had to take a leave of absence from the chorus because he is doing the sound for the Broadway show *Rock of Ages* at the Helen Hayes Theatre, was there with his own mics to make sure we sounded our best. He could be seen in the background of some of the wide shots of us singing "Kentucky Babe" and "Sweet and Lovely."

Our segment wasn't the only one being recorded on that Monday morning. We all nodded in approval as Dr. Charles T. Brantley, a regular on the show, gave tips to women on how they should speak to their man. And, we drooled as Heide Lang, the cooking instructor, prepared a 2½-lb salmon with figs and walnuts. The best part was that we and the crew all got a serving after the show. There was barely enough left to give to Teresa and the show's producer.

Memorial Day Tribute

The full chorus put on a one-hour show at Richter House on May 25th in Danbury as part of their regular series of Sunday concerts arranged by Art Roberts' wife, Susan. It was a beautiful day and we sang to an standing room only crowd. The overflow stood in the foyer or sat in lawn chairs outside and listened to us through the open windows.

Since it was Memorial Day weekend, we opened with 'The Star Spangled Banner' and added a few patriotic songs to the full program.

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Annual Show

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To many in attendance, the highlight of the evening was the finale, when all of the show's performers came together to present a stirring version of Gomer Pyles's "The Impossible Dream." (Sorry – it's actually Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion's "The Impossible Dream").

Real Chemistry contibuted a humorous interpretation of "I Only Have Eyes for You." Said one audience member, "That is one of my all time favorite songs. I laughed so hard I'll never be able to hear it the same way again."

As Real Chemistry tenor, Auggie D'Auelli said, "Looks like we ruined another song for our fans."

After the show, performers, families and friends assembled at Nick's Restaurant on Starr Street (a challenge finnding for more that one GPS), for food, spirits and more song. Vocal Spectrum even broke out some new material for the afterglow crowd.

"This might have been the best annual show since I've been here," said a happy Joe Hudson. Many of the audience members were in agreement.



Vocal Spectrum



Mad Hatters warming up

Richter House

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Joe Hudson directed with enthusiasm and Lee Smeriglio ably handled the emcee chores with some new jokes [that's new to us – he readily admits to stealing all his material].

Joining the chorus were two quartets. Loco Fedora sang "In My Room" and Traveling Men sang "God Bless the USA."

Everyone enjoyed the performance. We even had a request for an encore, so we ended with 'There Is Nothing Like A Dame' before heading into the dining room for some punch and cookies and a chance to chat with some of the guests.

A Comcast cameraman taped the entire performance, so look for it on the local public access channel.

Oh.....That Annual Show!!!

By Andy Bayer

Lest anyone forget, our 49th Anniversary Show took place on Saturday evening, May 17th, at Ives Concert Hall on the midtown campus of Western Connecticut State University.

And, what an incredible evening it was! By curtain time, it appeared as though most of the main floor seats were filled with an eclectic demographic and cross-section of music lovers, supporters of the chorus and cultural arts in the region--not to mention Vocal Spectrum groupies!

We had fifteen Sweet Adeliners from Long Island and other individuals from Poughkeepsie, Bridgeport, Meriden, and Southington, as well as others from New York State. The energy this audience generated was palpable by those of us on the risers and our performance reflected it.

Enthusiastic comments (from non-family members) were heard far and wide, whether at intermission time or at the conclusion of the show, about how well the chorus sounded and the varied nature of the musical selections the music committee had chosen for us to sing. Smiles were clearly visible as audience members took an intermission break; and humming could be heard as everyone gathered in the main lobby to comment and "kvell."

While there is always room for improvement (as we have clearly demonstrated over the last few years), our show was certainly an "artistic" success. I believe that this was a show of which we can be most proud! Not just because of our own performance (or the performance of our guest quartet SUREFIRE! or our featured artists Vocal Spectrum), but because of what we brought to the cultural "quality-of-life" in the community and region.

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That Show!

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While I much *prefer* to focus on an analysis of the “artistic” side of the show, my chairperson-ship has reinforced the fact that our chorus is a “business” and, therefore, you (our membership) need to be informed about that part of this venture, as well. Yet, while we are a business, we are not one out to make a profit; rather we are one that needs a profit in certain of its undertakings to sustain itself through the purchase of music and the rights to perform it, to pay our chorus director and coaches to improve our skills, to purchase the equipment that allows us to create our own learning tracks, to develop and maintain our “electronic” presence, etc.

However, I cannot share with you, at this time, the degree of “financial” success your efforts brought forth. WCSU has not yet sent us their accounting of charges for the rental space, custodial and other required personnel fees vs. ticket revenue which will help us balance our books and determine our “profit.” When we do receive it, the results will be shared with the Board and with you. However, I do know that without all of your committed work, both artistically and business-wise, we would not have been able to “pull this off.”

I will admit that there were a few nights when I had a nightmare or two and wondered what I had gotten myself into!! However, I am a firm believer that thorough planning and everyone pulling his weight those nightmares can be kept to a minimum and, truth be told, that was validated by our common effort to see this be a success.

I can share with you some preliminary information about our show based on some data that I have been able to collate over the last few days. 274 tickets were purchased for the show. 185 tickets were sold prior to May 17th and 89 tickets were purchased on show night. We sold 132 tickets on the advance ticket purchase program with 112 of those being sold within the chorus and 20 from other individuals .

Based on tickets taken at the door, there were 52 comp ticket holders in the audience, 34 full price ticket holders and four student and 199 senior ticket holders who presented tickets prior to entering the venue. This is one of the areas where I would have liked to have seen more success! It was our hope that more of the choruses within the Northeast District (and especially within the region) would have been interested in and committed to attending and seeing Vocal Spectrum so relatively close to home.

I don’t believe that we could have done more in marketing to this potential audience group. We started marketing in October and continued with follow-up details and reminders in February, March, April and May. It is truly sad that there appears to be so little support of one another’s annual shows among chapters within the district---especially when there is advantageous pricing and the featured talent is one of the “name” quartets within the society.

It is with great appreciation that I report the following: chorus members secured enough ads (79 this year vs. 56 last year) to support a high quality, 44 page program book, producing revenue of just under \$5,000. (With an increase in the cost of a quarter page ad this year, percentage-wise we increased our half page ad sales from 30% last year to 39% this year and decreased our quarter page ad sales from 50% last year to 42% this year).

In addition, we had 19 chorus members who secured ads this year vs. 13 last year. Moreover, we had 31 angels, 14 of whom are active chorus members (spouses, children or cats), five others who are no longer active members, eight others who are related to chorus members (as distant family members or friends) and a few businesses. Angel donation revenue totaled approximately \$500 (vs. \$100 last year). Thanks to one and all for the support and, in some cases, sacrifice that will sustain our chapter!!

We had 53 people attend the afterglow at Nick’s Restaurant in Danbury. The food was first rate and plentiful and, due to the hour, we had the facility to ourselves----which meant there was no reticence to burst into song and engage in bustin’ a few barbershop chords. What I liked the most about this venue was the attitude of the owners and waitresses. They truly enjoyed hosting our event, seeing the enjoyment we took in our craft, and hearing the quality of singing displayed by all of those who chose to perform. I can confidently state that a good/great time was had by all who were able to attend.

While we have almost put this year’s production “to bed,” planning has already begun by the music committee and the Board for next year’s **BIG 50th** Anniversary Show. Please plan now to set aside time to join the preparations for this major celebration (including the afterglow) and consider what role you can individually play in making it an even more successful event than this year’s production. I look forward to consulting with and supporting next year’s new Annual Show chairman since I firmly believe that it is important to develop capacity and competence from within the chorus.

So don’t hesitate to get involved on this level with the chorus and talk with me about how we can work together to end this first-half century and begin the next with a successful 50th Anniversary Show!!

Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

It is tough to do inventories in Afghanistan because of the tally ban.

Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets

Traveling Men - By Wynn Gadkar Wilcox



The Traveling Men have had a rather busy month. We sang a lovely set for a birthday party earlier in the month of May for a group of ladies. This proved to be an adventurous gig, indeed, as it had to be moved back several hours when baritone Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox developed an injury on a long charity hike in the middle of the woods on Long Island earlier that day and had to limp eleven miles to civilization.

Nevertheless, the gig provided us some great publicity due to an audience member's featuring us on her popular local Facebook blog (see the "May 11th" entry of the "According to Susan" blog on Facebook).

We then performed "From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye" admirably well at the Annual Show. We've spent the last two weeks torturing ourselves trying to learn "God Bless the USA," which is the very definition of a song that is "sneaky hard." We are looking forward to our usual summer scattering of personnel in June.



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

In the latest *Hatter Chatter*, I notice that chapter president, Danny Anderson, says, "We have several sing-oust coming up before the annual show." I am not familiar with the term *sing-oust*. Does it mean you go somewhere to sing, and they kick you out?

Terry from Teaneck

Terry, I wish I could say it was an interpretation of Danny's accent, but it wasn't. It was a missed typo.



Repertoire Notes

"Where is Love?" is a song from the Tony Award-winning British musical *Oliver!* and the 1968 film *Oliver!* based on the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. The musical was written by Lionel Bart and was first staged in London's West End in 1960.

Oliver Twist, the leading character, sings the song after being thrown into the cellar of a funeral parlor for getting into a fight with Noah Claypole, another servant of the undertaker. Later in the show, a reprise is sung by Mr Brownlow's housekeeper, Mrs Bedwin.

In the 1968 musical film version of *Oliver!*, "Where is Love?" was performed onscreen by Mark Lester, whose singing voice was reportedly dubbed by Kathe Green (the daughter of the film's conductor and musical arranger, Johnny Green), though Lester was actually given credit on the soundtrack album.

The song was covered in the pilot episode of *Glee* by Ben Bladsoe and Stephen Tobolowsky, and was featured over the end credits of the eleventh episode of the third season to AMC's *Mad Men*.

Interesting Musical Fact

In 1997, Kenny G played the longest note ever recorded on a saxophone - an E-flat, for 45 minutes and 47 seconds.

District Doings

By Bob Bradley

I have been asked by the *Hatter Chatter* to write an article with news of the Northeastern District. While members of the chapter were entertaining at Richter Park, I was attending a Board of Directors meeting of your District. I submit the following thoughts, comments, remarks, and reflections on said meeting:

Was Sunday afternoon of Memorial Day, or as we oldies say, Decoration Day, really the best time to have a board meeting?

Were you aware that your NED District consists of different time zones?

Leadership Academy, of which I am Dean, has been moved to January 17th, 2015. There is a conflict with the winter convention held by the society on the original date. School will be held in the same place, Worcester State University in Worcester, MA. I am in the process of gathering a group of teachers - any ideas or suggestions for class topics are welcome.

The October NED district contest and convention will, at this time, be held in Providence, Rhode Island. As I am typing this, three different venues are being scouted-out.

Future District contests are being planned for downtown Portland, Maine, and downtown Manchester, New Hampshire. If Danbury would like to host a convention, let me know.

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Doings

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You might remember that as my last act as your chapter president, I chaired a Division hosted by our Danbury chapter. I would be glad to work with someone who wants to have it in our town again – just let me know.

There is a new idea afloat that will be voted on at the August House Of Delegates meeting. We will have to change for a year our rules on qualifications for international. There will be one contest in October that any quartet or chorus can enter that will determine all of the division leaders and NED champs. There will be no preliminaries. The HOD will be asked to approve this plan for the year 2015 and, if it works, we will be doing this from now on.

Every year we are losing membership, it is up to us to try to reverse this trend.

We discussed who to send to Nashville for the November forums. I attended last year and it was well worth the trip. Also, while there, I discovered the Frisk Museum, which is worth a visit when you go to International in Nashville in a few years.

The nominating committee is working on the 2015 slate which will be presented to the HOD at the January Leadership Academy.

All is moving along for Harmony College and Explosion Camp and I hope to see you all there. It looks to be a great weekend led by Crossroads.



May Board of Directors Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Robert Golenbock, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Danny “High Commissioner for Refugees” Anderson at the appointed hour (It could have been 6:10pm. I’m not sure. We were busy.) on 5/6/2014 at the Church of Christ in Danbury, CT.

Secretary’s report was tabled. The secretary was unaware that “time flies like an arrow,” although he did recall that “fruit flies like a banana.”

Treasurer’s report: Money is coming in from ad and ticket sales. Dickson DeMarche submitted a report in lieu of actually showing up. Somehow we were still able to receive the report on a motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Jim Hopper.

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The President’s Podium

By Danny Anderson



What a wonderful month we have had as a chorus. Several events occurred which have broadened the Danbury community’s awareness of the chorus.

We had one of our most successful annual shows in the history of the chorus. We had a large audience in attendance. Many people expressed to various people how much they enjoyed the show and how they saw marked improvement in the chorus’s singing and presentation.

We had a record number of people attend the afterglow. The food was great and the singing and fellowship was great also. Thanks to Jim and Andy for setting this venue up. The owner, Nick, expressed to me that he really enjoyed the singing. He told me that he would welcome us back anytime.

For the first time, the chorus appeared on regional TV when we sang and promoted the annual show on WTNH during their 12:30 PM session called “Connecticut Style.” There have been several Facebook postings of this event.

Through the efforts of Al and Andy the show was promoted in the local paper through paid advertisement. Andy had an interview with a reporter. This resulted in a large spread in the *News Times* and the *Connecticut Post*.

Last week we had another appearance in the *New Times* when the Richter House performance was advertised. This advertisement and the performance were arranged by Art Roberts’s wife, Susan.

This performance had people standing in adjacent rooms, sitting on the porch and patio listening to us. We were asked for an encore song, again, another first. Several audience members commented to me that they could tell we were enjoying ourselves while singing. I want to thank the members who attended this performance, taking time out of their Memorial Day Weekend.

Our Google voice mail has received several inquires about potential singing engagements. I believe that this is as a result of the publicity listed above. The potential engagements will continue to place the chorus in venues which will expand the its visibility in the community.

Thanks for all the hard work put forth in gaining advertisement for the program, selling tickets and telling your friends and neighbors about the show. Thanks for putting in the work of learning and performing the new songs for the show. As announced last week, we will be learning a number of new songs for next year’s show, but before that we have a new contest song to learn and perfect for competition.

Let’s continue riding the wave of good publicity and continue to spread the joy of singing to this community.

Board Meeting

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We acknowledged the \$10 charge for a DVD of our Richter Arts show, which will take place after our Annual Show.

Membership report: Former member/long-term guest Willie Mendonsa reports that he plans to visit in June. We will get to hear how he has been promulgating barbershop in India.

VP Public Relations: Al Paparesta submitted a report. PSA's and press releases have been sent out. Interviews have been scheduled. We will be singing on the New Haven TV station on Monday, May 12. As of the meeting our Facebook ad had been viewed 158,799 times and clicked 150 times. One hundred forty-three different people have responded at a cost of \$149.66.

Music Committee: We are ready to start work on new songs after the Annual Show. We'll start with "Where is Love?," which is on Groupanizer. Steve Tramack may be available for an all day Saturday session on August 30.

Old Business: As of this meeting, we have a 44 page ad book with 49 angels.

New Business: We have sent \$200 for a Scholarship to the Harmony Explosion camp. We also have a Harmony College Northeast scholarship, which is available to any chapter member who requests it. In the absence of a request, we will put everyone's name in a hat and choose one member. This decision was moved by Jimmy Hopper, seconded by Wynn Wilcox, and approved. We received a letter from the District that we need to file with the State of Connecticut by May 15. Robert Golenbock, who has often been known for his promptness in such matters, will deal with it or file for a two-year extension, whichever comes first.

Officers present: A. Bayer, J. Hudson, D. Anderson, F. Mercury, P. Daubner, A. Cilley, R. Golenbock, J. Hopper, A. Paparesta, W. Wilcox, J. Downey, of counsel.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm. Next meeting 6/2/14.

Attack!

By Bud Miller, Cherry Hill NJ Tru-Notes

We are going to talk about what voice teachers refer to as "attack."

Talking about breathing is often a dull subject and even mastery of it will not insure good singing. Athletes who frequently have enlarged their vital breathing capacity to a maximum can hold their breath longer than most singers, but still sing poorly. Likewise, good singers can be found whose technique is unorthodox, even poor. The most important aspect is the attack.

The challenge to the singer is to create the most efficient balance between the contraction of the muscles of breathing and the tensions of the muscles in the valve (the two muscles that are stretched over the top of the larynx to retain air as long as is needed) which provide the correct kind of resistance to the breath pressure made possible by the contraction of those breathing muscles. When this balance is correct the voice has a focused, ringing quality.

You should attempt to find this balance as soon as possible when learning to sing. The two extremes of incorrect balance which must be moderated are breathiness and tightness. If the valve is too loose and allows a waste of breath, either before or during the tone, the tone will lack intensity and brilliance. A rustling sound that creates no vibration of the folds but uses air rapidly will be heard. If it comes just before phonation it is recognizable as the letter "H."

Many of you have accomplished this correct balance without instruction simply by listening to good singers and trying to imitate the tone you hear. Some of you have achieved excellent coordination (balance) in comfortable singing range of your voice, but haven't come to grips with it in the extreme upper and lower parts of your range. Unfortunately, the muscles which control the valve are involuntary and we therefore have no physical control over them. We must learn to identify the proper sound and feel when it is correct. If it sounds right and feels right, the valve adjustment must be right.

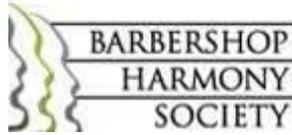
SINGING ON THE BREATH

The attack which develops freedom in the voice is the one in which the flow of breath begins first and then the sound appears. The result is truly "singing on the breath". Using an exaggerated "H" usually insures a relaxed valve which you must have if the voice is to be free. Once there is a clear, crisp initiating of the vowel, the amount of time and breath that is wasted in the "H" should be reduced until finally there is only an "Imaginary H..

The result of good execution of this technique is that whenever the first word in a phrase (after a breath) begins with a vowel, the singer starts the tone with an imperceptible amount of breath ahead of the vowel. It is not enough air to be heard in performance, but it has to be there. This is the concept of the "Imaginary H." Remember, whenever you are uptight and the voice starts to tighten up, use a little more breath flow to loosen the valve.

Here is a drill to help you understand how to sing "on the breath" with the "oo" vowel:

- Sing the word "who" with a generous flow of breath through the letter "H".
- Reduce the amount of breath used in the "H" by one half and sing the word again.
- Reduce the amount of breath used in the "H" by one half once again and sing the word "who".
- Now, try to sing the vowel "oo" instead of the word "who". There would be an imperceptible amount of breath which precedes the sound and relaxes the valve.



Society and District Notes



Wavebox Singing and Supercharging Your Chapter

We all love to sing, and we'd all like a few more men singing with us. What a great way to accomplish both goals at the same time!! The Schenectady, NY chapter presents: Wavebox Singing and Supercharging Your Chapter!, with Paul Ellinger.

The Schenectady Electric City Chorus is bringing Paul Ellinger back to the Western side of NED, for a one day workshop designed to improve your singing and grow your chapter membership. The morning session will be devoted to Wavebox singing, learning vocal production and techniques specifically designed for barbershop performances. We will break for lunch.

Then in the afternoon, Paul will help us Supercharge! our chapters. Supercharging Your Chapter! was designed to address the two "wants" that virtually every chapter has: to sing better and to grow! It is built upon a sound, effective, simple approach which has been field tested and has chapters around the Society growing like they never thought possible.

Paul Ellinger is an accomplished barbershopper and has had many successful programs throughout the Society. He has been to the NED several times and generated rave reviews from all who attended. Now for the folks closer to the Western side of the district, the Electric City Chorus is providing another chance to work with and learn from Paul. Of course, barbershoppers from far and wide are welcome, too!

WHEN: Saturday, June 21, 2014.

TIME: 9:30AM to 4:30 PM.

WHERE: Faith United Methodist Church, 811 N Brandywine Ave, Schenectady, NY.

Cost is \$15.00 per person, including lunch, with a \$90.00 cap for chapters. Lunch will be provided! Deadline to Register for Seminar: 6/14/2014. Contact: Chris Jensen, Email (preferred): jensench@gmail.com. Cell: [518-269-2410](tel:518-269-2410)

Donations Requested

The Northeastern District is proud to be sending our 2014 Collegiate Quartet Champion, Timepiece, to the International Collegiate Quartet Contest in Las Vegas this July. They are gratefully accepting any donations from the district to help finance their trip across the country.

They need your help! Go to the address below to help out.

<http://www.gofundme.com/barbershop-quartet>

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

Sing With Us at The Statue of Liberty

Its exciting to think of a huge barbershop chorus made of several chapters from across the district performing at such a historic and significant landmark.

We are to be performing at The Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island, July 12, at 12:30 PM. We have the performance area booked for 90 minutes but will in all likelihood do a 20 - 30 minute show. The performance songs will be available as sheet music as well as media for a nominal charge. There will be numerous places available for food, beverages etc. Performers are on their own for meals, snacks, etc.

This event is truly one to be an extravaganza inter-chapter and hopefully we can have representatives from across the district. We are simply thrilled to be presented with this opportunity from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and want to share the fun and excitement. rockhigher@aol.com.

Chapter President of the Year

As current members of the Northeastern District, we are soliciting your input for nominations for NED Chapter President of the Year (The Alan Lamson Chapter President of the Year Award) for **2013** (please note this is for last year and not the current year). You are encouraged to nominate individuals that you believe have been outstanding Chapter Presidents during 2013.

The deadline for submission is September 15th! This is an absolute deadline.

For details, contact any one of us on the selection committee.

Jim Kew 860-658-6881 kewjim@gmail.com

Alan Lamson 860-647-9523 janlam314@cox.net

Brian O'Leary 413 323-9111 shorttenor@charter.net



Ye Olde Joke Boarde

Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

A magician, who is also a barbershop baritone, was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. Since he had a different audience each day, he allowed himself to perform the same act over and over again. There was one problem: The captain's parrot saw the shows each day and began to understand how the magician did every trick. Once he understood, he started shouting in the middle of every show, "Look, that's not the same hat! Now he's hiding the flowers under the table! Hey, why are all the cards the Ace of Spades?" The magician was furious but couldn't do anything about it. After all, it was the captain's parrot.

One day the unthinkable happened: The ship sank. The magician found himself on a piece of wood in the middle of the ocean with the parrot, of course. They glared at each other, but did not utter a single word for days. After a week the parrot finally broke the silence and said, "OK, I give up. Where'd you hide the boat?"

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A barbershop quartet, all patients in a mental institution, prepare for an examination given by the head psychiatrist. If the barbershoppers pass the exam, they will be free to leave the hospital. However, if they fail, the institution will detain them for five years. The doctor takes the quartet to the top of a diving board looking over an empty swimming pool, and asks the lead to jump. He jumps head first into the pool and breaks both arms. Then the bass jumps and breaks both legs. The baritone looks over the side and refuses to jump. "Congratulations! You're a free man. Just tell me why didn't you jump?" asked the doctor.

To which the baritone answered, "Well Doc, I can't swim!"

• • •

Tragically, a barbershop quartet all die in a car crash, and they find themselves at the gates of Heaven. Before entering, they are each asked a question by St. Peter. "When you are in your casket and friends and family are mourning upon you, what would you like to hear them say about you?" asks St. Peter.

The lead says, "I would like to hear them say that I was the greatest barbershop lead of my time, and a great family man."

The tenor says, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher who made a huge difference in our children of tomorrow."

The baritone replies, "I would like to hear them say, "Look! He's moving!"

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
They Say It's Wonderful
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

Where is Love?
Beach Boys Medley
Blue Skies
Come Go With Me
Crazy Little Thing Called Love
Happy Together
How Deep Is The Ocean
Moonlight Brings Memories
I Liked You Better Before I Knew
You So Well!

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
Secretary:	Robert Golenbock
Treasurer:	Dickson DeMarche
Program VP	Vacant
Member at Large:	Peter Daubner
Member at Large:	Art Cillely
Member at Large:	Wynn Wilcox
Immediate Past President	Robert Bradley
Uniform Chairman:	Andy Bayer
Harmony Foundation	
Chairman:	Danny Anderson
Music Librarian:	Peter Daubner
Sunshine Chairman:	Don Smith Package
Show Chairman:	Dick Walter Chorus
Manager:	Robert Golenbock

The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

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

Mark Your Calendars



Barbershop Demo

Youth in Harmony Class.

Monday June 9, 2014, 10:30 – 11:45 AM at Ansonia High School, 20 Pulaski Hwy, Ansonia, CT.

Performance

Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at Ridgefield Crossing, 640 Danbury Rd, Ridgefield, CT. 6:30 PM warm-up, 7:00 PM Perform.

Inter-chapter Night

Tuesday, July 29, Open House, Inter-Chapter Night, Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT. Start Time TBD.

Performance

Macy's shop for a cause. Macy's at Danbury Mall. Saturday, August 23. Details to be announced.

Performance

Sunday, September 7, Taste Of Danbury, Danbury Green. Start Time TBD.

Northeast District Convention

Saturday October 18, 2014. Providence, RI. Contest starts at 10:00 AM. Venue TBA.

Westchester Chordsmen

Saturday, June 7, 2014. June brings some pretty awesome sounds from the Westchester Chordsmen. The Rat Pack comes back to life! Sinatra! Sammy Davis Jr.! Dean Martin! Jimmy Fallon? In any case, the stage will be alive with the fabulous sounds of Vegas. <http://chordsmen.org>.

May/June Milestones

May Birthdays

7 - Dan Griffin
12 - Joel Knecht
12 - Janet Just
12 - Dessain Terry
14 - Gloria Keenan
17 - Doyle Stoppel
22 - Fred Baran

June Birthdays

6 Annellen Gleissner
8 Sharon McKee
9 Steve Horhota
9 Dick Zang
10 Harriet Feinberg
15 Stephanie Terry
20 John Cheeseman
29 Miss Taralily

May Anniversaries

1 August and Roseann D'Auelli
3 John and Claudia Downey
5 Bill and Annellen Gleissner
8 Bob and Vikki Bradley
12 Pete and Jane Huester
20 Peter and Elaine Daubner
28 Lyle and Patricia LaPlante
29 Danny and Linda Anderson

June Anniversaries

7 Dessain and Stephanie Terry
28 Bob and Jane Golenbock
29 Bob and Sophie (Sam) Connolley
30 Dickson and Marilyn DeMarche

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

