



The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus

Hatter Chatter

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

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March 2011

Hatters Yank Heartstrings on Valentine's Day

Danbury - It was another successful Valentine's Day weekend for the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus as four quartets fanned out over western Connecticut and eastern New York State from Friday, February 12, through Monday the 14th to deliver Singing Valentines in schools, home, offices and restaurants.

According to Valentine's Day coordinator, Dick Walter, the Chorus delivered 48 paid valentines, plus a few freebies. This represented a significant increase over the past couple of years, when Mad Hatters delivered 30 in 2010 and 32 in 2009.

"Valentine's Day and the Annual Show are our two biggest fund raisers," explained Dick. "It's important we do well on these events."

And, during a winter of much weather discontent, the weekend was as nice as we've seen since before Christmas.

Following are stories from the quartets.

Traveling Men – by Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox

On the weekend of Valentine's Day, Traveling Men lived up to their name. Attired in a motley approximation of tuxedos, we sang to a car dealer in Danbury, a girlfriend in Bethel, an intermediate school basketball game in Ridgefield, and a lovely family in Wilton. We serenaded our lucky valentines with "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" (including the longer alternate tag) and "If I Had My Way."

Our automobile executive was fortunate enough to procure a valentine from his wife and sat uncomfortably at his desk while his salesman cheered us on. The girlfriend was much more enthusiastic, especially when we worked in her name, "Leigh Ann," to her second valentine.

Seventh-grade basketball in Ridgefield turned out to be quite an adventure. We were directed by the amorous husband and purchaser of our services to stand crouched behind the doors, waiting for the horn to sound the end of the third quarter.

We then leaped onto the court and presented ourselves to his wife. Alas, our two songs were a bit longer than the break between the quarters allowed. To our surprise, the officials delayed the game until we finished our singing, and we received an ovation from the entire audience at the game.

There were two highlights of our valenting. The first came when the four of us visited Danbury Hospital and sang for our comrade and Mad Hatter assistant director Don Sutherland (of "Six degrees of Separation" and "Pride and Prejudice" fame). Tim whisked us upstairs with his "I'm a doctor" routine, and we delighted Don with "If I Had My Way," the very tune that Don had taught the chorus.

The second highlight, at least for this writer, was our quartet's decision to interrupt Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox's political science class. Twenty students went from a lecture about totalitarianism to a turn-of-the-century polecat. They seemed to enjoy the lightening of the mood. We very much did as well.

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The Mad Hatters Visit Hancock Hall

Danbury - On Tuesday evening, February 22, about 20 members of the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus visited the Hancock Hall nursing home and convalescent center to perform for its residents. Hancock Hall is a regular venue for the chorus.

During the show, one of the residents, Mary Cordio, sang along with the chorus and quartets and seemed to know the words of every song, even better than a lot of chorus members.

"Mary may not have been on pitch," said Doctor Robert Golenbock, the chorus's raconteur for the evening, "but she had a lot of energy."

"You were wonderful," said Mary, "so beautiful. Go home."

Singing Valentines

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Rare Occasion – By Fred Baran

Rare Occasion, as in past years, had a very hectic schedule delivering Singing Valentines, and we were out all three days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. We delivered an official total of 27 Valentines (including one free one at the *News-Times*). We had a very enjoyable experience and met many new people who really enjoyed our music.

This year we brought along Dave McKee, one of the newest members of the Mad Hatter Chorus, to accompany us. Dave brought in eight Singing Valentines, spread out over family and work associates. He delivered an especially touching valentine to his wife Sharon at his office in New Fairfield, which was caught on film by a *News-Times* photographer assigned to follow us at this stop. Sharon, as many of you know, is usually the one taking the pictures.

Some of the Valentines we delivered were at medical offices, a dentist, a podiatrist and a restaurant. We also sang to the spouses of Jim Hopper (Marti), Dickson Demarche (Marilyn), John Downey (Claudia) and Terry Dunkle (Mary). We also visited The United Methodist Church on Clapboard Ridge Road and a hair salon in New Fairfield..

We sang to Joanne Zang at The Booth Memorial Library, at a luncheon of the Friends of the Library, where Dick joined us as the bass singing "Don't Blame Me (For Falling In Love with You)."

After passing through tight security standards at G E Capital (despite a wanted poster for Terry Dunkle in Brewster), we were escorted in to deliver our valentine. We were wearing our bright red Rare Occasion sweaters, and were very noticeable wherever we ventured. We received numerous compliments on our attire for Valentines Day.

As has been our custom, we delivered additional complimentary valentines at Danbury Hospital to the Cardio Rehab group, Pediatrics, Cancer, Main Lobby and several other groups which were paid stops (Labor and Delivery and Birthing Center). While visiting the hospital on Sunday, we learned that Don Sutherland had been admitted and we visited him and sang a few songs to cheer him up.

In between valentines in New Milford we stopped in a coffee shop on Bank Street and met a half-dozen ladies from the Washington Montessori School who were having an informal meeting and asked if we could sing a valentine's song for them, which we were glad to do. They said that they were planning to hold a fund raising auction in April and asked if Rare Occasion would be willing to donate a one hour performance for their auction which we happily agreed to do.

Sometimes these chance encounters lead to great publicity and additional appearances for both our quartet and our chorus.



*Mary Cordio at Hancock Hall
Picture by Terry Dunkle*

One of the patients that we sang to at Danbury Hospital told us that she had majored in music at Wellesley, had perfect pitch and was Fred Waring's cousin.

Each and every valentine that we sang for had their own interesting story. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting them and making new friends through our barbershop experiences.

Real Chemistry – by John Bradley

We might have broken our Valentine's Day mileage record by delivering about 16 valentines ranging from New Milford to Bridgeport, CT, to Cold Spring, NY. We put over 220 miles on Bob Bradley's car.

Our morning started at the Western Connecticut Academy of International Studies, a new and interesting magnet public school hidden behind the Westside Campus of Western Connecticut State University. We sang at two other schools that day: South Street School in Danbury and Joel Barlow High School in Redding, CT.

A math class in Joel Barlow asked us for an encore. After singing our Valentine's Day in a high school song, "Coney Island Baby," "I said to a student "You guys really seemed to enjoy that."

"Most anything is better than algebra," replied the student.

We sang to the president of Bridgeport University's administrative assistant, filling the mostly empty palatial office with the chords of "Love Me Tender." The views of Long Island Sound were very impressive.

We then got a tour of the city from one of its natives, our bass, Dick Walter. I could envision the city in the 19th century as he must have seen it as Dick relived his youth, meeting his wife and the early stages of his career.

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Valentines

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At a Danbury Stop & Shop we sang to a customer service employee and pondered how salt mining may empty out the core of the earth and cause an implosion (at least in Michigan) if the cold icy winter continues.

In New Milford, we sang to the Town Council, the valentine being a gift from former member member Frank Wargo. Not being sure what to sing to a bunch of politicians, we played it safe with our song we sing when we are not sure what to sing, "Coney Island Baby."

The evening ended at Cathryn's Restaurant near the shores of the Hudson River in Cold Spring, NY, about 13 hours after we set off. The temperature was dropping, we were all sung out, but it had been a fun and fulfilling day.

Great Day!

By Dick Zang

A few weeks ago, someone handed me a copy of David Harrington's arrangement of "Great Day!" and said we should sing it. Most barbershoppers know the song; it was done definitively by the Harrington Brothers as well as The Gas House Gang, and I was warned that it had to be done well or not at all.

But what caught my eye was not the arrangement itself, but that the song was written by Edward Eliscu with Vincent Youmans and Bill Rose in 1929. You see, I knew Ed Eliscu – he lived in Newtown and he and his artist wife, Stella Bloch, were friends. Ed was a performer, director, writer, and lyricist – he wrote songs such as "Without A Song" and "More Than You" – and as a screenwriter wrote over twenty films.

I pulled down his memoir, *With or Without a Song*, from my library shelf and quickly reread it. We had gotten the copy from his son, David, after he edited and published it in 2001 (Ed passed away 1998 at the age of 96). David also gave us Ed's lifetime achievement award from the Songwriters Guild.

Ed had been president of the Songwriters Guild of America and of the American Guild of Authors and Composers and was quite active in ASCAP (he was proposed for membership in 1930 by George Gershwin) as well as in political affairs – he was blacklisted three times in Hollywood and New York.

A few things you might not know about "Great Day!" It was the title song of a Broadway musical that opened (and closed quickly) in 1929, but it became very popular once again when it was selected as the Eisenhower campaign song in 1952.

And a bit of trivia – Ed's nephew, Frank Eliscu, was the sculptor of the Heisman Trophy and the Cascade of Books above the entrance to the Library of Congress. I hope someday we can sing "Great Day!" and do it justice.



The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

All the reports received lead me to see that our Singing Valentine effort was a great success. I understand that at least five quartets were out delivering the Valentines. This volume of the *Hatter Chatter* should carry articles from most of the quartets telling of their adventures.

Our effort to deliver Valentines to military spouses did not come off as we had envisioned. We did have the opportunity to sing to mothers with children in service, "Gold Star Mothers." Our newest quartet did deliver a Singing Valentine in Bethel to the mother of a service person who is stationed in Japan.

The weather deterred us in placing our "yard signs" to the extent that the Board had in mind. However, Dick Walter tells me that several engagements came from people who saw a sign and called in. If we can get an earlier jump on this next year, we should have an even better response.

The newspaper article featuring Loco Fedora was good. Thanks to that quartet for taking time from their busy schedules to meet with the photographer. We had follow up photos of Rare Occasion taken while they delivered valentines.

The sing-out at The Gardens was the best performance we have had in some time. The number of members who showed up was larger than usual, which had to equate to the improved sound and enthusiasm portrayed to the audience.

Time is drawing near for the March 15 date to qualify for the spring contest. This year it will be held in Colonie, NY, hosted by the Schenectady chapter. This would be a day trip for the chorus.

Would there be interest in chartering a bus so all can ride up together? Something we could talk about.

As a reminder, we are scheduling coaching sessions each month for the entire chorus. We will receive coaching on the singing and presentation of our contest songs.

I would encourage everyone to spend time listening to your CDs, and practice your parts during the week. It would be good to refer to the "3 things I learned" which follows each session. Here, the points the coach gave us the night before will be covered, so we should add them to our daily practice.

Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

**How could I trust the ceiling fan installer
When I knew he was always screwing up?.**

Three Things

On Tuesday, March 1, Joe Hunter, former director of the Big Apple Chorus of New York City, coached the Mad Hatters at its weekly rehearsal.



Joe, a performance judge for the Barbershop Harmony Society, concentrated on improving one of the Chorus's contest songs, "On the Sunny Side of the Street."

After each coaching session, Mad Hatter music director, Joe Hudson, asks each member of the chorus to list three things he thinks is important to remember, so they can be shared with the rest of our membership. Following is a compilation of those listings.

Joe Hudson. My three things from the Tuesday session with Joe Hunter concentrate on some of the technical aspects:

1. In the introduction, start strong to contrast the really soft on "then you came along," and then crescendo up to a 4 out of 5 on "happy song."
2. The last chord has a sforzando crescendo. That means hit the note loud, immediately get soft and then crescendo out.
3. On the "Chinese 7th's," the tenors and leads should be at equal volume, bass slightly louder than leads and tenors and baritones should be slightly on the higher side of their note.

Keep the three things coming! We could eventually have close to 75 things if each guy sends something DIFFERENT.

...

Bob Bradley: One of the most important things I learned is that it pays to have a great coach and teacher, we should have more coaching,

The other thing we always learn is how dedicated and knowledgeable Joe is.

When I got the photo of us at contest I also learned that when we want to and are relaxed we can ham it up with the best of them. We now need to take that photo and transpose it to the contest stage.

...

Dick Zang: Now that we saw how Joe Hunter fine-tuned our interpretation, we should apply his method to our entire repertoire.

Swipes are embellishments; make them meaningful. Moves must not distract from the singing.

Nick Godano

1. We've heard it before, but sell the story.
2. Move your body, move your hands--but keep them below your waist unless the actual choreography says something different.
3. On the jazzy parts, go with the flow, enjoy the rhythm, feel the music.

...

Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox

1. What's going on with your face is more important than what's going on with your hands.
2. Swipes have to mean something.
3. Get behind the beat in the stomp section of Sunny Side, especially on the triplets.

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Jim Hopper

1. Show the emotion of the song with your face and body.
2. Have fun - if you don't enjoy what you're doing the audience sure won't.
3. Do enough repetitions that you don't have to think and sing at the same time- according to Yogi it can't be done.
4. And a 4th: Joe Hunter is awesome!

...

Lyle LaPlante

1. Sell the story.
2. Movements support the story.
3. Look like you are having fun.

...

Dickson DeMarche: Here are three take-aways from tonight for me:

1. Always end a phrase strongly, even if you have to sneak a breath to do it. Don't try to muscle through.
2. Hit the Chinese 7th chords strong and clean. Mastering those is winning half the battle!
3. Know the songs and choreography so well that you can smile, relax and enjoy the performance. The audience can feel it!



Joe Hunter (right) with the Big Apple Chorus



Emails to the Editors

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

I undertsnd that 7th chords are the essence of barbershop music. A friend of mine once mentioned a “Chinese 7th chord.” What is that and where did the name come from?
Hank from Hawleyville

Hank, you are correct that the most popular thing that defines the “barbershop sound” is the major-minor 7th chord. The major-minor 7th chord is a common chord in the musical world, but it also happens to lend itself nicely to vocal music

Any voicing of this 7th chord can be tuned and locked almost as easily as a simple major triad. One particular voicing (5 3 7 1) is often called a “Chinese 7th” because it’s a 7th chord that is upside down.

Technically speaking it isn’t exactly upside-down, but the tenor part goes below the lead (or the root of the chord goes above the 7th). The tune “Chopsticks” helps illustrate the top two voices in such a chord.

Support Harmony Explosion Camp

One of the greatest things we do as a Society is to bring wonderful music to our young people. Watching a room full of students light up at the sound of ringing chords sung by a terrific quartet is one of the great joys of barbershopping, surpassed only by the joy of hearing those same students ringing chords themselves.

In the past, we have offered our Harmony Explosion Camp to area students and their teachers completely free of charge – our membership has subsidized full scholarships for every single attendee, and with great results.

We’ve seen HX campers (some from economically strapped school districts with struggling music programs) return to their home schools to start up barbershop quartets. We’ve seen former HX campers enter the Collegiate Quartet contest, and make it to District and even International stages.

Last year, we offered the first fully coeducational HX camp program, and the phrase “best ever” was heard multiple times throughout the weekend and turned up in writing on the evaluation surveys. The many teachers in attendance were particularly impressed.

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Mad Hatter Florida Reunion

By Len Carlson, Bob Stewart, and Bill Manion

“OLD PALS ARE THE BEST PALS AFTER ALL” Some of you old timers may remember that song. The Mad Hatters sang it in one of our early Division competitions. We came in eighth out of eight. Ed Ryder, who was president at that time, confronted the judges after the scores were announced and accused them of fixing the results!

At any rate, we proved that the message of that song is absolutely, without a doubt, completely true. The friends you make in barbershop will be friends for life.

After many years of a barbershop drought, a former Mad Hatter had one of the thrills of a lifetime the week of February 16th. Three former Mad Hatters: Bill and Nancy Manion, Mario and Donna Merolle and Bob and Adair Stewart, joined Chris and Len Carlson at their condo in Osprey, FL for a sensational time (see photo).



L to R: Mario, Len, Bill, Bob, Ben

They thought they would be without a tenor but Mario saved the day after he bumped into Ben Miller at a Barbershop Harmony Society contest in Myrtle Beach and recruited him for our get-together. At the age of 17 Ben joined the High Point Harmonizer chapter that Mario started in NJ - and since that time has become quite an accomplished barbershopper including singing in several BHS International Competitions.

“We had a ball! It took years off of this old body. It felt like we were back in the Elks’ rathskeller,” said Bill. “It was amazing how many of the old songs came popping into our memories. We even tried “The Hamburg Show!”

Mario's tenor friend, who lives in Orlando, filled out the quartet with Len, Bobbie and Mario. You should have heard them. It only took about fifteen minutes for Mario and Len to get the rust out of their pipes

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Florida Reunion

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Bobbie sings lead and tenor with a doo-wop group, Uptown Express, and Ben, the tenor, is a barbershop junkie!

But the best part was recalling the fun time adventures with such stalwarts as Joe Talarico, Ed Vanderzee, Bobbie Smith, Dick Bristol, Gene Buck, Jack Williams, Jack Deane, Jack Foley, Larry Angeli and the list goes on.

One anecdote which is vivid in my memory was Len, Bobbie and Mario singing with Jack Foley, dressed as old women. During one of their songs, Foley let a bottle of beer roll out of his dress onto the stage -- but he hadn't told the other guys what he was going to do!

Foley, that beautiful Irish tenor, always had a joke to tell. I'll never forget what he did on his last visit to his doctor when he was told he only had three weeks to live. Phyllis told me his response to the doctor was "I guess being an organ donor is out of the question!" What a guy".

We reminisced about the wonderful times in Danbury between 1972 and 1990 and sang non-stop for two days. Bill remembered voice testing Bob and Mario at a guest night in 1972 and how determined he was to get them to join the chapter (despite Bob's red shoes) and how he succeeded.

In between singing, and late into the evenings, we relived the many contests, shows, rehearsals – and mainly the incredible camaraderie that we all shared. We also called Jack Cramer (former Mad Hatter President and tenor) in California and had a wonderful five-way teleconference with more reminiscing.

We sang for hours and hours (got hoarse at times) and were amazed to remember songs we hadn't tried in 30 years – like "Piano Roll Blues."

Bob added, "Old friends are our best friends. From this point forward, my new friend Ben (Mario's friend, who filled in at tenor) will also be considered my old friend. Ben made it possible for Mario, Len, Bill and me to share a few moments when the chords rang with such feeling that they caused the hair on our arms to stand up straight. Thank you Ben, I won't forget that.

When we met, we gave each other a hug and it felt good. When we parted, we hugged and it felt even better.

Once again, Chris and Lenny outdid themselves with their world class hospitality. I am proud to be a friend of Lenny and Chris. It was so nice to see the warm glow on Bill's face. His wonderful new wife Nancy is his reward for being such a good friend to all that know him.

My wife Adair is not a fan of barbershop, but she had to comment on the fantastic sound that we created.

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February Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



Submitted in translation from the original Greek by Robert Golenbock, secretary.

Meeting called to order by Danny "Euripides" Anderson at the New Colony Diner at 9 pm on February, 8, 2011.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was not nearly appreciated enough. Approved on a motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Andy Bayer.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We made a modest profit for the year. Our financial spreadsheets are now on Google Docs. Report received on a motion by Robert Golenbock, seconded by Jimmy Hopper.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Al Paparesta again joined us as a guest and received a CD of learning tracks. We are singing at a Danbury Whalers hockey game on March 11.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Dickson is once again working on a singout at a blood drive as part of the national Singing for Life campaign. He is coordinating with the state Red Cross officials. Our Singing Valentines public relations is moving along well. Many of our signs are out, our newspaper article was well-received, and our ads are in the newspapers.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: The teaching quartet is working on "Ten Feet Off the Ground" and the "Armed Forces Medley."

OLD BUSINESS: The tentative date for our Annual Show this year is November 12 (Backup is November 5). We expect to be in Brookfield High School again.

NEW BUSINESS: We are looking forward to setting up a singing lessons program as outlined at the recent Leadership meeting. Andy Bayer and Dickson DeMarche plan to present this program at our next Board meeting.

The deadline for qualifying for contest is March 15. You must prove you can sing your part in the chorus. Pass means no more than two wrong words and two wrong notes.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave McKee, Wynn Wilcox, Nick Godano.

OFFICERS PRESENT: D. Demarche, R. Golenbock, C. Kreiger, A. Roberts, A. Bayer, R. Walter, L. LaPlante, J. Hopper, D. Anderson, J. Hudson, T. Kaiser.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm on a motion by Dick Walter, seconded by our waitress.

Next meeting is March 1.

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Florida Reunion

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The only thing that impressed her more was that I am friends with such classy people. Mario and Donna are very special long time friends from before my barbershop days, and it was really nice to be able to reminisce and give them a hug (Donna felt better). We all have friends, but some are just special. I'm going to miss all of these guys and girls until we meet again."

Our wives enjoyed it too (they actually complimented our singing and they do know barbershop after all these years). I hope this becomes a regular and more frequent event. The boys are thinking about doing this about twice a year and expanding the "clientele" to any old time Mad Hatter that can make it. Bill guarantees that it will add three years to your life!

Repertoire Notes

"**You'll Never Walk Alone**" is a show tune from the 1945 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *Carousel*.

In the musical, in the second act, Nettie Fowler, the cousin of the female protagonist Julie Jordan, sings "You'll Never Walk Alone" to comfort and encourage Julie when her husband, Billy Bigelow, the male lead, kills himself to avoid capture during a failed robbery. It is reprised in the final scene to encourage a graduation class of which Louise (Billy and Julie's daughter) is a member. Billy watches this ceremony during his return to earth.

The song is also sung at football clubs around the world, where it is performed by a massed chorus of supporters on matchday. This tradition began at Liverpool Football Club in the early 1960s and later spread to several other clubs.

Besides the recordings of the song on the *Carousel* cast albums and the film soundtrack, the song has been recorded by many artists.

Since 1964, Jerry Lewis has concluded the annual Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon with an emotional version of "You'll Never Walk Alone." Lewis said at the end of the 2007 telethon that the song was suggested to him in 1964 by a disabled child.

Singer Barbra Streisand sang this song in a surprise appearance at the close of the 2001 Emmy Awards, in honor of the victims of the September 11th, 2001 attacks.

In *The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy*, the onboard computer Eddie sings this song in an attempt to calm the crew of the *Heart of Gold* as their imminent destruction approaches in the form of a missile.

Renée Fleming also sang the song for the Obama Inauguration on January 20, 2009.

EMails

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For several, this was their first significant exposure to barbershop harmony, and they're excited to be bringing our art form back into their classrooms. Teachers interested in barbershop translates into students interested in barbershop – we're helping to grow our bases of both future performers and future audience members, both vital to the continued growth of the Society and preservation of our art.

However, an expanding program that welcomes more students and teachers, coupled with rising costs, bring rising expenses. These, combined with a shrinking number of donors in recent years means that we are in dire need of financial support if this program is to continue to flourish.

Last year, nine NED chapters made direct financial contributions to the camp. We sincerely thank the Beverly, Bridgeport, Brunswick, Central CT, Danbury, Keene, Manchester, Schenectady and Worcester Chapters, as well as NEWCANEWENG for their generous support.

Frankly, we would like to have 100% of chapters participate in some way to help us with this important project. Thanks to the Portland Chapter, which has started the ball rolling with a donation of \$1,000 to this year's camp! Individual members and quartets who value the sharing of our hobby with kids and their teachers can help, too.

In the past, we've suggested that chapters sponsor individual students to attend at the cost of \$185 per student. There are a few problems with this model of support: First, the true cost is closer to \$300 per student once all facilities usage fees, music, etc. are factored in. Second, not every school district has an affiliation with a local chapter. Some of the neediest school districts are in areas that have virtually no barbershop chapters.

Rather than continuing the "adopt-a-student" approach, it would be better if we could all pull together to support the camp as a whole entity and share the responsibility for building the future of our hobby.

Still another issue is that not all chapters are created equal – some are more active, or have more members, and are financially able to make large donations. Maybe, then, we shouldn't focus on per-chapter donation goals, but rather on individual targets.

What will it take to make the camp successful? How does fifty cents a week sound? If every registered member of the NED donated fifty cents a week (try getting a cup of coffee for that much these days!), or \$26 for the year, it would cover the bulk of expenses for the camp. We could continue to offer the same excellent barbershop experience to students and teachers and not risk losing them to other summer music camps.

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EMails

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Wouldn't that be great, to give the gift of barbershop music to hundreds of our youth? Of course, larger donations are more than welcome!

If we cannot raise all of the necessary funds, we are prepared to move to a tuition model, for which the attendees pay a portion of their expenses. While this sounds reasonable, please realize that at our current funding levels, that tuition would need to be in the neighborhood of \$150-\$175 per student – quite a sticker shock to those who have been attending for free all these years.

It would all but guarantee that those economically shaky school districts would be shut out of the camp for the foreseeable future. Of course, the more money we can raise the lower that tuition rate will be. This is why we are encouraging all supporters of barbershop music, including BHS, SAI, and HI members, and all of our family and friends to act now. We can make a huge impact if we make a strong and immediate commitment to our future.

We are asking for your support in the next four weeks in the forms of donations and pledges. The amount raised/pledged by Friday, March 25, will determine the student price tag for the camp, and possibly even the future of the camp's existence. Please note that all pledges must be paid by July 1, 2011.

Donations and pledges may be made by chapters, quartets or individuals. Checks should be made payable to "Northeastern District" and should be sent to our district treasurer:

Peter Sajko
1 Matthew Street #10
Concord, NH 03301

(Please put "HX 2011" in the memo line.)

Where can these donations come from? Out of reserve chapter funds, A membership pass-the-hat collection or donation drive, A benefit concert. Be creative! Last year a chapter partnered with a local rock band and an old time string band and gave an outdoor concert at a VFW post that raised over \$750 for the camp!

Talk to your local schools, and see if they'd like to get in on the fundraising effort (especially if they're sending kids to camp). Ask family, friends and others in the community if they will support music education with a small donation.

Together, we can continue to bring our music to tomorrow's generation, and help ensure a bright future for barbershop harmony. Thanks in advance for your generous support!

Sincerely, Christopher Andrade, HX Camp Coordinator, Phil Kraft, HX Camp Committee Co-chair, Joseph Hudson, NED Youth In Harmony V.P., Roger Menard, NED President

March Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



Submitted by Joe Hudson

Date: Tuesday March 1, 2011

Time Called: 06:25 pm by Danny Anderson

Board Members Present: D. Anderson, T. Keiser, R. Walter, L. LaPlante, D. DeMarche, J. Hudson, J. Hopper, A. Bayer, A. Roberts, C. Kreiger

SECRETARY'S REPORT: No printed report. Request the secretary to submit the minutes of the meeting within a week of the conclusion of the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Printed report submitted.. Motion to accept, Joe Hudson. Seconded, Andy Bayer. Approved.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT: The chorus performed 49 Singing Valentines. One was for a mother of a servicewoman over in Japan.

Free singing lessons: possibly the last week of April (4-26) and the first two weeks of May (5-3 & 5-10). Dave McKee attended a COTS seminar and wants to sit down with Dickson and Andy to discuss ideas before bringing it before the director, booker, and program VP. Andy, Dickson, Dave, Dick Walter, Danny and Joe will meet at 6:30 on March 15. Formal presentation before the Board at the April meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Al Papparesta – his membership is still pending.

UNIFORMS: Joe Hudson suggested using the bright colored shirts and different ties as the regular sing-out uniform. It is easy for new members coming in to find a shirt and we give them a tie. Andy still wants to look into a formal shirt with the logo. Joe motioned that the Board purchase 22 zebra ties at a cost TBD in order to make that part of our uniform. Second: Dickson DeMarche. Approved.

Two members do not have tuxedos. Rubello's on Main St. Daughter selling left-over stock. Dick Walter will talk to them regarding the tuxedos.

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE: Two new songs coming up, "Armed Forces Medley" and "Ten Feet Off the Ground." March 15 will be cut-off date for qualifications for contest.

OLD BUSINESS: Contetst will be on April 16, Annual Show 11-12-2011.

Board to discuss an Inter-chapter night with the Big Apple Chorus for a possible date in May.

NEW BUSINESS: HX Camp Funding --- NED has requested pledges from Chapters. Motion by jimmy Hopper to send \$600 to NED for HX Camp. Seconded by Dickson DeMarche. Approved.



Society and District Notes



Seacoast Quartet Open

Back in the day, the Northeastern District had weekends when we would gather together and sing and have fun. No contest, no convention...just a fun weekend. We had the Alton Bay Jamboree and the Bolton Landing Festival and Block Island. But they drifted away, lost with the passage of time.

Well, the Portsmouth, NH, chapter is doing something to add fun back into our annual calendar. Circle this date, Saturday, April 30, 2011, on your calendars. That's when the first Seacoast Quartet Open will be held in beautiful, tourist-friendly Portsmouth, NH.

And what is a "Seacoast Quartet Open" you might logically ask? It is a fun quartet contest for quartets of all stripes, male, female, mixed, brand new or "been around for a while," just put four folks together and come and sing. We're basing the idea on the old Buckeye Invitational, an International gathering in Ohio, which ruled the day for many years as the place to be in late August. Plans are still being finalized but we know there will be three divisions...Novice, Not so Novice, and Show quartets. Judges will be recruited from the audience a la the Buckeye. Scoring will be Olympic-style with judges holding up score cards after each quartet and allowed to comment a la American Idol. There will be cash prizes. An experienced show quartet will be brought in to judge the Show quartet division.

We're starting small to gauge the interest in NED for this kind of weekend. We're looking for 10 quartets in each division...first come, first served. If your quartet is interested, please drop me a line (jamesdodge@comcast.net).

So circle the date: Saturday, April 30, 2011, and plan on attending even if you're not in a quartet. We're holding this in a small, intimate hall to add to the fun (350 capacity) so tickets will be at a premium. Drop a line to reserve a seat and we'll save one for you. Jim Dodge, Director – Portsmouth (NH) Seacoast Vocal Union

Advertise!

Round 2! Ding! It's a refreshing Spring opportunity for quartets, chapters, supporters of our singing men (and women!), and perhaps your services or products! Reach the many men, women and youth of our District - and local audience singers, competitors, leaders, supporters, lovers of barbershop - with a Display Ad or Line Listing ad in the Spring District & Divisional Convention & Contest Programs!

Advertise your annual show, other performances, meetings, parties, classes, training, workshop, CD release. Spread the word that your quartet is available & wants to perform on shows! Businesses: Advertise your product or service, in the Lincoln, Rhode Island, or Schenectady, NY and NED region and beyond!

Now is the time to support barbershop harmony, show your love - and reach the ones you love! Do it today with an AD in this final edition of the Spring Convention & Contest printed program. More info, prices, layout and guidelines for Contest #2 - the "Western Regional" in upstate New York – is available NOW on the NED web site:

http://nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=69

See the "Program Advertising" section (middle) of this second Spring Contest page. Or, download and view the PDF Program Ad Reservation Form from here:

<http://nedistrict.org/uploads/2011-Spring2-NY-AdReservForm1.pdf>

Any questions? Feel free to email me and ask - please! Happy to assist! But hurry! The deadline for ads for this first event program is soon ... Monday, March 21st! Think fast! Please submit your ad and payment directly to me - per the instructions on the form. Steve Salamin, Publisher/Editor - NED Contest Programs

Ye Olde Joke Boarde



Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

I had a dream the other night. I was in the old West riding in a stagecoach. Suddenly, a man riding a horse, a barbershop baritone, pulled up to the left side of the stagecoach, and a riderless horse pulled up on the right.

The man leaned down, pulled open the door, and jumped off his horse into the stagecoach. Then he opened the door on the other side and jumps onto the other horse. Just before he rode off, I yelled out, "What was all that about?"

The baritone replied, "Nothing. It's just a stage I'm going through."

• • •

A barbershop quartet was discussing the travails of getting older.

The lead said, "Sometimes I catch myself with a jar of mayonnaise in my hand in front of the refrigerator and can't remember whether I need to put it away or start making a sandwich."

The bass chimed in, "Yes, sometimes I find myself on the landing of the stairs and can't remember whether I am on my way up or on my way down."

The baritone responded, "Well, I'm glad I don't have that problem, knock on wood." He rapped her knuckles on the table, then told them, "That must be the door, I'll get it!"

Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

Performance A

Always
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
Give My Regards to Broadway
Goodnight Sweetheart
Heart
You're The Hangnail In My Life, And
I Can't Bite You Off
Hey, Look Me Over
How Are Things in Glocca Morra?
I Don't Mind Being All Alone
I Feel a Song Coming On
I Found a Million Dollar Baby
Lullabye in Ragtime
Over the Rainbow
Please, Mr. Columbus
Thanks For The Memory
There is Nothing Like a Dame
I Thought She Was Out Jogging,
But She Was Running Around On
Me

Contest Songs

Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue
On the Sunny Side of the Street

Patriotic

Star-Spangled Banner
This Land is Your Land/America the
Beautiful Medley
God Bless America

Inspirational

Amazing Grace
I Believe
Lord's Prayer
You'll Never Walk Alone

Upcoming Songs

Loch Lomond
Have Yourself a Merry Little
Christmas
If I Loved You

Future Songs:

Shenandoah
Armed Forces Salute
Bare Necessities
Ten Feet Off The Ground
Can You Feel The Love Tonight
When You And I Were Young,
Maggie
My Honey's Lovin' Arms
River Of No Return
Blue Skies
They Say It's Wonderful
How Deep Is The Ocean



"He who sings
scares away
his woes"

Miguel de Cervantes
Saavedra

Mark Your Calendars

The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

PO Box 5149
Brookfield, CT 06804-5149

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

The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

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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

March 11: Chapter Singout. Danbury Whalers Hockey Game, Danbury Ice Arena, 1 Independence Way, Danbury, CT. Warmup 6:30 PM sing 7:00 PM.

March 17: Chapter Singout. Meadow Ridge Continuing Care Community, 100 Redding Road, Redding, CT. Warmup 3:30 PM sing 4:00 PM.

May 17: Chapter Singout. Meadow Ridge Independent Living Center, 100 Redding Road, Redding, CT. Warmup 7:00 PM, Sing 7:30 PM.

May 20: Chapter Singout. Congregational Church of Newtown, 14 West Street, Newtown, CT. Warmup 6:30 PM, sing 7:00 PM.

November 12: Annual Show. Brookfield High School, Details to be announced.



Colonie Central High School
1 Raider Blvd
Colonie, NY

Headquarters hotel is the Marriott at 189 Wolf Road (parallel to I-87 Northway. Phone contact at the Marriott is 518-437-6333 (Donna LaRocca). Rooms for \$85 per night.

For more information and registration, go to:
<http://www.nedistrict.org>

March Milestones

Birthdays

13 - Pete Huester
15 - Terry Dunkle
22 - Vera Baran
25 - Nick Godano



Wedding Anniversaries

No anniversaries in March.

The Newyorkers Turn 50!

On Saturday June 4, the Newyorkers will present their 50th Anniversary show beginning at 2PM.

For more information, contact:

Steve Miller
50@newyorkerschorus.com

