



*The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus*

# Hatter Chatter

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

Volume 18 Number 8

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

October 2011

## Mad Hatters Merrily Make Music in Monroe

*By Dick Zang*

**Monroe, CT** – On Sunday, October 16, the Mad Hatters confidently strolled into Bridgeport territory to sing for the Friends of the Library in Monroe, CT.

Of course when we first got the invitation we checked with the Coastal Chordsmen to see if they minded the incursion. They didn't; but just to be sure we didn't do anything untowardly, they had a Chordsman planted in the back row of the meeting room in the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library where we held forth for an hour of solid entertainment – Danbury style.

For the first time in a while we had three of our quartets take part with no substitutions. And we welcomed Al Paparesta, our newest member, into the performance chorus. Instead of just a Society membership card, the official sign of becoming a Mad Hatter is when you put on a zebra tie. Welcome Al.



*Joe Hudson modeling his contest wardrobe.  
Picture by Terry Dunkle.*

## Chorus Concert Connects in Cannondale

*By John Bradley*

**Wilton, CT** – On Tuesday evening, October 11, about 20 members of the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop chorus entertained residents at The Greens at Cannondale.

Despite a unique version of “Heart” that saw the chorus sing three different parts of the song at the same time, the audience seemed to genuinely enjoy the one hour show.

The chorus performed its two contest songs, “Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue” and “On The Sunny Side Of The Street” with full choreography in preparation for their appearance at the Northeast District’s (NED) chorus competition later this month.

“They seemed to get the humor,” said a pleased and out of breath chorus director, Joe Hudson, after the performance.

“I actually remembered most of the moves,” said bass Dick Walter.

Rare Occasion and Loco Fedora, two of the chorus’s quartets each performed two songs. Loco Fedora will also be competing at the NED contests in Springfield, MA.



*Enthusiastic Audience enjoys the Mad Hatters at The Greens  
at Cannondale*

## Sell Your Annual Show Ads Before It's Too Late

Don't wait until the last minute to sell ads for our Annual Show's program.

Doomsday prophet Harold Camping is once more predicting an apocalypse, and apparently we don't have long left. The 90-year-old California radio mogul has pointed to October 21 on the calendar, by which date he reckons it will "probably all be over."

But this time around he is not warning of souls burning up and ascensions to heaven from the sidewalks of Manhattan. Instead, Camping, the owner of the Family Radio Network, believes it will be a much quieter affair.

"The end is going to come very, very quietly, probably within the next month. It will happen, that is, by October 21," he stated in a recent radio recording.

Camping became infamous earlier this year for incorrectly heralding the arrival of the Rapture on May 21. Followers across the U.S. spent millions on advertising campaigns warning people of the eventual non-event.



*Loco Fedora entertaining residents at The Greens at Cannondale. Picture by Terry Dunkle.*

### Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

**When I was a kid, I lost my parents at the beach. I asked a lifeguard to help me find them. He said, "I don't know kid, there are so many places they could hide."**

## 2011 Annual Show Program Angel Ads

*By Fred Baran*

Members, family and friends of the Danbury Mad Hatters, we ask for your help in supporting our Annual Show, our one major annual fund-raiser, by becoming an Angel. For a ten dollar contribution, you can have your name (and spouse, significant other, or family members) listed in our show program.

Our Annual Show, "A Musical Night At The Museum," will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2011, at Brookfield High School, 45 Long Meadow Hill Road, at 7 PM.

Your support is very much appreciated and will help us to maintain a sound financial footing as we meet our future financial obligations.

Please make your check-out for \$10 to the Danbury Mad Hatters Barbershop Chorus (or cash), and turn it in to me as soon as possible, before our printer's deadline, to insure inclusion in the program booklet.

Please let me know how you would like your ad to read. If you have any questions, contact me at:

Fred Baran  
101 Plumtrees Rd.  
Bethel CT 06801  
203-744-6812  
fredbaran@aol.com



*It's probably better not to ask. Picture by Terry Dunkle*



## Quartet Corner

*News from our chorus quartets*

### Rare Occasion – By Fred Baran

On Monday evening, September 12, we appeared at the monthly meeting of the Newtown Historical Society at the Booth Memorial Library in Newtown. At their request, I prepared an hour long program tracing the history of barbershop singing in America, which was interspersed with representative barbershop songs from our repertoire. We sang songs demonstrating various barbershop styles and sounds, representing how barbershop evolved from the 1870's to the present.

Joining us was Dick Zang, a longtime Newtown resident, who sang several songs with the quartet and related some anecdotes as a 50 year member of the society

As chairman of the chorus's 2011 Annual Show, Dick was able to give a spiel and pass out flyers promoting the show. Hopefully we will realize some ticket sales from the event.

As part of our program, we passed out tri-fold brochures promoting the chorus which also advertises the Annual Show and Singing Valentines. Terry Dunkle, our quartet photographer and graphics expert, did excellent work in helping to prepare professional quality handouts. We also made a pitch to the men in the audience to come to a rehearsal and think about joining us.

Throughout the program we sang 11 songs and demonstrated a tag to an attentive and appreciative audience. We were able to tie back to Newtown's Tercentenary Program in 2005, when Rare Occasion was one of the vaudeville acts in their show. Bill Manion and Paul Just were part of the quartet, and we wore our plaid vests and black bow-ties.

After the show, I spoke to several women who were part of the entertainment committee for the Keeler Tavern and Museum in Ridgefield. They evidently liked what they saw and heard and so invited us to give a similar historical and singing presentation next spring.

It was a new experience and great evening for Rare Occasion and we thank Dick Zang for all his help including the A/V setup.

On Saturday evening, September 17, we attended a "house concert" at the home of Annie Kelly on King Street in Danbury. This is our second year performing at this "music fest" attended by many of the local area's professional and amateur musicians.

Annie is a professional singer and voice-over artist and her friends, consisting of both musicians and singers covering a wide spectrum of music, appear at many local venues. We were part of a lineup that started performing at 5 PM and ended about 11 PM.



*Rare Occasion, with Dick Zang filling in for Terry Dunkle on bass, warms up in a back room of the Booth Library in Newtown, where the quartet presented a brief history of barbershop music for the Newtown Historical Society on September 12. The presentation was researched and scripted by tenor Fred Baran.*

We performed a twenty minute set in the main living room, which was professionally equipped with a variety of instruments and a sound and lighting system. We also performed in her spacious garage which also served as the bar and "secondary lounge."

Throughout the evening we performed over 20 different songs including "Lida Rose" which was requested three different times. We demonstrated our versatility with a mixture of ballads, uptunes, spirituals, jazz, lullabies, western and show tunes. We had a great reaction and rapport with our audiences. The number of people who filtered in and out of the party was over 100 throughout our stay.

We handed out many business cards and expect a few appearances to materialize from our performance. We also had opportunities to plug the Mad Hatters' Annual Show.

It was a very enjoyable evening with the opportunity to meet many new people from the music world and promote barbershop harmony.

Annie Kelly is a friend and neighbor of Terry Dunkle, our esteemed bass.

On Friday evening September 23, we appeared at a private party at the home of Teri and Lon Moots, attorneys who live in New Milford.

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# Quartets

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This appearance resulted from a charitable auction held at the end of April at the Washington Montessori School in Washington, CT.

At a chance meeting at a New Milford coffee shop while delivering Singing Valentines in February, we met several members of the auction committee for the school who asked if we would donate an hour of singing for their auction. Since it was for a worthwhile cause, we agreed to donate our services. The Moots family was the successful bidder for our services and we worked out a mutually agreeable date to sing for them.

We entertained about 18 people at the Moots' home during the cocktail hour and pot luck dinner which they held for friends and neighbors. We sang a variety of songs from our repertoire and the audience was very appreciative of our performance, including their two pet basset hounds.

One gentleman who told us that he sang some barbershop in high school and college in Michigan, joined us in singing the "Trees Tag" and sang a fine baritone.

On Friday evening September 30th we sang at a wedding rehearsal dinner at Jim Barbarie's restaurant in Danbury. The Bride-to-be is Nicole De Pompeis, whose mother is a member of the Church of Christ, and a friend of Jim Hopper, our baritone. The Groom is Tom O'Hara and we really enjoyed serenading this lovely young couple and about 40 family and friends. During our final song, "It Had To Be You," Tom took Nicole's hand and they got up and danced as they lovingly gazed into each others eyes. Another fond memory for our scrap book.

## Real Chemistry – By John Bradley

“Fore... Five, six, seven...”

That was the members of Real Chemistry counting their golf strokes at the annual Arts On The Lake golf outing fun raiser, held at the Sedgewick Club in Kent, NY, on Thursday, October 6.

Originally scheduled for September 23, the golf outing had to be postponed due to rain, but the party at boathouse did proceed on schedule, with Real Chemistry singing a number of songs to kick off the benefit.

On golfing day, the quartet opened the ceremonies by performing its Thursday morning golf song, “Coney Island Baby,” followed by a Bradley Brothers’ Polecat rewrite.

Eighteen holes later, the barbershoppers closed out the day with a couple of Doo-wop numbers, proving we are much more adept at ringing cords than at putting on greens.

## I’m on the Green

*Sung to the tune of “You Tell Me Your Dream”*

I’m on the green, Wow! Boy what a view.  
Look there’s my ball and I’m lying twenty-two.  
Caddy bring my driver, then duck behind  
You slice your golf ball, I will hook mine.  
Why do I do this? I’m out of my mind.



## Emails to the Editors

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

My fellow Mad Hatters,

It has been a long time since last I wrote. I thank several members of the chorus who have enabled me to keep in touch with the goings-on of the chorus, especially through the *Hatter Chatter*. It is so exciting to see the chorus growing and improving and so involved in so many things. It certainly looks like you are keeping a full singout schedule. That's where the fun is. Your contest scores continue to improve. All that coaching must be working. While a lot of this is due to your wonderful director, Joe Hudson, it is thrilling to see so many people actively involved in the chorus administration and activities. They, too, deserve a round of applause. The chorus keeps getting better and better.

In a recent note, Fred Baran asked if I was still singing. Unfortunately, I have not been singing for over two years due to the effects of a terminal pulmonary disease. At the very best, when I am feeling well, I can only muster at most one verse of one song at mass on Sunday. Because the disease zaps me of any energy, I have had to retire from all of my music activities. No more quarteting. No more singing with my Jacksonville chorus. I no longer serve as music director for our award-winning mixed voice chorus, for which we had, at our height, 72 voices. I also no longer direct our 18 piece community Big Band which has been playing some great music. Many of the players had not played for over 30 years. Through individual practice, lessons, and lots of sweat, they were able to get back to playing really well in a short time. I really enjoyed my time with both groups.

Carolyn and I continue to travel as much as possible, although we tend to stay closer to home these days. I have portable machines to help with my breathing, allowing us to visit so many places.

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# Emails

*Continued from the previous page*

We have grandchildren in Florida universities whom we visit. One boy, on a four-year soccer scholarship plays for the University of Southern Florida in Tampa, quite near the Hard Rock Casino which allows me to visit my money and continue to make regular deposits. We are looking forward to attending a number of holiday concerts this holiday season, including a "Living Christmas tree" in Orlando.

I've been away from Danbury for over 11 years, yet still miss the chorus very much. It was my privilege to serve as it's director. May the chorus continue to achieve success, entertain audiences, and have lots of fun.

Directorily Yours,  
Ray Wixted

Dick

Wanted to wish you good luck and my hope for the best at this year's District Quartet competition. Hope all those years of hard work and dedication pay off.

Congratulations on the Chapter's 45th Anniversary, celebrated this year, a fact I just read of in the latest issue of *The Hatter Chatter*. I joined Danbury in 1972, so I was a bit surprised to just now learn the chapter was only six years old when I became a Madhatter. I think my joining up was a direct result of attending a guest night, at Len Carlson's invitation, that was run by Gerry Otten. What really hooked me frankly was the fun I had that night and not the quality of singing, which by the way, was quite good. This guest night was hosted shortly after the chorus had gone to District competition (I think for the first time) and I recall they seemed quite pumped up about that.

That version of the Mad Hatters had such energy and great guys led by our president (I believe it was Ray Waldron at the time) that they always seemed pumped up! I recall those early years and Tuesday nights at the Elks Club on Main Street with great nostalgia. I was not to be disappointed about joining because of the fun.

Tony Gross was not only an inspiring director but he also knew how to bring out the laughs (usually involving Jack Foley, Joe Talarico, Ray Waldron, Bob Stewart, Mario Merolle or Pat Millette to name a few of the resident Jokers).

There wasn't a comedy club that could produce more laughs than those guys. Sitting next to Foley in the tenor section, it was quite a challenge to keep focused with a straight face. Tony's incessant undertone quips continually cracked me up.

Characters abounded, such as "Lonesome" Joe Talarico, Jack Williams, Walt Shannon, Larry Angeli, Dick Bristol, Joe Scalzo and Mario Merolle's favorite character, Joe Skoko.

Pilots, famous artists, engineers, businessmen, salesmen, teachers, handymen, laborers, you name it, we had them all. Who could forget our own Twin Towers (Len Carlson and Ed Vanderzee, each about 6'6" tall)!

We had a lot of very capable singers, but as a guy with a thick Brooklyn accent, I also appreciated some of the great speaking voices we had in Bert Rosendahl (who by the way was a highly decorated WWII hero), Bill Manion and yes, you, Dick Zang. I can recall enjoying, up close, great quartet harmony that was near the top in the District via the Lavender Hill Mob (Ray Wixted, John Ahearn, Dick Hess and Tony Gross, I think).

I cannot help smiling when I recall the back yard BBQs at Talarico's place and Joe's "How Much is That Doggie in the Window," "Riding Down the Canyon" and "Going to the Hamburg Show."

How can I ever forget some of those off-site preparations for contest, the Christmas Quartet Contests, the formal after glows (and also the informal ones in local gin mills), etc. But my favorite memories had to be of pick-up-quartetting into the wee hours down in the Elks' grill room after rehearsals. Legendary stuff! What great times and fun people!

I could go on and on about these folks and so many others that I fail to mention, all of whom helped weave my wonderful memories of the Danbury Mad Hatters.

It was a time of my life that was certainly one of the great times of my life.

Mad Hatters, I will hoist one or two (probably at least two) to your fond memory tonight. Happy Birthday.

Jack Cramer  
Murrieta, California

## Repertoire Notes

"The Army Goes Rolling Along" is the official song of the United States Army and is typically called "The Army Song."



The song is based on the "Caisson Song" written by field artillery First Lieutenant (later Brigadier General) Edmund L. Gruber, Lieutenant William Bryden, and Lieutenant (later Major General) Robert Danford, while stationed at Fort Stotsenburg in the Philippines in March 1908. The tune quickly became popular in field artillery units.

In 1917, the Secretary of the Navy and Army Lieutenant George Friedlander of the 306th Field Artillery asked John Philip Sousa to create a march using the "Caisson Song." Sousa changed the key, harmony, and rhythm and renamed it "U.S. Field Artillery."

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# Repertoire

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The recording sold 750,000 copies. Sousa didn't know who had written the song and had been told that it dated back to the Civil War. The music became so popular that it was also used in radio ads by firms such as the Hoover Vacuum Company. Gruber never received royalties for his work.

"The Caisson Song" was never designated as the official U.S. Army song likely because the lyrics were too closely identified with the field artillery and not the entire army. The official song retains Gruber's music, but with re-written lyrics.

As the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard had already adopted official songs, the Army was anxious to find a song of its own. In 1948, the Army conducted a contest to find an official song (Tom Lehrer claims to have submitted "It Makes a Fellow Proud to Be a Soldier" in this contest), but no entry received much popular support.

In 1952, Secretary of the Army, Frank Pace, asked the music industry to submit songs and received over 800 submissions. "The Army's Always There" by Sam Stept won the contest, and an Army band performed it at President Dwight D. Eisenhower's inaugural parade on January 20, 1953.

However, many thought that the tune was too similar to "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts," so the Army decided to keep Gruber's melody from the "Caisson Song" but with new lyrics.

A submission of lyrics by Harold W. Arberg, a music advisor to the Adjutant General, was accepted. Secretary of the Army, Wilber Marion Brucker, dedicated the music on Veterans Day, 1956.

The song is played at the conclusion of most U.S. Army ceremonies and all soldiers are expected to stand at attention and sing. When more than one service song is played, they are played in the order specified by Army regulations: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard

## **Caisson Song** (1908, original version)

Over hill over dale we will hit the dusty trail  
As the caissons go rolling along.  
Up and down, in and out, countermarch and right about,  
And our caissons go rolling along.  
For it's hi-hi-hee in the Field Artillery,  
Shout out the number loud and strong.  
Till our final ride, It will always be our pride  
To keep those caissons a rolling along.



## The President's Podium

The leaves are beginning to change colors v announcing the fall season. For many people this is their favorite time of year.

For our chapter, the fall season will be extremely busy. We are preparing for our annual show, scheduled for November 12. The show will once again be held at Brookfield High School. We will have as our guest quartet Men In Black, who were international finalists this year.

Dick Zang once again is our show manager. He has fulfilled this important position in the past and has done a remarkable job. He is keeping us on schedule as to when to sell ads, sell tickets and keeping us on budget. Nick Godano is assisting Dick this year.

Dick has once again reserved the Stony Hill Inn for our afterglow. Here we will celebrate the success of the show, sing some more songs and enjoy the fellowship of one another. The cost to members will be around \$15 to \$20. In the past Jim Hopper has collected for this event, so see him to reserve your place along with your wife or date. Men in Black will be joining us at this event as well.

Wynn Wilcox and Terry Dunkle have volunteered to assist Dickson DeMarche with publicity. Terry will attempt to revive the e-mail campaign with the help from members. The chapter is advertising the show in the district's show program. We hope to attract audience members from other chapters.

Charlie Rosa, Lee Smeriglio and Andy Bayer have volunteered to control and record ticket and ad sales. Ticket prices are \$15 for general admission and \$10 for senior students. Each of us should obtain some tickets to sell to our friends and neighbors. Advanced sales are needed to help defray early costs which need to be covered.

Our program book is being managed by Ed Feinberg. Once an ad is sold and recorded, it will be given to Ed for placement in the book.

Joe Hudson has drafted the script for this year's show. The title is "A Musical Night at the Museum."

Lyle LaPlante has prepared CD's of the songs for the show - see him for yours. These recordings are part specific, so we can all listen to the music and iron out any notes or words we might be having troubles with.

In past years we have been blessed to have Fred Baran, Carl Zlamany, Dick Walter, Bill Gleissner and Chuck Kreiger sell the majority of the ads in the program book.

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# Podium

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All of us need to sell ads. The reason we sell ads is to defray the cost of the show. If there are enough ads sold to cover the show cost, then the money received from ticket sales become dollars we can use to operate the chapter for the next year.

Fred Baran has once again volunteered to lead the AngelGram efforts. He recently sent out information to the chapter, friends and former members to solicit their messages which will be printed in the show program.

I feel that I have failed to mention others who are working to make this show another success, so if I missed naming you I am sorry. We will all be performing on stage, so thank you for your contribution in making the show one to be remembered!

But before the show we have the District competition being held in Springfield, MA, this year. For the first time in many years we will have a chapter quartet competing: Loco Fedora. Let's each offer encouragement to Jim, Bob, Dick and Joe as they go forth to represent our chapter. They will compete on Friday night, October 22. There are 15 quartets competing this year, and Loco stands a good chance of moving on to the Saturday night finals. Wish them well.

Members of our chapter will be competing on Saturday in the chorus competition. These men have put in additional hours beyond normal chorus rehearsals to prepare for this event. We have had coaching from Joe Hunter and Butch who have helped us smooth-out our singing and make our moves more natural. We stand a good chance of being in the top five, which will be a great improvement from the last time we competed at the district level.

Before this competition, two sing outs have been scheduled. We had a tremendous turn-out at our last sing-out and would like to see as many if not more for these events. Thanks to Dick Walter for scheduling these and other sing-outs.

We had great attendance at the cook-out last week. Though we did not have the visitors from Western Connecticut we hoped for, we did have a couple of visitors who had sung barbershop before. Each expressed their enjoyment of the evening and promised to return.

We have two new members who joined us in September, Al Paparesta and David Noone. Let's welcome these men to the chapter and give them all the encouragement and help we possibly can.

## Annual Show Songs

Here is the list of songs to rehearse for the Annual Show:

Armed Forces Salute  
Bare Necessities  
Can You Feel The Love Tonight

Five Foot Two  
God Bless America  
I Feel A Song Coming On  
If I Loved You  
Loch Lomond  
On The Sunny Side  
Please, Mr. Columbus  
Shenandoah  
Star-Spangled Banner  
Ten Feet Off The Ground  
This Land Is Your Land

Traveling Men -- I Will Go Sailing No More  
Real Chemistry -- Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah  
Rare Occasion -- Lone Prarie  
Loco Fedora -- My Honey's Lovin' Arms



## Breathing: A Natural Process

*By René Torres*

*This article was written by Dr. René Torres, a frequent contributor to The Masters Voice and other Masters of Harmony publications with articles on vocal techniques and craft. He is a vocal coach with a Masters degree in Music and a Ph.D. in Business Administration.*

Breathing is natural, normal, easy, unconscious, and effortless. There is no reason why breathing while singing should be any different. Yet it's amazing to observe the contortions and gyrations that some singers go through to make singing a reality. We are going to discuss how you can achieve a natural, easy breath while singing and, therefore, a natural, easy singing voice.

Vocal exercise is the key.

There are two objectives to doing breathing exercises. One is to be able to have a longer singing phrase, and the other is to have a smoother use of the air column as you deplete the supply. The former objective requires exercises to increase your vital lung capacity. All things being equal, the more air you can store, the longer the phrase you can sing. The latter objective is met by exercising the muscles that control the inflow and outflow of air so that they function smoothly. This is generally accomplished by good physical conditioning and muscle toning.

Maximizing lung capacity.

It is important for the singer to maximize vital lung capacity because this makes the biggest difference in the quality and beauty of singing to be achieved. By having a greater capacity for air, your phrases can be sung without tension and with emphasis on nuances.

To be a good singer, you have to know how to breathe properly. An intake of breath, preferably fast and smooth, involves the relaxation of muscles, whereas an outflow of

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# Breathing

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breath in singing involves the controlled contraction of muscles.

Maximizing airflow.

There is an expression known as “drop like a pear” when taking a breath. This means: Open the mouth wide enough to get all the air you can in the shortest possible time, relax the diaphragm muscle down and out without pushing, and let physics take its course by drawing in the breath and filling the lungs “from the bottom up.”

Not doing this is one of the biggest mistakes in beginning singers, and one of the main reasons for having insufficient singing breath. If you raise your shoulders to breathe in, or if you forcibly expand your chest, you will get air into the lungs all right, but the air will fill the upper part of the lungs, and make filling the lower part more difficult, if not impossible.

Not only that, feeling a full chest of air may trick you into thinking you have your lungs full, and this is not necessarily so. The trick is to let the diaphragm relax and, therefore, draw in the air from the bottom.

Practice doing this a few times a day. Begin by exhaling all the air you possibly can. Then, standing erect, but not rigid, simply open your mouth and at the same time relax your diaphragm, letting the air rush in of its own accord before you expand the upper chest. If you have a “spare tire” around your waist, it will be pushed out as if you were exaggerating it. This is normal, and to be expected. It may not look pretty, but it works!

As you get used to dropping like this, you will begin to see that relaxing in all directions around your stomach tends to allow in even more air. Be especially conscious of the relaxation of the muscles at stomach level on each side of the spinal column, and finally the rising of the chest as the last of the air is taken in.

Getting through the three stages of singing.

You will get through the three stages of singing once you have gotten the hang of “dropping like a pear.” In the first stage, every time you sing, you will be consciously aware of how you are breathing, and it will mean no end of distraction to your voice. Your timing will be off, you will feel very self-conscious as you sing, and everything will seem to be coming unglued. However, this is normal. Keep it up, and you will progress to stage two.

At this point, you will be less conscious of your breathing as you start to develop “muscle memory” and experiment with the breath and its use in singing. In the last stage, when everything is integrated, you are singing better than before, and you are glad you went through all the hassle.

Learning to use air efficiently.

There are two useful exercises to train the muscles for smooth operation. The first one should be done while relaxed and comfortable. The second can be done anywhere and any time, even while driving on the freeway!

Reading.

Find a long article in a newspaper or magazine, one that would take several minutes to read at a normal pace. Cut out and save the article as you will be using it many times. Take a full breath and start reading the article aloud in a normal tone of voice. Do not pause for punctuation and do not take a breath. Actually, the article is just a convenient string of words for you to utter.

Keep going until you have no breath left. Mark the point at which you stopped. Then do it again with the express purpose in mind to go further than the previous time, even if it is just one word more. Do it a third time, again marking where you stopped. The total time of this exercise will be four or five minutes. If you do it every day, you will be amazed how much more you can read as time passes. More importantly, as you read, you will find yourself coming in contact with feelings and sensations in your body that tell you how much breath is left.

This process will allow you to consciously change the pace of the reading in order to “beat” your previous record. Then, when you sing, these same emotions will tell you how to properly complete each phrase.

Recitation.

The other exercise involves reciting numbers out loud until you cannot go any further. You remember the number at which you stopped and, in a subsequent exercise, try to go further. This exercise can be done anywhere.

The well-produced voice always seems to have more breath “in reserve” at the end of a phrase, no matter how difficult or complex its nuances. The poorly trained singer always seems to be gasping and in distress.

A few more pointers.

Remember to fully exhale any unused air before you “tank up” again. Remember also, that having good breath control alone is not enough to make you a good singer. Vocal pitch and tone color require a certain amount of energy and muscle balance.

You need more than good breath to achieve a precise attack on a note. The instantaneous melding of vowel, pitch, and intensity is possible only when you have a balance and smooth maintenance of breathing tension.

Don't think of breath control as saving the breath for later notes. If you do that, the energy necessary for an efficient tone is lost. These factors are considered part of vocal technique, the subject of the next article.



# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – October



*Respectfully submitted by Robert Golenbock, Secretary and Gadfly*

Meeting called to order by president and grillmaster Danny Anderson at 6:05 PM at the Church of Christ in Danbury, CT.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was translated into words of two syllables or less, handed out to the Board, and approved on a motion by Art Roberts, seconded by Dick Walter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Because of a change in employment, Dave McKee has had to step down as treasurer. We have accepted his resignation with regret. Dave, while no longer able to attend meetings, nevertheless sent an electronic report which was received on a motion by Robert Golenbock, seconded by Joe Hudson. Breaking news – we earned 25 cents in interest on our savings account this quarter. Economic downturn be damned! We're OK. Danny Anderson recommended Dickson DeMarche as interim treasurer. The recommendation was accepted on a motion by Jim Hopper, seconded by Joe Hudson. His election treasure for 2012 is pending a vote by the membership.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Al Papresta has joined our chorus as bass. David Noone has joined our chorus as lead.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Dickson DeMarche presented detailed lists of ads for our annual show. We continue to emphasize word of mouth to bring in attendees. A motion by Jimmy Hopper to cut the ads to the Ridgefield Press, seconded by Lyle LaPlante, was approved. We are working on sending out an "e-mail blast" and using on-line advertising to reach young adult families.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: At a recent meeting we discussed improving our balance by having a small number of members change parts on new songs learned after our annual show.

New songs added to our repertoire means replacing songs currently in our repertoire. We are dropping "Goodnight, Sweetheart," "Heart," "Lullaby in Ragtime," and "Thanks for the Memory." Next year's songs will be guided by our next show theme (proposed) – "Songs from the Movies."

OLD BUSINESS: We need to register for district contest. Each member going to contest has been asked to contribute up to \$20 to defray the cost to the chapter. According to Dick Zang's monthly report, we are on track for our annual show. The Parallel Fifths, WCSU's a cappella group, has agreed to sing on our show. We will give a \$200 donation to their program. Our afterglow, once again at the Stony Hill Inn, will be bigger and better than ever, but not more expensive.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion by Jimmy Hopper, seconded by Joe Hudson, to purchase Reville's Pirate set (for exclusive use for the next two years) was approved.

OFFICERS PRESENT: J. Hudson, F. Gump, R. Walter, D. DeMarche, L. LaPlante, R. Golenbock, D. Anderson, A. Roberts, J. Hopper, C. Kreiger, A. Bayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM. Next meeting on November 1.



## Three Things


A compilation of three things learned by individual chorus members following our August coaching session with Joe Hunter.

### Nick Godano

1. Build a swelling connection between the first "Hey there" and the second.
2. Make sure that we carry excitement through the whole intro by showing (and singing) interest in "You're 'bout to hear a story."
3. Keep energy and musicality strong for the entire intro in order to let the audience and judges relax, knowing that we are in control.
4. And, oh yes, make sure DeMarche extends his arms in front of Robert and Nick on ONLY ONE "my girl"!

### Joe Hudson


1. Don't just slump back after the "hey there, say there" moves. Make it purposeful.
2. Front row SNAPPING to frozen when sneaking makes it funnier.
3. During intro of "Five Foot Two"...after the wave, group together "WHAT"...joe: "CONTEST." Wait a beat or two to do a QUIET "oh."



**The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus**  
*presents*

*A Musical*  
**Night at the Museum**


*featuring the*  
**Mad Hatter Chorus and Quartets**  
*and the*  
2011 International Quartet Finalists  
**Men In Black**



**Saturday, November 12**  
**7:00 p.m. at Brookfield High School**  
**45 Long Meadow Hill Road, Brookfield, CT**

Tickets \$15 adult, \$10 senior/student

contact: **203-744-9480** or  
**Bob Bradley 845-225-4919**  
**Dick Walter 203-428-9154**  
**Dick Zang 203-426-5413**  
[www.madhatterchorus.org](http://www.madhatterchorus.org)





## Society and District Notes



### NED History

The Fall Convention weekend is coming up soon, so I wanted to be sure to remind Chapters and Quartets that the NED is always looking to add to our historical collection.

Photos, Chapter Rosters, old Harmonizer Magazines (especially the early years). Recordings, videos, costumes, Barber Poles etc. Just about anything relating to Barbershop Harmony and/or the District.

You can also send digital files to me. Scan your photos and then email the file to me. Please label all photos with as much info as possible. Who is in the photo, location, year, etc. Every little bit helps.

I will be in Springfield to collect anything you may want to donate.

Please help to save our History for future generations.

In harmony,  
Steve Isherwood  
NED Historian

### The Joe Barbershop Chorus in Springfield

Hey Bucko... so you say your Chorus will not be competing at the NED Fall Convention, but you still want to sing on stage...well...here is your chance!

You can sing two songs in The Joe Barbershopper chorus with brothers from all over the NED under the direction of Kirk Young.

Kirk is a professional Music Educator, A Society Music Judge, A two Time NED Quartet Champ, a former Society Staff member, and a funny man! You will spend an hour with Kirk improving your singing skills, and having the fun of performing with what a great bunch of guys.

To qualify, register for the convention and wait for further instruction.

Let's make this chorus the largest on the stage for the day !

To register:

[http://nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page\\_id=266&subpage\\_of=80](http://nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=266&subpage_of=80)

Songs” “Little Liza Medley,” “Shine on Me.”

Warm UP - 9:00 AM Saturday Morning - Oct 22nd-- Warm up room is behind the stage. Dress – Casual.

### *The Waterbury Derby Valley Chordsmen Barbershop Chorus Presents our 63rd Annual Show*

Saturday, November 13, 2010, 7:30 pm

Tickets or Reservations

Call Paul Fitzgerald 860-945-1080

Seniors & Students: \$15.00, General Admission: \$20.00

<http://www.valleychordsmen.com/pages/upcoming.htm>

### Contest Schedule

For a number of good reasons the start time for the FRIDAY NIGHT QUARTET SEMIFINAL CONTEST has been reset to 7:00 p.m. All other announced schedules will continue as published.

We hope that this only means a somewhat more relaxed dinner hour and safer trip for our attendees and no inconvenience. Be sure to be there---it is going to be a great contest!

The order of appearance for the quartets and choruses is as follows:

<i>Quartets</i>	<i>Choruses</i>
Vocal Impact	Burlington, VT
Melodies And Memories	Central, CT
Port City Sound	Worcester, MA
<b>LOCO FEDORA</b>	Schenectady, NY
Sound Accord	Hanover, NH
Inside Track	Portland, ME
For The Fun Of It	Nashua, NH
Party Of Four	<b>Danbury, CT</b>
Primrose Lane	New Bedford, MA
Breakaway	Concord, MA
Mac Daddy	Saratoga Springs, NY
Downtown Crossing	Manchester, CT
Average Joes	Pittsfield, MA
On Air	Lowell, MA
Bullseye	

# Ye Olde Joke Boarde



*Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper*

A young man asked an old, rich barbershop baritone how he had made his money.

The old bariton fingered his worsted wool vest and said, "Well, son, it was 1932. The depth of the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel." I invested that nickel in an apple. I spent the entire day polishing the apple and, at the end of the day, I sold the apple for ten cents."

"The next morning, I invested those ten cents in two apples. I spent the entire day polishing them and sold them at 5:00 PM for 20 cents. I continued this system for a month, by the end of which I'd accumulated a fortune of \$1.37."

"Then my wife's father died and left us two million dollars."

• • •

In the great desert lived a band of nomads. Their leader, Benny, had risen to his rank due to his magnificent beard. His people believed a man's strength and courage came from his beard, and thus the man with the biggest beard was their chief.

After leading the band for many years, Benny began to feel uncomfortable wearing the beard in theirs hot and dusty land. He wanted to shave it off, so he called his council together to get their advice. When he said he wanted to shave, the councilmen were shocked. One said, "Do you not remember the ancient legend, Sire. The leader who removes his beard is cursed and made into a piece of earthenware." Benny had heard this legend, but being a modern man, he scoffed at the tale.

Being headstrong, he went ahead and cut and scraped away his once magnificent beard. As the final whisker was cut off, a huge dust storm came up. It lasted only a few seconds, and when it cleared, there was a man-sized clay vessel where only moments before had stood their leader.

The council then knew the legend must be true. Their conclusion? "A Benny shaved is a Benny urned."



## Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

### Performance

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do  
Give My Regards To Broadway  
Goodnight Sweetheart  
Heart  
Hey Look Me Over  
If I Loved You  
Loch Lomond  
Lullaby In Ragtime  
Got My Mojo Working and I Thought  
You'd Like To Know  
Over The Rainbow  
Please, Mr. Columbus  
Thanks For The Memory  
There Is Nothing Like A Dame  
A Short Reprise for Mary Todd, Who  
Went Insane, But for Very Good  
Reasons

### Patriotic/Inspirational

Amazing Grace  
God Bless America  
I Believe  
Lord's Prayer  
Star-Spangled Banner  
This Land Is Your Land Medley  
You'll Never Walk Alone

### Contest

Five Foot Two, Eyes Of Blue  
On The Sunny Side Of The Street

### In Progress/Upcoming

Armed Forces Medley  
Bare Necessities  
Blue Skies

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



"He who sings  
scares away  
his woes"

Miguel de Cervantes  
Saavedra

## The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

PO Box 5149  
Brookfield, CT 06804-5149

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

## The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

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

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

## October Milestones

### *Birthdays:*

3 - Danny Anderson  
6 - Joanne Bartley  
6 - Marti Hopper  
15 - Eileen Paparesta  
17 - Augie D'Aureli  
31 - Bill Manion



### *Wedding Anniversaries:*

21 - John and Vivien Cheeseman

## Mark Your Calendars

**November 12:** Danbury Mad Hatter Annual Show.  
Brookfield High School, 7:00 PM. Details to be announced.



Oct. 21-23 • Springfield, MA

Northeastern District  
Fall District Convention & Contests  
October 21 & 22, 2011 -- Springfield, Massachusetts

**Host Chapter:**  
Pioneer Valley Chordsmen, Springfield, MA

**Chapter Co- Chairs:**  
Al Picard - [chordsman1@yahoo.com](mailto:chordsman1@yahoo.com)  
Pierre Richard - [pierre.richard56@yahoo.com](mailto:pierre.richard56@yahoo.com)

**Northeastern District  
Leadership Academy**

YOUR CONNECTION TO: ★ Great Ideas ★ Great People  
★ Exceptional Experiences ★ Essential Tools

**Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
at Worcester State University

Mark your Calendars!  
2012 Leadership Academy  
Saturday Jan. 7, 2012  
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Exciting Stuff !  
Very Special General Session Guest Speaker !  
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