



# Tags & Swipes

## Together In Song

Last spring Russell Peotter had a dream: Bring together the fabulous sounds of the eclectic choral community of western New England! Yes, bring them all to public television for the whole viewing audience to enjoy! Word got out and this year the dream was born! Its name is **Together In Song!**

Channel 57, our local public television station, was in for a big surprise! Not only was it to be entertaining, it was a "sing-off" competition, and the viewers would need to vote or write comments for their favorite choral groups to influence the decisions of the official judges. A very good time to know who are your true friends!

Choirs and choruses from all over sent in their DVDs in hopes of being accepted. And how cool that not one but two SAI choruses applied and were in! (Be sure to check out the

Chorus Lines from Heart of the Valley and Berkshire Hills.) What an opportunity to show off who we are: real women who know the fun of singing barbershop harmony!

Out of 47 choral groups set to perform, 11 were in our category. There were five categories: Children, High School, College, Large Adult and Small Adult. Including the Pioneer Valley Men's Chorus (so dashing in their bowties!) there were now three barbershop harmony a

capella choruses in the "Small Adult"! Another one in the Large Adult category certainly sent a message to the viewers...Barbershoppers Rock!

When SAI Director of Music Services, Carol Schwartz, was contacted for permission to use our contest DVD and perform in this television venue, she approved wholeheartedly! Yahoo!



In no time at all, the WGBY release forms were signed by each member, and the commitment to an assigned taping date was set in stone! Of course, with the confidence of being a winning chorus, we all

saved the dates April 30 and May 1 for the next stage of this competition. (You'll see soon enough!)

So in addition to preparing for Contest in May, we two choruses were polishing our favorite songs to Wow! the folks in TV land! Snowstorms put a crimp in our schedules here and there, but we were focused! Performance-ready, WGBY, here we come!

Once all 47 groups had taped their required four minute performances, the WGBY website was up and running, **Together In Song!** Indeed!

*(continued on page 5)*

# News from your Regional Management Team



Hello Region 1!!!!

**Stop!!!!** Before you decide to skip this article because you are certain that the subject of "How Involved Are You?" will come up yet again by this author, just how involved **are** you (Did not want to disappoint you!)?! Our life changes play a huge role in our ability to really participate in this most fulfilling hobby of ours, and perhaps when you last read that your Region truly needs you, you felt that you just could not fit one more responsibility into your already very full schedule. I am here to tell you that becoming involved means growing as a singer, a performer, and most of all, as an individual-so make the time, for you!

The position of Team Coordinator of Region 1 has given me wonderful opportunities to network with team coordinators of other regions at International Conventions, to train with members of International on becoming a strong team member, and to meet and work along with seven other (very talented I might add!) members of our Region.

Your Regional Team Coordinator is a two year position (appointed by the members of your Regional Management Team) working in even years going forward, therefore, my current term will end on April 30, 2012. I am in the process of seeking an interested member/members to "shadow" and learn my responsibilities. Shadowing gives you a chance to see exactly what is involved-tasks, time-and how it all comes together in meetings. Are you organized? Can you put together agendas and run meetings? Do you enjoy working with people-sharing ideas-focusing on a common goal (an educated region, singing and administratively operating well)? Please contact me at your earliest convenience! Let's Talk! You can reach me at Home/203-265-1043 or Email/letsharmonize@sbcglobal.net. Job Descriptions for Regional Management Team positions are located on your Region 1 Website - Check them out!!!!

My sincere best wishes to all of our Region 1 Quartets and Choruses for an awesome contest weekend experience. Make the most of your moments on stage, sharing from your heart your love of music with your audience.

In Harmony, Angie Levine / Team Coordinator Region 1

## REMEMBERING BARBARA FARRELL


Sweet Adelines International Region 1 has lost the legendary Barbara Farrell who leaves an incredible legacy behind as she joins the heavenly Sweet Adelines Chorus.

Barbara joined Sweet Adelines in 1955. She served as the first Director of Musical Activities (predecessor to Education Coordinator) for Region 1 from 1970- 1978, was member of the Regional Board of Directors, Assistant Director of the Marlboro Chorus, Director of the former Middlesex Chorus (now Liberty Belle Chorus), Championship director of the former Lynn Chorus (now Harborlight Show Chorus) and the Beverly Chorus. Barbara has been a chorus and quartet coach for Sweet Adelines, Harmony, Inc., and the Barbershop Harmony Society. Region 1 established the Barbara Farrell Novice Director award in her honor in 1979.

Donations to Region 1 or SAI's YWIH or YSF have been made in Barbara's memory from:

Barbara Braxten  
Alice (Dolly) Brown  
Patricia Hilsinger  
Lois Jensen  
Phyllis Werner

Ms. Barbara Salem  
Soundscape Quartet  
Jean Zito  
Barbara Kahn



**North Atlantic • REGION 1**  
SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL

**Core Values**

Camaraderie, Musical Excellence, Personal Growth, Professionalism, Open Communication

**Strategic Goals**

- Provide quality education to enhance musical excellence and leadership
- Promote regional leadership excellence and develop new regional leaders
- Assure financial security
- Maintain membership (retention) and promote membership growth
- Assist Sweet Adelines International in creating a vision for the far future (15 years)

# On the Educational Horizon

- Carole' Mensing, Education Coordinator

Regional weekend- how we all look forward to it! Seeing our friends on stage, performing with our choruses and/ or quartets!

For all, take time to enjoy the journey, appreciate the work our barbershop sisters put into this craft, swap memories, and sing til all hours.

The regional faculty are preparing for another year of great events- our kick off is in August with RQA on the 13th in Hartford, led by international faculty Karen Breidert! In the planning is also a music leaders event for the Friday evening preceding- Aug 12th. (Save the date- details available soon).

Fall regional has Laura Pallas scheduled for the weekend of Sept 16-18. Laura is a fabulous Sweet Adeline director in California (her chorus placing first!!), quartet singer, and a well known actress!

Our regional faculty continue to encourage you to consider a Harmony Train visit- we offer regional updates, a selection of skill building options, and it's free. Also, as a quick reminder, each chorus has the opportunity to request two funded regional faculty coaching visits each year- contact me for details! We are here for you!! Check our region one website for information, forms, faculty contact information or send an email directly to me at cm17av@aol.com.

And "thank you" to all for supporting our **ROAR** (arrangers program) and our **Young Women in Harmony** efforts- stay tuned we have more events to come.

In closing, this weekend is an especially memorable one- for it is one of the first times we will not have our Beloved Barbara Farrell seated with us, yet we all know she will be here- demanding that chords "ring" and diphthongs "turn" {darn It} !!! :-> She has contributed to Region One's success! Hugs to all who miss her.

Carole' Mensing, Education Coordinator



## Membership News

Judy Lang, Membership Coordinator



I'm soooooo glad spring has finally arrived! This winter has really gotten in the way of lots of things. Primarily for me, I haven't been able to visit as many of you as I would have liked. I'll try my best to improve my efforts in this coming year.

That brings me to an important topic for all of you to consider. I have one more year to serve you all as membership coordinator. I must step off the regional management team May 1st 2012. I NEED a shadow! I have had many network sessions with lots of great chorus membership chairs. You guys are doing a great job and you would be great to take on a challenge at the regional level. I encourage you to consider putting your name forward for consideration as regional membership coordinator. If you have questions about what is involved in the position, please get in touch with me. I love this job but the RMT has term limits (for good reason) and we need new folks to step forward.

Let me hear from you. There is lots of talent out there. Please share yourself!

In Harmony,

Judy Lang, Education Coordinator

## Meet Your New Finance Coordinator

- Ruth Widerski from Merrimack Valley Chorus and Coastline Show Chorus



Thank you to all those who have already welcomed me aboard the Team. I'm very proud to have been appointed Region One's next Finance

Coordinator and to represent all of you on the Regional Team. First of all I'd like to thank Ingrid Friedman for keeping such good financial records and for everything she's done for the region during her 6-year term. For

those of you who don't know me, I've been a member of Sweet Adelines for 18 years since joining the Merrimack Valley Chorus in 1993. Since 2003 I have also been a dual member with Coastline Show Chorus. You will be happy to know that I bring experience to my new position having been the Finance Coordinator for MVC for the past 6 years. I'm looking forward to the change of pace to handle the regional finances. I'll do my best to work with the Regional Management team to keep the region on solid financial footing and to do half as good a job as Ingrid! To

all you chorus Financial Coordinators/Treasurers, I will see you at our regular meetings at Fall and Winter Regional, but if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me directly. I can be reached at [bariten1@yahoo.com](mailto:bariten1@yahoo.com)

- Ruth Widerski

## Seeking a Shadow -

- Sue Martin  
Communications Coordinator

Have you wanted to become involved at the regional level, but didn't know exactly how to go about doing so? Your skills and involvement are needed, by me and by the entire Regional Management Team.

I've been Communications Coordinator for six years, which is the maximum for any RMT position. However, in its wisdom, the International Board decided to restructure some of the RMT positions recently, and in doing so, they gave an additional year to the Team Coordinator and the Communications Coordinator. I will serve another year with pleasure, but as of April 2012, I MUST be off the team.

As a result, I need someone who is willing to consider becoming Communications Coordinator to step forth and be known! If that person is you, you would shadow me for the coming year, attending RMT meetings at regional weekends, working with me on the various tasks that fall to the Communications Coordinator, and hopefully in preparation for tak-



### YOUR REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Back: **Carolé Mensing**, Education ([cm17av@aol.com](mailto:cm17av@aol.com)); **Ingrid Friedman**, Finance Coordinator ([ingrid.b@live.com](mailto:ingrid.b@live.com)); **Laura Pienkowski**, Events Coordinator ([apienkowski@snet.net](mailto:apienkowski@snet.net)); Front: **Angie Levine**, Team Leader ([letsharmonize@sbcglobal.net](mailto:letsharmonize@sbcglobal.net)); **Sue Martin**, Communications Coordinator ([martin@skmassociates.net](mailto:martin@skmassociates.net)); **Judy Lang**, Membership Coordinator ([judytenor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judytenor@sbcglobal.net)); **Julie Jeffery**, Directors Coordinator ([julieajeffery@gmail.com](mailto:julieajeffery@gmail.com)). Not pictured: Wendy Davies, Marketing ([w.davies@sympatico.ca](mailto:w.davies@sympatico.ca))

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ing over the position as of May 2012 (you would need to be appointed to the position by the RMT).

So, what does the Communications Coordinator do? She is responsible for ensuring that minutes of meetings are taken and appropriately distributed; for the maintenance of the web site; for the publishing of Tags and Swipes; for distributing to the rest of the RMT any communications that come from International, and responding to informational queries from International; and for providing to International the annual State of the Region report.

You should be aware that you wouldn't necessarily have to perform all these tasks yourself; you can delegate tasks to your 'staff' – such as the RMT secretary and the Tags & Swipes editor, among others.

What are the benefits? Besides working regularly with the fantastic group of women who comprise the Regional Management Team, some of the 'perks' are financial in nature. Those aren't the best benefits, though. The best and most lasting benefits are the friendships that are formed along the way, the ability to really get to know the region and the organization in a manner that isn't possible from the chorus perspective, the opportunity to network at Internationals with RMT members from around the world, and the sense that one is doing good for this art that we all enjoy so much.

My email address is martin@sk-massociates.net, and my phone number is 508-420-0224. I look forward to hearing from YOU!!

Sue Martin

Communications Coordinator

## **TOGETHER IN SONG** (continued from page 1)

It was so cool to see ourselves and our competitors, over and over! All we could do now was campaign for our "team" and plead for the votes! Comments even better! (Yes, Aunt Susie, you can do this!) Aren't computers wonderful!

It would be weeks before the program aired for the public to enjoy. April 19 was "report card day"!

By the way, ironically at no time did any of the choral groups actually sing together. The clever title you see is all about the amazing finished product: two one-half hour concerts presented on five Saturday nights in March and April. Lots of songs, heard together!

With the voting continuing each week during the programs, the judges had no choice but to realize the favored talent before them! Alas, the four semi-finalists were chosen for each category. The wondering and the nail-biting could cease for us in the Small Adult category.

On to the Semi-Finals: Berkshire Hills! Wow! Congratulations!!! (Though it was close, Heart of the Valley was #5)

April 30...So Exciting! Nine minutes to shine in the spotlight at the Paramount Theater in Springfield MA! Great songs! We are so proud of Berkshire Hills of Sweet Adelines International!

May 1...Not an SAI chorus, The Peterborough Chamber Choir holds the winner's prize for our category.

The people's choice overall: the high school chorus! Budding talent in the music world is always a good thing!

The finale on Sunday, May 1 was the combined voices of nearly 100 singers on stage singing "Shout a Little Louder, Lord" from the new opera *Truth*.

We had a blast, we learned so much, we cannot wait for next year! Russell Peotter promised there will be another! Oh yes, this is just the start of something big!

With over 1,000 singing participants, several thousand viewers, and 1500 WGBY workers and volunteers who provided the support for this project, Together In Song was a huge success!

Many thanks to Judy Mathers (HOV) and Barbara Hyland (BH) for contributing to this story.

Joyce Monska (HOV)

***(Editor's note: Because two of our choruses were honored to be part of WGBY Together in Song, we have a second report on the event from the proud semi-finalists, Berkshire Hills!! We are ALL proud with them! Read on! It's almost like being there with them!)***

Right after Winter Regional, we found out about a contest on WGBY - Springfield, the local public TV station in Western Massachusetts and thought that would be fun to try out for it. Our assistant director, Gail Wojtkowiak, sent in our DVD and we got accepted to perform.

They scheduled us to tape a 4 minute performance on Feb. 8th. Feb. 7 brought lots of snow to the Berkshires and we wondered if we would make it to Springfield. The ladies from Northern Berkshire all drove down in a van together. We make up 1/4 of the chorus so knew that we had to get there. It is a good thing that we allowed plenty of time because Route 9 was not fun to drive. Lots of whiteouts and the van ended up behind a plow for many miles. Just picture if we had had an accident - 6 Sweet Adelines - all in full costume and makeup! We tried singing to warm up but were so far apart in the van that it didn't work very well. Soon you heard the sound of individuals bubbling and hum-

ming. The studio had informed us that we had no place to warm up once we got there. We kept watching the clock because we had to be there by 8 P.M. for the taping. Someone was looking over us because we arrived in plenty of time. Then we discovered that we had to do an additional song other than the one we had worked on. It seems that none of the groups had been informed that we were expected to fill the full 4 minutes allotted to us. The station had found that some of the groups that had already been taped were only singing one song. That was not long enough in some cases. Our director, Valeri Reynolds, assured us that we were fine and we chose to add "Kickin It Up A Notch" as our second song. Our first song was "I Hope You Dance". We were allowed to sing them through once for warm-ups and then we were live!

Valeri was interviewed briefly to let the audience know who we were and what we were singing. She always does such a great job at that. The chorus was instructed to pretend to chat among ourselves as she was interviewed. Our regular pitch pipe person had chosen that month to go to Florida so I was very nervous filling in for her. Thank goodness there were only two songs!

Lights, Action, Camera - Here we



go! We did two takes of the 4 minute performance - left the risers and were on our way back to the Berkshires. We were at the studio less than a half an hour but spent nearly two hours driving in each direction. What we won't do to promote the art of barber-shop singing!

We were later notified that our tape would air on Saturday, April 16. Berkshire Hills was in the last grouping to air on WGBY so we had a long wait to see ourselves. It was confusing about the voting situation at first because the earlier groups would have weeks to get votes. The station decided to post every group's performance on a live link on the computer to allow everyone to get votes even if they hadn't performed on television as yet.

Now the scramble was on to notify all our friends and family about the contest. We sent e-mails out about it and included the link for our friends to vote. Those of us on Facebook posted it there. We even put it on the regional page! Votes and comments from our friends not on Facebook started to roll in. Thank you to all of you who voted for us. Even Greater Cleveland Chorus, in a contest of their own, helped us out. We couldn't have gotten this far without all of you.

We had to wait until April 19th to find out who made the semifinals. The votes and comments counted but, in the end, it came down to the judges. They judged the elements of the music (accuracy in notes and rhythm, dynamics and phrasing/inflection), the difficulty of the music, the elements of presentation (general appearance, energy and creativity), and the actual performance overall (confidence of performers and lack of noticeable errors). The 5th criterion was a subjective/gut reaction to the performance for 3 additional points. The judges were supposed to comment and also indicate if this was their favorite performance.

The word spread quickly that we had made the semifinals! Now on to the next step - learning a song from the new folk opera "Truth" called "Shout a Little Louder, Lord". We quickly realized that this was not something that we wanted to attempt in the two weeks time before the finals. It is written in SATB and doesn't suit the vocal range of many of our ladies. We also have several members that don't read music. This isn't important for our craft but is a necessity to learn something of this kind where there are no learning CDs. Two of our members went down to a rehearsal and came back very discouraged about it. Luckily, WGBY realized that it would be very difficult to do and decided that it is not mandatory. We all breathed a big sigh of relief at that news.

Saturday, April 30th. Today is the big day. We have to be at the Paramount Theater in Springfield at 3:00. At 3:15, someone will come outside and escort us into the balcony until it is time for us to perform. Again, we have no place to warm up and no place to leave any of our personal things. Sure hope there is a ladies room. Thank goodness it is a warm day and it isn't raining. We have to leave Pittsfield in full costume and

makeup, ready to perform. It is over an hour's drive and our driver is going to have blue sparkles all over her car!!!

Nine minutes is the performance time this afternoon. Kind of puts our 3 to 6 minutes on stage at contest to shame. We are planning on doing 4 songs. The first will be "Everywhere You Go", then our "Internet" song. "Ain't Misbehavin" will follow Internet and we will end up singing "Let Freedom Ring". The only time leeway that we are allowed is to make the performance between 8 minutes 45 seconds and 9 minutes 15 second. We've timed it several times now and have to hope that we sing it at the same speed. Funny how that changes sometimes - :-)

From what we have been told, we will find out the winner of our division (small adult chorus) after the last performance in this category this afternoon. We sing 2nd in our grouping and then the judges will interview the director for a few minutes. They will follow this procedure for each group and then make their decision. If we win, we get to come back tomorrow and do a 5 minute performance. I'm glad that we will be allowed to sing some of the same music again if we make it.

Three o'clock and we are in Springfield, looking for a parking place. We found a lot near the theater and quickly brushed up our makeup and put the chorus shoes on. None of the ladies want to put the chorus shoes on until the last possible moment. Why are they so darn uncomfortable! A quick walk around the corner brought us to the theater where we were sent upstairs to wait with the other choruses.

Each group was given a short time to warm up a little. It was fun hearing the other groups and seeing them do the same things that we do to get our voices in shape. The air conditioning was on in the theater and we were

freezing in our costumes. Hope it is warmer at Symphony Hall at contest. We were escorted down a long flight of stairs to the main theater and seated to the right of the stage to wait our turn. This was good for us but it was unfortunate that so few people were in the audience. All the groups will just have to cheer each other on. That won't be hard to do because all of the groups are good.

As they called us up onto the risers, those of us in the back row realized that, unlike our contest risers, there was no support in back of us. It certainly gave new meaning to having your toes on the front part of the risers. It isn't comfortable being up there and knowing that if you get too caught up in the choreography, you might put on a show of your own, especially on live TV.

Our songs went well and we managed to do 8 minutes and 49 seconds so we were within the parameters of the performance. Wonder if there would have been a penalty if we weren't within that 30 second leeway.

After each group sang, the three judges spoke to the directors and said what they thought of the performance. They all agreed that they thoroughly enjoyed our performance and we looked and sounded like we loved singing barbershop music. They wished that everyone would sing with that attitude! They loved the entertainment that we brought to the stage. Isn't that a great thing to hear about your chorus!! The only criticism that one judge had was that he wanted more dynamics. You can bet we will work on that between now and contest!

As many of you know from watching the show, we didn't make the finals on Sunday, May 1. The Peterborough Chamber Choir was the judge's favorite. They sounded great and were right on pitch for sure. Congratulations to the group. Although we had hoped to win, now we are able to sit

back and watch the finals from the comfort of our own living rooms and cheer our favorites on.

This was an interesting experience to have and a good rehearsal for contest, especially for our five new members. It certainly took a lot of time and energy but was well worth it. We enjoyed having the opportunity to do it.

Barbara Hyland

## Chorus Lines



### **Berkshire Hills Chorus**

Hey everyone! Welcome to competition. Berkshire Hills has really been looking forward to it this year. We have had a busy year, thanks to our great chorus manager, Janie Pellish. She has proved to be so good at getting singouts for us. What a talent to have in our chorus.

Of course, the highlight of the last few months has been the contest at WGBY - Springfield. Read all about the experience of Berkshire Hills and Heart of the Valley in the lead articles. We had a great time doing it and it was a good rehearsal for contest - not that we gave away our contest songs!

The chorus has grown this year, adding several new members. We welcome Brenda Ahern, Genoa Langnickel, Maureen Feldman, Jennifer Lilienthal and Kate Staebler to the group. They are all great additions and we love having them with us. We are hoping to make their first contest a wonderful experience! They certainly were a big help singing with us at WGBY.

Maureen is 14 and joins our other YWIH members, Julia Reynolds and Martha Horton. They are working hard to find another teenager in the area to make up a quartet. We had another young lady at rehearsal last week so they have their hopes up. Julia is a tenor and Martha is a lead. Maureen is a great bari but is willing to try bass if need be.

February brought a very successful day of singing valentines by **Breakaway**, a quartet consisting of Pam Basinski, bari, Marianne Juby, bass, Debbie Kleiner, lead and Laurie Boudreau, tenor. They traveled all over the county singing valentines and presenting chocolate roses to the recipients of the valentines. They are always welcomed wherever they go.

The chorus was glad to be able to sing at The Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge for their valentine celebration. We all managed to get there in spite of the cold and snow. Just walking up from the parking lot was a challenge. It kept the audience small, but those that did make it really enjoyed the performance. We had members of the audience that come back every year to hear us sing at the museum. How nice to feel welcomed that way.

Coaching by Lorraine Rochefort and our retreat with Chris Ferguson dominated the month of March. Lorraine always is a great help and we love having her. Chris fine-tunes us at retreat. It has been held at the same place for the last ten years. We go to the Appletree Inn in Lenox for the weekend and they treat us wonderfully. It is an old inn, with antiques in all of the rooms, that operates basically as a bed and breakfast. When we come, we take over the main inn. They provide all our wonderful meals. Any other guests are in another building and we only see them briefly at meals or when they pause and listen to us practice. Valeri, our director and Chris keep us very busy working

on our contest songs. Friday night, after rehearsal, we have an ice cream social. Saturday night we let loose a little and do skits and laugh lots. After working hard all day, we really need to laugh and socialize. Sunday morning brings more rehearsal before we say goodbye to Chris. How encouraging she is and how she brings out the best in us. We left there feeling really good about ourselves. I know that I will be singing those two songs in my sleep after practicing all weekend. Now we have to remember all that we have been taught. Not the easiest thing to do but we will try hard.

As soon as contest is over, we jump right into a lot of summer singouts. Pittsfield is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year and we are singing on the 3rd of July as part of their birthday celebration dinner. We are also appearing at the Berkshire Athenaeum and Sweetwood Retirement Home at the end of May and at one of the ballgames at Waconah Park in August. It's shaping up to be a busy summer. Breakaway is looking forward to singing at the 112th - that's right 112th birthday of one of our local residents, Bernice Maddigan. She is still going strong and loves to hear barbershop.

On Nov. 20, we will again be joining with our local men's barbershop group, the Berkshire Hillsmen, for our annual show at Barrington Stage in Pittsfield. This year, for the show, we are visiting New York City, touring and performing there. It was a sellout last year so, if you are interested, watch for information in September's Tags and Swipes. We would love to see you.

Good luck to everyone at contest. You are all wonderful!

Barbara Hyland, Berkshire Hills

## Coastline Show Chorus

Coastline Show Chorus  
Region One - We Have No Problem!

Coastline is thrilled to once again be hosting Regional Competition Weekend. This weekend somehow is the transition from our "old" year to the new and sets the stage for our future accomplishments.

Transitions hit us all. In Coastline, we are witnessing the high school graduations of two of our "youngsters," although we have to admit they are now young women. Sarah Cohen (daughter of Maureen Cohen) and Amanda Pitts (daughter of Leanne Ayotte) are graduating from high school and moving on to college. Amanda has been with us since she was 9, Sarah since she was 12. These young women keep us young, dazzling us with the speed of their learning, their smarts and their dedication. Although she has big shoes to fill, watch out for Lizzie Decker, enjoying her first trip to the contest stage with us this weekend! Lizzie is 14 and she now carries the burden of keeping us young and enthused. She does it well.

As our theme this year says, Region One has "No Problem" gathering to further our craft, renew our friendships and set ourselves up for another successful musical year. All our choruses and quartets come to contest with eagerness to show off what we've improved on since last year. We work hard to transition to a new level and Coastline can't wait to watch all that!

As for Coastline, we reported last time on our wonderful Retreat Weekend with Sandy Marron and Judy Poszgay. We're still working on the new skills they brought to us as we prepare for Houston. When next we see you in September, we plan to debut our Houston Finals Package. Remember the Ed Sullivan Package? Well Coastline is reverting to the



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format of fun that brought us our first Top Five medal.

And if that isn't enough, we are once again hosting our Annual Show on May 22 in the wonderful Rhode Island Center for the Performing Arts in Cranston, RI. Again it is a joint show with the Narragansett Bay Chorus of the BHS. Our theme for this show is a Salute to our Armed Forces because May 21 is Armed Forces Day. Come join us and enjoy our special guest performance by the American Band! Details, directions and tickets are on our website, [www.Coastlineshowchorus.org](http://www.Coastlineshowchorus.org).

Another transition for Coastline is preparation for International Competition in Houston, Texas. Even when you've done this before, each venture onto The Big Stage is new and hopefully will mark a positive change since the last appearance. Coastline is working hard to represent our Region well.

Unfortunately, not all transitions are happy ones. This year Coastline lost Madonna Robinton, former dual member with Merrimack Valley Chorus who succumbed to a long bout with cancer. Madonna is sorely missed by both choruses.

Region One lost Barbara Farrell, former DMA, quartet coach extraordinaire and friend. Barbara's "thing" was working with new quartets and many with whom she worked earned the Novice Quartet Award which bears her name.

Finally, Gail Jencik, Maureen Jencik, their family and Coastline lost Ed Jencik, Gail's father and Maureen's husband. Ed and Maureen were our "A" couple – never missing a weekly rehearsal, a Regional or International Competition with us. Ed's dry wit, his managing our CD duplicating effort and his always unflagging support of our chorus is much missed.

So, Region One, on to another SAI year of, hopefully, No Problems!  
-Lillian McDaniel

## **Cranberry Shores Chorus**

Cranberry Shores Chorus is thrilled to welcome a beautiful new bass singer, Carol Lynn Cotnoir, who participated in our Harmonize the Holidays program last fall. We are happy to report she will be joining us for competition!

Our weekend retreat took place in March with a "Blossoming in Spring" theme. It was focused on fine tuning and perfecting each note and movement of our contest music. We worked hard and enjoyed the fun and excellent coaching with Gail Jencik. Our emphasis continues to be improving our craft. We are meeting stricter guidelines by precise taping, and practicing the fine details of choreography. Videotaping our rehearsals has given us a new perspective on how each of us contributes to the overall goal. This has been achieved through a great deal of individual hard work and the consistent guidance, enthusiasm, and inspiration of Director Dee Pelletier. Assistant Director, Lynne Marshall, graciously provided free individual PVI to all chorus members. We were fortunate to have wonderful coaching with Ann Gooch and Gail Jencik.

We look forward to our summer concert on June 12 where we will be joined by a local barbershop men's' group, The Surftones. We anticipate a busy summer with more performances throughout the community.

Cranberry Shores wishes everyone the best of luck in the competition. Let's enjoy the performances!

Patti Corbett

## **Greater Montreal**

Greater Montreal is on a roll! We are sad to report that our director of many years, Joy Kertland, resigned for personal reasons, but before she left, she put in place the means of getting a replacement. Heather Solomon answered the call, and we are thrilled to have her! Our rehearsals are educational, fun, and cohesive. Heather uses a variety of learning tools, and is eager to find more at the seminars she has and will be attending. To go along with a new

Tags & Swipes, Winter 2011

director, we have five new members! We are happy, and eager to share our good news with the Sweet Adeline's community.

- Shira Karpat

## **Harborlight Show Chorus**

Just like most of you, we are truly glad that "mean old winter" is over and spring has indeed finally sprung! Unfortunately, we missed more rehearsals due to inclement weather than we'd care to mention. Our extraordinary director, Adele Penkul, has been getting us back on track with our regular rehearsals and a few Saturday rehearsals.

On a sad note.....one of our beloved members, Ann Donlan, passed away in January. She was a Sweet Adeline for 25 years, participating with both the North Shore Chorus and the Harborlight Show Chorus. Ann was a delightful bass with a beautiful winning smile!! She was a wonderful friend and our chorus will not be the same without her. We know she will be singing sweetly with all the Sweet Adeline angels in heaven. We will truly miss our sister in song.

During the Christmas Season, the Harborlight Show Chorus enjoyed several sing-out performances at the Stoneham Theatre, as an "opening act" for their Christmas shows. We also had a very successful "Singing Valentines" campaign. Doing this fund raiser every year has proven to be successful, both financially and spiritually. We have also been getting some very productive coaching sessions with Steve Tramack in preparation for contest, as well as some fine tuning behind the scenes with Brett Penkul.

This year, we are thrilled to have two quartets in the works. Our first quartet, "Clef Notes," have been working hard and will be competing this year. GO CLEF NOTES!!! Our second quartet, "Take Note," are fine

tuning and look forward to next year's competition.

There are a lot of exciting things going on for the Harborlight Show Chorus. We have two new girls on stage with us this year. Also, a few former members have returned to the chorus and we are certain that they will certainly shine! Our beautiful chorus almost met its demise three years ago, when we were down to just eight members. We are now up to 23 members and growing stronger every day. We are looking forward to contest and seeing all our good friends. Good luck, everyone.... break a lip!!

Robin Schevis

## ***Harmony on the Sound***

It's bee a busy spring for HOTS! Thank Goodness the snow is behind us. Catching up on all those missed rehearsals and missed coaching sessions sure had us working hard.

We were able to get coaching from Jim Arns, Marge Bailey, Joe Connolly, Vicki Maybury and Sandy Marron. They were all fabulous! "Joan" Connolly was able to stop by one occasion when Joe's flight was cancelled.

"Joan" (a.k.a. our own Karen Sweeters) sure did act just like Joe: did a lot of pacing, thanked us for letting her nitpick, and thru a few "awesomes" out there. She did have his usual Yankee shirt & cap as well as those shorts! Really the only things missing were the perpetual tan and the height. What fun we all had that night.

Congratulations to Lisa Giorgio who passed the Director's Certification Program!

Best of luck is wished to all choruses and quartets this weekend.

Donna Robinson

## ***Heart of Maine Chorus***

Farewell To Sweet Adeline's

It is with great sadness that I must say goodbye to the Heart of Maine Chorus and to Sweet Adelines International. My time with this organization has resulted in the formation of many new friendships here in Bangor and throughout Region 1.

As I step down from my position as President of Heart of Maine, I look back on all I have learned during the last several months.

In my opinion the very essence of this organization thrives on the harmony of its members. The running of a chorus is much like the planting of a garden. A strong administrative structure knows how to plant the seeds and watch them grow. A healthy chorus can only thrive by the constant nourishment of its members. This is accomplished by getting to know all members, learning their strengths and talents and listening to what each has to say. A chorus grows and advances through the collaboration and recognition of all members.

This last year has been a tough one for me with the recent loss of my mother after many years of illness. Our time on this earth is short and passes quickly. We are carried through the tough times with the love and strength gained from family and friends. Somewhere along the line, everything comes together striking a cord of harmony. There are times when our personal goals are no longer in sync with those of our chorus group. When the unpleasant times outweigh the fun times, it becomes necessary to move on.

Since belonging to this organization I have met so very many talented people. I have learned so much from so many. It has been a true joy to sing among them. Music and harmony will always be a very important part of my life. The joy of singing will accompany me throughout all the remaining years of my life. Thank you all for helping me recognize what strength is found in harmony.

Kathy Cheverie

## ***Heart of the Valley***

Sitting here today in the welcome sunshine, one cannot believe it was a few short months ago we were at

**Winter Regional.** The warm, musical atmosphere inside the hotel denied the biting cold air of January, waiting to nip at us the moment we stepped outside. **HOV** had been looking forward to this post-holiday tradition especially this year ; we were to be the demo small chorus on Sunday morning! Master coaches for the weekend, **Mary Dick** and **Judy Olsen**, gave us the benefit of their well-tuned ears...I think I saw **Mary's** shoulders wince just once. **Judy's** suggestions for better showmanship proved helpful...we're hoping for "Wild Applause" on stage in May!

With that four-letter "s" word governing every weather forecast, **HOV** plowed through rehearsal nights the best we could in January, February and March, as for sure did all other SAI choruses! Not to worry, early April = Retreat for **HOV!** Warmer weather, yes? It's New England and it's April Fool's Day! Heavy snow predicted up in the hills of Leyden MA! No! The gift of slush was never more appreciated!

Saturday gave us the visual beauty of a swirling snow globe-effect, keeping us lighthearted as **Marion Devokaitis** worked her magic on us! We have learned all the hard work of a retreat truly pays off; Thank You **Marion!** And the playful antics of the Saturday night talent show offer a balance to our favorite work/play weekend of the year! "What happens in Leyden, stays in Leyden!"

Oh, and this year's retreat theme was Expressions! Amazing what doors that opened! Realizing how many old sayings /expressions we use every day caught us by surprise. And when each of us shared her favorite expression, often three or four more sayings were used to describe it! Of course, physical expression is super important, too. All weekend we brought our best story-telling efforts to the risers!

It is with great joy we have welcomed two new members: **Cynthia**

**Brown** and **Kari Knapp**, a bass and a bari. And they survived their first retreat with **HOV!** Onward to Competition to give them the full treatment! Once a Sweet Adeline witnesses the awesome presence of hundreds of singing sisters, there's no going back! Remember attending your first Competition? It was like being on another planet! A friendly, glittering sea of musical women, harmonizing everywhere! I don't think there was a hallway, a restroom or a restaurant that wasn't ringing chords all weekend!

The highlight this year for **HOV** (and we are sure for Berkshire Hills Chorus) has been the opportunity to be part of a public television project at WGBY in Springfield MA. (see front page story) Thanks to our **Barbara Henderson**, she learned from friends at a party about the exciting upcoming project, **Together In Song**. Our PR contact **Judy Mathers** took it from there, and it has been a fabulous experience. The permission forms were signed, and we all made a commitment to the dates for taping and performing again later (just in case we make it!) Music well rehearsed and costumes ready to go, the date arrived! Sadly, our beloved director, **Maggie Hawlicheck**, could not attend the taping session, doctor's orders. Up stepped assistant directors **Ginny Crowl** and **Judy Pease!** Oh, Thank you!

So exciting! We're ready for the cameras! They interview the directors first. Oops...does anyone remember who wrote that second song?? **Ellen Bledsoe** to the rescue! Her music nearby, question answered! Now chit-chat among yourselves while the cameras are on **Ginny** and **Judy**. (Chit-chat on the risers before singing? Oh, **Maggie** wouldn't like this one bit!)

Give us the pitch, **Max!** Performing was a blast, the television cameras loved us! What, it's done already?

Waiting for the weeks to pass, we

contacted everyone we knew and asked them to circle some Saturday dates on their calendars, but mostly April 9. Channel 57, 8:30 pm. Of course the website for WGBY was another option. Voting by the public was key, so the word was out! The judges will notice!

It is now late April. We came, we sang, we didn't make it to the semi-finals. Although disappointed, **HOV** is so proud **Berkshire Hills Chorus** will represent Sweet Adelines International on stage next week!

Our webmaster **Kate Moruzzi** tells us the hits on our website have soared! "We've only just begun..."

Promotion of **Heart of the Valley Chorus** and all other SAI choruses through television is a gift we welcome! Thank you WGBY!

Yours in Harmony,  
**Joyce Monska**

## **Island Grove Chorus**

Island Grove Chorus of Abington, MA held its Annual Spring Concert with the Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Randolph Elks Club.

We ushered in the first day of spring with an energized performance of Red, Red Robin. The concert was well attended and we think we acquired some new fans to our four-part a cappella harmony among those who came to support the orchestra. As always, our raffle baskets were a big hit. We ended our program with a joint performance of God Bless America.

In May we will award a deserving graduating high school senior the Mary Rideout Scholarship, which goes to a well-rounded student who has taken music in high school and plans on continuing his or her musical interests in college. Our team is busy reviewing scholarship applications as it is always difficult to choose

from all the talented young people who apply.

The Marketing Committee did some outreach to communities on the South Shore this past winter flying local businesses in Weymouth and Hanover. This yielded us one new member, our newest bari Jan Seery. We plan on targeting some local venues that feature karaoke as well as 55+ developments in hopes of finding some active women who might like to harmonize with our great group of ladies.

This fall ten IGC members will be headed to Washington, D.C. to sing with the Rhythm of New Hampshire Show chorus directed by Jessie Oslán. There have been several group rehearsals in preparation for this much anticipated performance in our Nation's Capitol.

Lee Ann Frigulietti

## **Liberty Belle Chorus**

Can you believe it??? Contest is almost here again! And although I'm writing this article in the middle of April, by the time you receive this issue of Tags & Swipes, our 2011 competition will be history and our new Region 1 champs will have received their medals. And another contest year will be behind us.

We just returned from our retreat and as usual we are filled with renewed energy and enthusiasm for our craft. Jim Arns coached us and we are constantly amazed at his musical knowledge and at how he can suggest a slight change in a word or a phrase ending, and the meaning or the emotion will change and we'll have a wonderful result. Our organization is fortunate to have so many talented coaches. Of course, as we know, retreats are not all work, and after rehearsing all day Saturday, it was time to party. Thanks to Ria Kittay and Peg Deery for organizing us, and thanks also, to the wonderful talents of all our Belles,



**Above: Liberty Belle Newbies: From left Isabelle Blundell, Melinda Mann, Bea Zampitella and Joanne Potzko**  
**Below: LBC front row during their prison break**



especially our "New Kids" who had no idea what they were getting into when they joined this organization. They thought they were only going to sing... Right!!

The 4 Belles who will be competing with us for the first time are Isabelle Blundell, Melinda Mann, Joanne Potzko, and Bea Zampitella! Good luck to you. We are thrilled to have you with us. One of our newer members, Audrey Reilly, is an LBC returnee. She competed with us in 2006 and the bass section is happy to have her back.

As you all know, Christchurch, NZ was struck by 2 earthquakes, one on September 4th, 2010 and another on February 22nd, 2011. Fortunately, there was no loss of life, but the 142 members of the Christchurch City chorus have experienced the full range of effects of the earthquakes, from the devastation of homes, to

the loss of water and electricity, to the loss of income for others. We are so proud of our LBC members who rose to the occasion and donated \$1,030 to help our sister chorus in New Zealand. We sent a check with coach Lynne Smith who would be traveling to New Zealand the following week.

And sadly, all of Region 1 mourns the loss of our dear friend, Barbara Farrell. We send our prayers and warm wishes to her family and dear friend Priscilla Schoelzel. Many of us at LBC attended the services and we were honored to sing "Can You Feel the Love" at the funeral under BB's direction. BB also directed "That's What Friends Are For" at the cemetery and everyone in the region joined together in song. Barbara was a talented musician, a driving force in the Sweet Adeline organization, and dear friend, member and supporter of

LBC. We'll miss her.

And to end on an upbeat note, be sure to tune in to the Red Sox game on August 27th. LBC will be singing The Star Spangled Banner -- live!!! Play Ball! Go Sox!

We wish all our sister choruses and quartets in Region 1 a successful and exciting 2011 competition.

Charlotte Temple

## **Merrimack Valley Chorus**

Spring HAS finally sprung! What a Winter, huh? MVC was fortunate to escape any snowstorms on rehearsal nights, but we know that wasn't the case for many other choruses. In preparing for contest, we have been coached by Harriette Walters, Lynne Smith and Gina Kaiser. All of them brought great ideas and helped us refine our contest package. And then to top it all off, we had an amazing retreat with Peggy Gram. Her southern charm and untiring optimism helped gear us up and we are so excited for Springfield! At the retreat, newbie Marianne Hartford treated us to her parody of Shel Silverstein's poem "Sick" and had us laughing so hard we couldn't help but share it with Region 1. You might even recognize some of our "characters". Enjoy! -Gail Comeau

"I cannot go to chorus today,"  
said little Marianne O'Day.  
"I have the sniffles and the sneezes,  
a cut, a bruise and little wheezes.  
My tongue is weak, I have to pee.  
This all-in-one is killing me!  
My chin's way up, my eyes are down.  
I'm backwards with my forward  
sound.  
The pitch is sharp, my chin is cleft.  
I'm much better with my left!  
It's raining out, my pitchpipe's broke.  
That cowgirl move just ain't no joke!  
My tempo's off, I bruised my lip.  
I just don't have any showmanship.  
My thigdraulics are broken, I

skinned my knee.  
 Eileen will not stop looking at me!  
 Mary Beth's so tall I cannot see.  
 And do you know I'm missing *Glee*?!  
 My nose is running, I broke a bone.  
 I'm sounding like a baritone.  
 My head is aching, my larynx is  
 swelled.  
 It pains my chest to ring the L's.  
 The dog ate my music, my taxes  
 aren't filed.  
 My legs are numb from *RUNNIN'*  
*WILD!*  
 My throat is scratchy, I'm feeling lazy.  
 That Mary K. is a little crazy!  
 It *IS NOT WELL.*  
 My *SPRING'S NOT SPRUNG.*  
 I hurt-ed my toenail when I sung.  
 My tone's not open, my....  
 What? What's that?  
 A solo you say?  
 Suddenly, I'm feeling okay!!!"

## **MetroWest Harmony Chorus**

Contest, competition. Words that bring to mind sports references. Athletes in training for that big day. Certainly evokes what's happening all across Region One, doesn't it?

Coaches working with the various *teams* as a whole as well as individuals coming together to WIN or to at the very least score as high as possible in our upcoming event. We all want to perform at our personal best and bring about the desired results so that we can leave the contest stage without any regrets.

As one of the teams presenting for review on the contest stage, the MetroWest Harmony Chorus has done its share of preparation including coaching sessions with Jo Lund, Heidi Zacchera and Sandi Wright and a couple of weeks in a dance studio to watch our lovely faces in the floor to ceiling mirrors. Don't we all think we smile and move with abandon only to find out a lot more is needed

from us? What's the latest buzz word? Thigh-draulics? So much choreography to remember.

And so, as we prepare to throw down the gauntlet in one the world's most friendliest (ladies?) competition, we shall meet once more in Springfield and do our utmost on the contest stage. With warm wishes to all, we'll see you there!

Peg Forget

## **Profile Chorus**

It is yet another foggy day here in New Hampshire! As I write this during the early afternoon hours, the sun has peeked out ever-so-briefly from behind the clouds and is now gone again. Yes, I suppose Spring has technically arrived, according to the calendar, but it sure doesn't feel much like it. Mother Nature has been incredibly stingy with both warmth and sunshine in 2011. Folks like me who eagerly await the return of the nice weather are being forced to wait much longer than usual. It can be tough on the psyche, to say the least!

Thankfully, however, warmth can always be found within our tight-knit little chorus. Although this past fall we lost several people due to medical and/or family issues, geographical relocation, and other life changes, we have gained some fantastic newbies, about whom I cannot possibly say enough good things! They are all energetic go-getters who have volunteered their personal time and talents as well as their their voices to our group, and the good vibes they bring to Profile can be measured in smiles each week at rehearsal! We are so grateful to them not only for joining us, but for working so hard to fill some big gaps on our risers. Now, if we could only recruit, oh, about 30 more just like them! :-)

Profile made the decision to forgo

competing in Region One this year so that we can use the time to learn some brand-new music, polish up our repertoire, and give our fabulous new members a chance to get up to speed. While we will, of course, miss the excitement of being onstage, the news evoked an audible sigh of relief from everyone familiar with the difficult drill of perfecting two songs for competition! This decision has also given us several extra months to prepare for our biennial show this October 29th, and we are looking forward to working on both the script and the chance to bring never-before-heard songs to our audience. And who knows what acting and comedic talents lurk beneath the shy, retiring exteriors of our brand-new singers? I guarantee it will be great fun for us -- and for them -- to find out!

We look forward to seeing you all in Springfield, where we'll be cheering you on, as always! (Hey, maybe by then the sun will be out!)

-Deanna Dean

## **Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus**

A PIECE OF HISTORY

At our RNH retreat last March, an article that appeared in the February 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the Derry News was read to us by member Nancy Fletcher. The title - "Sweet Adelines Serenaded Derry with Sweet Tunes" - was a historical piece written by Derry Heritage Commissioner Rick Holmes about the first group in New Hampshire to be chartered by Sweet Adelines International in July of 1955 (pictured on the next page).

Mr. Holmes was a boy when he first attended their concerts, and what he had to say even now about those concerts was "They were so wicked good!" After hearing their story through his eyes, I often wondered



if any of the gals were still in the area. It was brought to my attention that Mrs. Janet Conroy was still living in Derry. As much as I enjoyed Mr. Holmes' article, I really wanted to get the inside scoop from a former member.

So, I called and to my surprise she was delighted to talk about what we had in common . . .oh those Sweet Adelines.

*How did you first get involved with Sweet Adelines?*

**JC:** "I was living in Nashua at the time, rocking my son to sleep singing *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town* . . . it's one of my favorites and much to my surprise my neighbor living upstairs could hear me through the floorboards. She knocked at my door a little while later and commented on my singing and how nicely I could stay in tune! I was a bit shocked, but accepted her invitation to come and see the Derry Chorus in action at the next rehearsal. It was great!"

*What part did you sing?*

**JC:** "Well, they cast me

as a Baritone . . . but I so longed to be a Lead. They have the melody, you know."

*Where did you rehearse?*

**JC:** "At the Derry Public Library. Bertha MacDougall, our Music Leader at the time, worked there and when library hours were over at 8, she'd lock the doors and then we could practice. It was always on a Monday, once or twice a month. If the library had another town group that needed the space that same night, we'd all meet at Bertha's house over on Park Street."

*Since you met once or twice a month, did you practice your music at home?*

**JC:** "Oh, yes. We were expected to sing at home, so we always had our songbooks with us. Our best singers practiced so they could be in a quartet. I loved staying later at rehearsals to listen to them. They gave me 'goosepimples!'"

*Were there other people that came to lead the group?*

**JC:** "I think it was springtime when Randy Blandford from Chester came to help us learn ringing the chords. He was part of the men's group in town, the Barbershoppers, and he taught us so very much about singing harmony that we decided to meet every week. He was such an intelligent man . . . and also quite the chicken farmer at Hardies back then! By the summer, our chorus had become chartered and Marilyn Lamson was now directing. We wanted to look good on stage, and two members sewed all our outfits – charcoal gray jumpers with long-sleeved pink and white blouses. We also had white gloves, rhinestone earrings, and G-clef brooches. We looked and felt great."

*What shows did you perform?*



*With script, music or both?*

**JC:** “Our very first show was held at Nashua High School. It was a burlesque show of sorts with members dressed in candy striper dresses, holding parasols and doing the can-can. No, we didn’t have scripts; we just enjoyed singing and doing those fancy dance steps. It was all about the music. Any funds we received went to charities.”

*Do you have a favorite song?*

**JC:** “*Bill Bailey* is my favorite. When I was on the Town Council, we planned a send-off for one of our Councilors, Bill Jackson, who was retiring. Sometimes I enjoyed changing the lyrics of a song to suit an occasion . . . and that’s what I did to the *Bill Bailey* song. Everyone thought it was a hoot!”

*What may have been the biggest challenge for your chorus?*

**JC:** “Members who lived out of town had a hard time traveling the roads back then to get to Derry for rehearsal. Many came from Nashua, and I can remember deer jumping out in front of cars. It was pretty scary. When we got offers to perform further away, we took long rides on a bus.”

*Do you have any words of advice to pass on to RNH?*

**JC:** “Well, you were doing quite well when I visited your group about five years ago. My voice isn’t what it used to be. I’m almost 80 years old! I will let you in on a little secret though. When I’m at a board meeting at the Community Center where you practice, I have a hard time concentrating on what’s being discussed because I’m trying to listen and hum along with your voices. It’s more fun!”

The Derry Sweet Adelines disbanded in 1974, mostly because music tastes had changed. They experienced almost 20 years of

sharing 4-part harmony with others. What an achievement! I’d like to share with you their wishes to other chorus’ just before a competition in Boston (found in an old copy of Tags & Swipes at the Derry Museum):

“One note of warning before I sign off, girls. Oil those tonsils and sharpen those attacks and releases, ‘cause your ‘country cousins’ are going to Boston loaded for bear!!!”

So, RNH is now making their own Sweet Adeline history in Derry and the surrounding area (pictured on the previous page), and Rick Holmes thinks “this group of acapella singers is also wicked good”. Good luck everyone!

Donna Bishop

## **Sound of New England**

Every time I step out the door, I still have the sneaking suspicion that there is some snow lurking in the shadows, but then I remind myself that this is not Syracuse, after all, (where it rained sideways and snowed at least once as late as May 20 when I was there). SONE did get off to a rough start in 2011 (didn’t we all), missing 3 rehearsals in a row. Somehow we managed to get in a coaching session in January, though, so our Sweet Adeline withdrawal symptoms were not overly severe.

We have had a number of interesting performances so far this year. A group sang at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford for the American Heart Association’s Wear Red for Women Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February. Then 6 quartets formed or reformed (I should say re-formed; I don’t imagine they reformed...) to go out and about to administer Singing Valentines to many unsuspecting and I’m sure some unwilling subjects. A Valentine’s Day brunch that was scheduled for February 5 at the Trinity Methodist Church in Windsor had to

be postponed due to—you guessed it—weather, and was rescheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup>, and fortunately, we were still available to serenade the attendees.

Some of our performances have had an educational component (for the audience as well, that is). One took place on April 10 at the Hartford Public Library (the one you drive under to get on I-91). We also were part of a master class this week at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, where we performed for students of vocal jazz, musical theatre and instrumental jazz! We sang our parts for them, then briefly broke into sections together, and ended with them singing in parts (with a little help from us). What fun!

In mid March we had another wonderful coaching session, and at the end of the month, we invited guests for a Membership Night, but I think some of our potential guests may have been watching UConn play that night....

April brought us Friends and Family Night (otherwise known as dress rehearsal), and Dairy Queens, eyes and thighs, pixie dust and rainbows with Tori Postma--just this past week. Tori wore us out, but we are resting up now. Marion is so understanding, letting us slack off a bit---NOT!

Good luck to “Family Dynamics,” our dynamic family foursome (well, that’s actually 2 sisters, their mother, and some other odd person—off the street, I heard) who are representing us in the quartet contest. But then they are contestant number 13 competing on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, so what more luck could they need? And then there’s our somewhat schizophrenic Maggie Hawlicheck, who competes with us and directs Heart of the Valley. Perhaps you need the luck, Maggie (if it’s Tuesday, this must be...Connecticut?).

Well, ta ta for now. I’m feeling my British (as opposed to my Swed-

ish) roots, what with the Royal Wedding and all. Don't we all just feel like princesses when we don our costumes, poof up our hair and apply that wonderful make-up that hides our true identities? Now, where has that Prince Charming got to??

- Susan Hughes

## Valley Chords Chorus

The Valley Chords are busily preparing for the Regional Competition. We've gotten some new singers and others have visited us, but so far we are still one singer short of the required number to compete. We'll be there, though, singing for evaluation. We're still a small group, but just as determined as ever to improve, to perform our best and to continue to have a great time together.

Recent performances have been really satisfying because of the enjoyment of the audiences and all the positive feedback. We've sung at two retirement villages, Valley Terrace in Wilder VT (our 3<sup>rd</sup> performance there in the past year) and at Kendall, a large facility in Hanover, NH. That was our first singout there but they've already invited us back. Then we sang the National Anthem at three Dartmouth College men's hockey games over the winter, where we warm up in the ladies room (only warm place there), recruit new members, and get caught up in all the excitement of the crowds!

We are very grateful for the work of the outgoing office holders especially to Joan Solger, our long time member who has served as President several times, including for the last two years. We will miss her leadership. We are thankful to Darlene Saler for serving as our membership chair for years. Her administrative duties have burgeoned so she leaves the board but remains an essential member of our bass section.

We have several chorus and singing events planned after competition.

We'll have our annual Charter Party and sing at the Hanover Center Fair an annual event in June. This year, many of the towns of our area are celebrating their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, The Valley Chord's members are from several of these towns and we will be there singing and celebrating. Our quintet, SpinOff will be singing on the tourist train again this year.

We've had some success with fund-raising and that will allow us to send our director to the Director's Seminar in Pittsburgh this July. She's excited and we are looking forward to all the enthusiasm and new information that she'll bring back to us.

- Julia O'Hara

## Valley Shore Chorus

2011 has started a new chapter in the life of our chorus. As many choruses before us have experienced, we found ourselves without a Director. Searching for people to help us, we turned to our wonderful regional leadership. In January, we were fortunate to have Julie Jeffery, Director's Coordinator, and Sue Martin, Communications Coordinator, visit us. Their advice was invaluable and we all felt supported by our region. Through a very

fortunate set of circumstances, our president, Carolyn Mariconi, happened to remember a talented Lead in a men's quartet. We asked him to guest direct our chorus on a snowy winter's night. Steve Wolf, the Lead in the 2009 Northeastern District Champion Quartet, On Q, came in and wowed us with his energy and love of music. We asked him back for several weeks and our first impression was confirmed! Steve agreed to direct us and bring us to the competition stage. We are all looking forward to Springfield in May!

In April, we had our annual retreat. Thanks to our new Director, we welcomed Karen Rourke, bass in Boston Accent, as our coach. What a fabulous time! Our chorus learned to enunciate in a BBC accent with a little "oy" added on. Karen is a personable and talented teacher. We hope we can retain all her wonderful ideas. We were also encouraged in quarteting at our retreat. New and old members, who had never done it before, performed for the rest of the chorus in a quartet. It was quite a confidence builder for members who had never sung their part solo before. Karen and Steve gave out



**Valley Shore Retreat Quartet H.O.T.Z.:** Joan Hurworth, Karen Olsen, Paula Tarafa, and Jane Zanardi. They got their name from last name initials!



some hilarious awards for our efforts! That night at our chorus dinner, we watched an awe-inspiring video by keynote speaker, Jim Henry. It was about the power of music to change lives. This is that intangible essence that all Sweet Adelines bring to their songs. Our "hobby" is really our passion!

Spare Time, our busy octet, is looking forward to several gigs in April and May. We've been asked back to one of our favorite places, Crescent Point of Niantic. The last time we performed there, some past Sweet Adeline members came up and joined us in song. Having them sing with us was a treat! We're hoping that our old friends will join us for our Friends and Family night in May! This has been a year of huge change for our chorus. Our love of barber-shop and reliance on each other has kept us looking forward to a great future. Love those ringing chords!

Marylou Zinser

### **West Island Chorus**

Snow ! Snow ! And more snow! Looks like all of us in the North Atlantic region have survived all that it takes to deal with that white fluffy stuff, and while we sometimes complain about all of those littler things that might get in our way, surely our hearts and prayers go out to those who have had a tsunami, earthquakes and tornadoes to cope with; those whose lives have literally been turned upside down. Then we say "thank goodness for snow storms."

Well, just a few short weeks after we, the West Island Chorus returned to rehearsals from our Christmas break, Mark Lewis our Director suffered a stroke. Mark was attending a family funeral in Ontario when he immediately needed to be hospitalized. Shortly thereafter, he was taken back to the West Island and admitted to our local hospital here. With lots of therapy, determination and

spirit, Mark has already been proving that he is progressing and improving daily. We, of course, wish him a most speedy recovery. If things go according to plan, he will be attending the upcoming Regional Competition.

In the meantime, in Mark's absence, we are happy and grateful to report that our two Assistant Directors, Jean Kelly and Prem Neeff have been holding the fort for Mark. Judy Comeau, who directed the West Island Chorus 40 or so years ago, has graciously and wholeheartedly stepped in to coach and to direct us on competition stage. She has truly been an inspiration to all of us as she co-ordinates and shares her knowledge and input in spite of the geographical distance between us. There are not enough words to express our gratitude to all three of them.

We were also very proud to learn that our very own Wendy Davies will be representing the Region as Marketing Coordinator. She will no doubt do a fine job.

In a few short weeks, our families and friends will bear witness to the joy of our hard work at our dress rehearsal. Our three newcomers to the scene this year will experience the excitement that we look forward to sharing with them.

Dina Perron-

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

16-18 September 2011  
Fall Regional Weekend  
Nashua, NH with Laura  
Pallas & Vicki Mayberry

20-22 January 2012  
Winter Regional Weekend  
Details to be announced

### **HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER**

Check the Region 1 website for  
Updates and Additions  
<http://sai-region1.org>

### **DEADLINE FOR FALL ISSUE:**

**SEPTEMBER 5th,  
2011  
(LABOR DAY)**

Please consider writing something for the front page for the January issue. The Fall issue pictures our regional contest winners, but it is always a challenge to find a story for the middle of winter. It is not too late to write about the Regional Quartet event in August. If we who are not in quartets knew what it is about, perhaps we would know if we could benefit from it. I'll bet we could!!

Susan Jones, Ed.