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 23 Number 2

www.madhatterchorus.org
Pitchers and Catchers 2016

Celery and a Song

By John Bradley

Danbury, CT – On Saturday morning, February 6, a small contingent of Danbury Mad Hatters arrived at Stop & Shop on Federal Road armed with flyers and pitchpipes, hopeful that they could play Cupid and sway a few shoppers toward buying Singing Valentines for their loved ones.

The group was surprised at how few shoppers there were that morning. Our old friend, bass singer Al Paparesta, visited us while performing his domestic chores.

A muscian from Worchester, MA, who was "passing through Danbury" that morning paused to direct us through a song, and a number of people tried as hard as they could not to see or hear us, which was difficult since we were right at the door in front of the produce department.



Mad Hatters ready to perform for potential Valentines at Stop & Shop. Picture by John Bradley.

Fortunately, quite a few of the shoppers paused to listen, smile, applaud, take a flyer and some even sang along. I'm not sure if we inspired anyone to buy a Singing Valentine, but we had fun and you never know when someone who heard us will call with a gig, or even stop by rehearsal and sing with us.

First Sing-out at Oxford Greens

By Dick Zang

Dickson and Marilyn DeMarche recently relocated to their new home in the Village at Oxford Greens in Oxford, CT. It didn't take long for Dickson to convince his neighbors that some old-fashioned barbershop singing should be added to their busy social calendar.

A baker's dozen of the Mad Hatters were on hand for our inaugural sing-out at the Oxford Greens clubhouse last Saturday, the 20th of February. Art Roberts, Jim Hopper, Danny Anderson, Rich Waag, Nick Godano, Walt Barlow, Brian Robbins, Wynn Wilcox, Andy Bayer, Scott Colman, Keith Korb and Dick Zang made the trip to join Dickson. Since Joe Hudson was with his wife awaiting the birth of their baby girl, the directing chores were ably handled by Wynn and Scott.

In addition to the chorus songs, two quartets entertained the lively audience. The Traveling Men, with Jim filling in on tenor in place of Art Cilley, did their usual fine job. But the other quartet was a surprise to all of us – it was the debut of the Men Without Names – with Art Roberts, Nick Godano, Walt Barlow, and Dickson. They're off to a fine start, so look for them on the next contest stage.

After the concert we joined the crowd for some coffee and dessert and, at least at one table, a choice of wines. It was a pleasure to sing for such an enthusiastic and welcoming audience. We hope to be invited back.



Oxford Greens residents toasting the Mad Hatters.

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Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets

Real Chemistry – By John Bradley

Love was in the air at 9:00 AM, Friday morning, February 12, as Real Chemistry began it's annual delivery of Singing Valentines. The quartet has been making these deliveries since the chorus first took part in the program, many years ago, and we've had a few memorable incidents, such as singing to a horse and delivering a Valentine sent to a woman by an alleged stalker. So, as we set off from the Staples parking lot on Mill Plain Road, I was wondering what new adventures we'd be adding to the list.

Our first stop was at a podiatrist's office in Brookfield. We sang "Love Me Tender" to the doctor, Cynthia, then performed our foot song, "Coney Island Baby," for the staff and patients.



Cool chair at podiatrist office. Picture by John Bradley.

From there the morning progessed smoothy as we stopped at the Wildlife Trading Company in Bethel, rhe Regional Hospic in Danbury, then an accounting firm in Ridgefield where our bass's grandson is employed. (I hope he still is after our performance).

In the afternoo, we delivered a valentine to a math teacher at Ridgefield's Scotts Ridge Middle School. As we were lining up to sing, I looked over my shoulder and saw a long line of kids entering the classroom. I think every class on the floor squeezed into that one room. So we delivered our love songs for the teacher and sang a couple of up-beat ones for the kids. As we were leaving the room I saw an algebra book and remembered how math inspired me to become a teacher of English.

Our last stop of the day was for a bank employee in Middletown, CT. It was pretty long drive there from Danbury and, of course, we were slowed by the I-84 traffic through Waterbury. But, we persevered and met the valentine outside the bank, where she informed us she had no time for the two songs. She did take the rose and the card.

We also had three jobs to complete on Sunday, the 14th. The most memorable was in Kent, NY, where we sang for the wife of a former local police officer, whose huge German Shepherd "puppy" insisted on singing (barking) along with us. It would have been an easier performance if the dog had agreed with us on the proper key.



Real Chemistry on Friday morning. Picture by John Bradley.

Men Without Names – By Nick Godano

On Saturday evening, February 13, Danbury's newest Valentine quartet, Men Without Names (actually a quartet without a name—suggestions?), made its debut performance in Redding, CT. Being the efficient group of guys that we are, we sang to six wonderful women at once at a private house party. We were originally contacted to sing to just one of the women, but when the other husbands heard about this very special gift, their sense of spousal devotion — or perhaps their embarrassment at not having purchased such a unique gift — caused them to request a group rate. Done deal! Such a debut!

We, Dickson DeMarche, Walt Barlow, Art Roberts and Nick Godano, thought it only right to give them more than just two songs. We opened with "Heart of My Heart," followed by "I Don't Why (I Just Do)?" Then we did a quick lesson in Barbershop 101 with "My Wild Irish Rose." We were told that one of the women, named Katy, was celebrating a birthday and, coincidentally (yeah right) we had just learned the song, "K-K-K-Katy," so we sang it, much to the pleasure of the birthday girl.

As much as we would have liked to take them up on their invitation to stay, it was time to leave while we were ahead—that means that up to that point we had remembered most of the words and a few of the notes. So, we closed with that touching love song, "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," and called it an evening well spent.



Happy couple receives Singing Valentine from Men Without Names



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

Congratulations to Joe and Liz Hudson on the birth of their daughter. Leeann shares a birthday with Johnny Cash, Michael Bolton, Fats Domino, Jackie Gleason, Buffalo Bill, Victor Hugo, and Betty Hutton. Leeann was also born on the 400th anniversary of the Catholic Church's banning of Galileo Galilei for claiming that the earth was not the center of the universe.

Terry from Teaneck

Thank you Terry. You inspired me to take a look at historical happenings on my birthday, July 27. In 1927 Mel Ott hit his first major league home run (inside the park), and in 1931 grasshoppers in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota destroyed thousands of acres of crops



Leeann Hudson makes her debut. Picture provided by Joe Hudson.



My wonderful husband bought me a singing valentine this year. It was such a wonderful surprise. Do you sing at other holidays and sepcial events?

Susan from Southbury.

Susan, we will sing for any occasion, just contact any Mad Hatter chorus member.

I've been thinking of teaming up with the legal industry and offer a singing process server service. One song could be, "Hello Mary Lou (I've got a surprise for you!)."

Repertoire Notes

"I'm Sitting on Top of the World" is a popular song with music written by Ray Henderson and lyrics by Sam M. Lewis and Joe Young. It was published in 1925. The song was most likely first recorded by Art Gillham (the Whispering Pianist), who recorded 'I'm Sitting on Top of the World' on October 24, 1925. Al Jolson's recording is generally attributed to 1926. It was used in the 1928 part-talkie film "The Singing Fool" starring Al Jolson. In February 1926, Roger Wolfe Kahn and His Hotel Biltmore Orchestra's 1925 recording of *I'm Sitting On Top Of The World* charted at Number 9.

Additionally, the song "I'm On My Way" by The Proclaimers makes reference to the song, saying "I'd have Al Jolson sing I'm sittin' on top of the world'." The song was a major revival in a 1952 version by Les Paul and Mary Ford. Aretha Franklin recorded the song for her album *The Tender, the Moving, the Swinging Aretha Franklin* (1962).

How to be a Great Lead

Some tips from a world champion lead.

By Joe Connelly, two-time quartet gold medalist

When the audience is leaving the auditorium after a show or contest, what will they be humming? The melody, of course (music judges excluded, for reasons we can't explain here.).

It is the lead singer's job to execute (no pun intended) each melody line with precision and flair. It is this "recognizable" line that is familiar to audiences and puts them at ease.

Although this makes the lead part the easiest to learn, it also means that the lead singer is the most vulnerable. When you sing melody, you can run, but you can't hide.

Top Ten Habits of Highly Effective Lead Singers

 Learn basic barbershop chord structures to be aware of proper balance.

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The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

It is great to be a barbershopper. We end each rehearsal with this exclamation. I truly am proud of being a barbershopper and on

every occasion I can I tell people about my involvement and activities. This practice has provided several singing opportunities for Traveling Men to perform. Since we all exclaim that we are proud of being a barbershopper, we should all be telling people about our hobby.

Dickson DeMarche has done this in the community where he lives. He was able to obtain Singing Valentines and then a full sing-out at the community center in Oxford.

We had a turnout of 13 singers for this program. Joe was unable to be with us due to the impending birth of his and Liz's daughter. In his place Wynn and Scott filled as codirectors for the evening. They did a wonderful job, especially since they had not directed many of the songs before.

A new quartet debuted at the sing out. The members are Nick, Dickson, Art Roberts and Walt. They first performed together delivering Singing Valentines. There has not been an official name for the quartet, but they are working on finding a name. I am glad to see these men stepping up to forming this quartet.

There were four quartets delivering Singing Valentines this year. These quartets delivered around 40 Valentines, bringing joy and tears to the recipients. Blue Moon delivered 19 Valentines, Traveling Men delivered 12, Real Chemistry had 9 and Men Without Names performed 3.

Many of the Valentines came from people seeing the flyers posted by some of our members. Dick Walter generated most of their Valentines from flyers he posted. I obtained four from flyers I posted as did Robert. I wonder how many Valentines we would have had if every member had taken the time to post a flyer or tell people about the Singing Valentine opportunity?

We are quickly approaching the spring contest date. As you know, we are the host chapter for the contest and will need to perform several tasks over the weekend. We will need someone to make a run Friday afternoon to pick up two judges from Bradley Airport at 2 p.m.

At the contest venue we need two people to open and close the doors between contestants on both Friday night and Saturday. In addition, four people are needed to usher contestants from one location to another prior to going on stage. Several wives volunteered their help at the installation dinner. I request that you have your wives confirm their availability so that we can get them registered as helpers. This will allow their entry to the contest.

As contest is approaching we will be having a couple of coaching sessions with Joe Hunter. Joe always provides new ideas and improvements to our singing and presentation.

It is important that we attend each of his sessions and all other rehearsals since each rehearsal builds upon the previous one. So, since we exclaim how great it is to be a barber shopper, then tell people about the hobby and attend each rehearsal.

February Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



Respectfully submitted by Robert Golenbock, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Danny Boy O'Anderson at 6:11 pm on February 2, 2016 at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Even I didn't read the Secretary's report, and I wrote it. Finally the report was received on a motion by Art Cilley, seconded by Dickson Demarche, so we could use the copies to wipe up a spill.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Our Treasurer, Dickson Demarche is keeping track of cash flow as well as total receipts and expenses against total annual budget as discussed at our planning session. At the moment we are theoretically working on a negative cash flow budget. The suggestion to make "Mad Hatters' Bucks" out of Monopoly money was ignored. The report was received on a motion by Robert Golenbock, seconded by Andy Bayer.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Andy Bayer is planning a formal guest night after our annual show, probably on May 17.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Art Cilley met with the Stop & Shop store manager, who is very flexible about offering us the opportunity to sing in the store before Valentine's Day. We are planning to sing on Saturday. Traveling Men will be on Comcast to talk and sing as our representatives. The show will be aired twice before Valentine's Day. For the second taping we will have other representative to talk about our Fiftieth Anniversary Show. Comcast can also broadcast some of our previous performances. Traveling Men also appeared at Danbury High School and met the school's new a cappella male group Mad Men. Traveling Men sang with Mad Men and talked about the Harmony Explosion camp. Art is speaking to other music educators and choir directors to get scholarship applicants.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: A synopsis of the last meeting can be found in the HATTER CHATTER. "Smiling" is still the skill of the month. We plan to use quartets more for learning our parts. For example, a section leader would take an impromptu quartet into a room to offer constructive criticism. We still need the list of songs for the show and the order we are going to learn them.

OLD BUSINESS: Robert Golenbock made a motion that the chapter attend the spring division convention. Walt Barlow seconded the motion.

Continued on the next page

Board Minutes

Contnued from the previous page

Wynn Wilcox explained that the will of the chorus is to go, and there is a larger group available than previously expected. Originally we planned to spend the money not used for the contest on more coaching.

Since we have near unanimity from the membership, we needed to revisit the issue. There are a number of arguments both for and against going, but most of the problems associated with going have been solved. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: Members made themselves available to put our our road signs advertising Singing Valentines. We still need a stage manager for our annual show. Walt is negotiating the new fees with assisted living and senior living communities. Andy Bayer asked for a complete written fee structure.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Griffin, H Belafonte.

OFFICERS PRESENT: A. Cilley, P. Daubner, D. Anderson, A. Bayer, W. Wilcox, D. Demarche, W. Barlow, R. Golenbock

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. Next meeting 3/1/16.



District Dirt

By Robert Bradley

Girls, Girls, Girls

The Northeastern District Board of Directors has decided to expand our options and brighten up our contests. The April contest will have a new look now that women (the lovelier sex) will be able to compete in mixed quartets and some day, we hope, in a mixed chorus.

Since opening up registration for Nashua, we already have a few mixed quartets who have signed up and we are hoping for more. They will not be competing for either District or Division championships, but will be able to be scored and evaluated just like us men. As a guy with two daughters I feel it's about time.

The rules are that the mixed quartet must be a member of a mixed quartet organization which, unknown to me, there are quite a few. MBHA has been added as the Society's latest affiliate. The letters stand for Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association. The contact person is Ron Morden, president, at ronmorden@mac.com, for all of you who want to start a mixed quartet.

If you get a chance on April 29^{th,} come to Nashua for our first ever event featuring mixed quartets.

In a similar development, women will also be able to be judges, coming soon to a contest near you. At the last contest in October we had women judges in the pit, and it is working out so well the program is being expanded.

We are getting close to contest time in Danbury and the venue is ready for us at the newly renovated White Hall. Those who have not been there for a while will be surprised at the changes and improvements.

For those of us who like to eat, we have a food package of unlimited breakfast and a lunch buffet of penne, chicken, salads, etc. and dessert, all for the one price of \$20. Have breakfast before singing. Food will be served from 7:30 AM in White Hall and in the cafeteria for lunch. On the web we are asking for you to give us a count as to how many will partake along with wives and significant others, children, etc., so we will have enough food. Lunch will be between the end of the contest and evals. All members of the chorus should be at evals as there are no travel excuse.

Sebastian Massi has been appointed the new VP for Membership and Outreach. Note that we added "Outreach" to the title and that is the important par. Sebby is a member of the Hartford chapter and will be competing on Friday night in Danbury. Please wish him the best in his new position.

Lead

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- Diligently study successful leads' strengths and adapt them to your own voice and
- personal style.
- Plan ahead for maximum mental focus in each rehearsal and performance.
- Be fully prepared in every aspect of your music.
- Be consistent -- sing each song the same way every time.
- Practice singing the melody against a continual fixed tonal center -- an electronic
- pitch pipe works great.
- Always rehearse as though in front of an audience.
- Develop a physical exercise plan that works for you.
- Drink a lot of water every day to keep your body and vocal cords hydrated.
- Find a great bass, baritone and tenor whom you trust musically, and who in return, have faith in you to lead them onward and upward.

Baritone Deep Thought

If you can't sleep, count sheep. Don't count endangered animals. You will run out.

District and Society Notes





NED Quartet Representative Announced for 2016 BHS International Contest in Nashville, TN

It is my great pleasure to announced that **Fast Track Quartet** has been named the Northeastern District (NED) representative to the 2016 BHS International Contest in Nashville, TN. The official announcement was pending the results of a quartet who would be competing out of district this spring, in an attempt to achieve the minimum score to attend as the district representative. That quartet has respectfully withdrawn from the contest.

Please join me and the rest of the District Leadership in congratulating **Fast Track** and consider supporting them in their journey to Nashville, TN! You can drop Fast Track a word of congratulations by emailing Dan Signor at dan_lead@yahoo.com.

Harmoniously, Brian O'Leary

District Vice President of Contest & Judging, Northeastern District

Display Advertising for Spring Contest Programs

Just a quick reminder - time is flying by! Now taking your orders for Display Ads. NED Eastern Regional Contest is April 29-30. Deadline to submit is Monday, April 11.

NEW! Order & Pay Online! Complete a reservation "order" form and PAY ONLINE easily with a credit card. Safe and securely! Thank you for your consideration and support!

Harmoniously, Steve Salamin

Contest Program Editor District VP - Marketing & Public Relations 2012-2016, Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Youth Harmony Workshop Northeast (YHWNE)!



On behalf of the Northeastern District Youth in Harmony Committee, we are thrilled to announce the launch of the Youth Harmony Workshop Northeast!

Starting in April, the YHWNE program will host monthly gatherings for young male singers in the New England area, which will:

- Refine individual singing skills within an ensemble setting
- Provide fun opportunities for quartet singing and other activities

 Encourage the building of leadership skills, confidence, and experience in working with one's peers

We are also proud to welcome to the YHWNE program our new Musical Director, **Ray Johnson**, who is very excited to begin collaborating with the participants.

Young Adult singers ages 15 and up are invited to attend the YHWNE Kick-Off, which will take place in the evening (4pm-7pm) on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the NED Eastern Regional Spring Convention following the contests and evaluations. There, participants will be led through a variety of engaging musical activities for several hours, which will set the framework for the upcoming monthly workshops.

To register for the Kick-Off, please visit www.nedistrict.org/yhwne. There you will find a registration link and further information. Also, by registering in advance, participants will receive learning materials in preparation for our time together. All participants should register online no later than Monday, April 25, 2016. We are delighted to begin this exciting program, and we hope that you can join us as we start this journey!

Harmoniously,

Rodrigo Alvarez

District Vice President of Youth in Harmony, Northeastern District

Patriot and Granite & Pine Division Contests April 29-30, 2016

The NED Eastern Regional Convention on April 29-30, 2016 will take place at **Nashua High School North**, 8 Titan Way, **Nashua**, **NH**, 03063. Information about hotel accommodations, schedules, and contestant details will be posted on the NED website as soon as the information is available here:

www.nedistrict.org/2016-spring-eastern-convention

NEW Informal Mixed Quartet Contest

An informal opportunity for Mixed Quartets to be scored at the NED Eastern Regional Contest! This will be limited to the first six (6) quartet's that register and is separate from the other contests. Online Registration for the NED Eastern Regional Convention 2016 is open and available on the district website. Complete your registration TODAY by visiting here:

www.nedistrict.org/2016-spring-eastern-convention.

If you need assistance in registering for the Convention please email registrar@nedistrict.org



Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

A barbershop baritone spots a sign outside a house that reads, Talking Dog for Sale. Intrigued, he walks in. "So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog.

"I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home."

The baritone is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?"

The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

• • •

The local police force was looking for a new detective, so a barbershop baritone went in to interview for the job. "Okay, what is 1 and 1?" the police chief asked.

"Eleven," the baritone replied.

The police chief thought to himself, that's not what I meant, but he's right. Then the chief asked, "What two days of the week start with the letter T?"

"Today and tomorrow," the baritone replied. The police chief was again surprised that the baritone supplied a correct answer that the chief had never thought of himself.

"Now, listen carefully," the police chief said to the baritone. "Who killed Martin Luther King?"

The baritone thought really hard for a minute and finally admitted he had no idea. The chief replied, "Well, why don't you go home and work on that one for a while?" So, thebaritone left and went home.

When he got home the baritone's wife asked him how the interview went? He replied, "It went great! First day on the job and I'm already working on a murder case!"

Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

Regular Repertoire

Tonight, Tonight
Come Go With Me
Drivin' Me Crazy
May I Never Love Again
Daydream
Happy Together
Blue Velvet
Crazy Little Thing Called Love
Shenandoah
Bye-Bye, Love
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
Beach Boys Medley

In Progress

So Many Voices Sing America's Song Long and Winding Road It's A Brand New Day I Gave Her My Heart And A Diamond And She Clubbed Me With A Spade I'm Sitting On Top Of The World

You Must Have Been A

Beautiful Baby

Patriotic/Inspirational

God Bless America I Believe Lord's Prayer Star-Spangled Banner This Land Is Your Land/ America The Beautiful Medley



The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

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Musical Director: Joseph Hudson
Assistant Director: Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox

Director Emeritus: Don Sutherland Membership VP: Andy Bayer Public Relations VP: Art Cilley

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Member at Large: Walter Barlow
Member at Large: Jim Hopper
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Uniform Chairman: Robert Bradley
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

John Bradley, Hatter Editor Dick Zang, Chatter Editor

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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 whatevers, and we'll turn them into Pulitzer Prize copy



Mark Your Calendars

Coaching Session.

Tuesday March 8. Regular rehearsal. Joe Hunter, coach.



Yankee Division Contest.

Saturday, March 19, $8:00\ AM-4:00\ PM$. White Hall (WCSU), 181 White Street, Danbury, CT. Details to be announced.

Charter TV Taping.

Tuesday, March 22, Warm-up Time TBD. Church of Christ.

Annual Show

Saturday, May 7, 2016. WCSU Visual and Performing Arts Center, 43 Lake Avenue Ext., Danbury, CT. Details to be announced.

Times

Warm-ups TBD

7:30pm – Performance

Songs

Beach Boys Medley Drivin' Me Crazy

I'm Sitting On Top Of The World*

It's A Brand New Day

Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You*

Long And Winding Road May I Never Love Again

So Many Voices Sing America's Song*

Sweet and Lovely*

You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby*

Performance

Saturday, May 14. New Canaan Library, 151 Main Street, New Canaan, CT. Warm-up 12:30 PM, sing 1:00 PM.

Performance

Saturday, May 28. An Evening With the Danbury Mad Hatters. Carnegie Hall, 881 7th Avenue, New York, NY. Warmup 6:30 PM. Sing 8:00 PM.

Baritone Quiz

A group of Mad Hatters recently performed at this venue. Can you name it?

