



Tags & Swipes

A Salute to Region One's Silver Fox

All of us were proud to hear that Harmony on the Sound's Jan Dalgard tried out and was chosen to participate in NBC's four-night "Clash of the Choirs" this past December. She is believed to be the only Sweet Adeline in all five choirs. Here is her story:

The program was announced in November, and tryouts were held in the five cities where the celebrity directors were born. One of those celebrities was Michael Bolton, hailing from New Haven, CT. The first round of tryouts attracted hundreds of people who sang first for the NBC producers and Shelton Beckton, the assistant director of the Broadway show, "The Color Purple." Jan and four other members of HOTS went in and sang a chorus song for the first cut. Three of them were called back for a second round and an interview!

The second round was held at New Haven's popular music hall, Toad's Place, in front of Michael Bolton. For this, the hopeful choristers had to sing two songs from a list provided by NBC. Jan chose Elvis Presley's "Love Me Tender" and Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon." When she got there, she found out they had taken "Fly Me" off the list of approved songs, so she opened with Elvis. Bolton let her sing the Sinatra song anyway, and he LOVED it!!

When the final cuts were made, the NBC cameras were rolling. The first chosen were the sopranos, then the altos, five in each category. Jan was not picked. Then Bolton called the tenors. Just four. And THEN he said, "Well, Janet, you're in!" As a tenor. Twenty was the final number in the choir.

There was no time to let the excitement sink in. Rehearsals with Mr. Beckton started the next day at Sacred Heart University, and they rehearsed three nights a week for the next few weeks, ending with a week with four rehearsals. They had a choreographer from California. Of course, Sweet Adelines have the stamina for this kind of schedule!

Then came the trip to New York where it was filmed, an eight-day workout. Costumes were chosen (black sequins and blue – VERY DIVA!)



Imagine the opening night: All five choirs on stage singing "Living in America" as millions of viewers across the nation tuned in! When it was time for Choir Bolton to sing, they chose "Livin' on a Prayer," and when it was over, Michael Bolton put his arm around Jan as they stood in front of the rest of the choir. He called her the Silver Fox, and she said, "I'm 77 and don't feel a day over 76!"

Even though Choir Bolton did not make it into the finals of the "clash," Jan came away with wonderful memories. Before the show aired, she said, "I love these young people. They're keeping me hip!" When asked if she was disappointed not to win, she replied, "We were not unhappy about not winning; we felt that we won on the day we were picked to be on the show." And she summed it up, saying, "I would just like to say that the amount of talent that was on the stage every night was astounding, I feel like I made a hundred new friends, those kids were just terrific, and I feel humble and proud to have been among them." What a trooper, and how proud we all are!

News from your Regional Management Team

Hello Region One!!!!

Congratulations to all of our competitors representing Region 1 at the most recent International Convention held in Calgary, Canada. To Coastline, Alakazam!, Celebrate!, and A Cut Above: Your Region is so very proud of you, and of your accomplishments on the international stage!!!!

So you ask: How does someone that I have never heard of before suddenly become a member of the Regional Management Team?! Let me explain how YOU can have such an experience!

You start out by auditioning and becoming a member of the chorus that you know is the "right fit" for you. As a new chorus member, you are busy learning music and choreo, while getting to know your new found friends in harmony. Perhaps you are a veteran chorus member - The steps will work for you also!! You realize that in order for a chorus to be successful, participation in the operation of the chorus is vital, so you sign up to help with a fund raising project. O.K., that was fun (!), but you want to learn more while singing and dancing!! Next step: Attending Board or Management Team meetings as an observer. This gives you an opportunity to learn the administrative structure of your chorus, while still singing and dancing!! Step #3: Your chorus president/team coordinator announces that nominations will be accepted for the elections that will be held for the new term. You write up your qualifications, and accept a nomination to put your name on the ballot. If you don't win the first time your name appears on the ballot, you continue to assist with chorus projects, showing your ability to be a valuable contributing member of the Board / Management Team, and accept a nomination to be on the ballot for the next election (while still singing and dancing, of course!). You did it - You are now a member of the chorus Board / Management Team.



Your gained knowledge on the chorus level can now be expanded to the regional level. In my case, I was asked to work as an assistant to the (contest) Official Panel Liaison (OPL). The following year the position opened, and I was appointed the OPL! After serving one year as OPL, I was asked to accept my current position on the Regional Management Team. I look forward to a two year term filled with new administrative learning experiences - All while singing and dancing with my "right fit" for me chorus!!!!

Participation - YOUR Participation - is the key to the success of YOUR chorus, and to the success of YOUR Region. YOU need to be involved and contribute YOUR ideas to your chorus leaders, and to your regional leaders (who are always anxious to hear from YOU!). Please remember that your participation in the administrative workings of your chorus and/or Region will keep you and our incoming members singing (and dancing!) for many years to come.

In Harmony, Angie Levine , Team Coordinator, RMT



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)

Important Dates - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Regionals 2008

- Sept. 19-21: Fall Regional, Burlington, MA
Tori Postma & Darlene Rogers

2009

- Jan 23-25: Winter Regional, Danvers MA
"The Buzz"
- Sept. 11-13: Fall Regional, Newton, MA
Dale Syverson

2010

- Jan 22-24: Winter Regional, TBA
- Sept. 17-19: Fall Regional, TBA

Future Competitions 2008

- Sept. 19-21: Fall Regional, Burlington, MA
- May 1-4: Region 1 Contest Springfield, MA
- November 4-8: International Honolulu, HI

2009

- Apr 30-May 3: Region 1 Contest Springfield, MA
- November 3-7: International, Nashville, TN

2010

- April 15-18: Region 1 Contest Springfield, MA
- October 19-23: International Seattle, WA

Helpful Notes from our Events Coordinator



My learning curve is changing. I don't know which way it goes, smaller or larger, when it is improving, but I feel like I have grown a lot this past year in knowledge of this position as events coordinator. Every event is different, every hotel is different: some hotels we've been at before, but they now have new staff, so we are basically starting from scratch; some hotels are new to us, and we have to educate them about who we are, what we do, and what our needs are. In all these scenarios, I learn something, but the trick is to remember what I've learned for the next time so I don't have to re-learn the same things over and over. We also need to remember that our event is not the only one these hotels are helping to detail at the same time they are working on ours.

One area that impacts you all is the hotel check-in procedure. Most hotels request, or even require, each room occupant to check-in individually so her credit card number is on file. Not only does this assist in resolving the bill at the end of the event, but it adds an element of security. The hotel will know who is actually on site.

However, some hotels have a computer system that can only accommodate one credit card number per room. When we need to follow this procedure, the room occupants will need to be willing to sort out the bill internally, among themselves, because the first to check-in will have her credit card number assigned to the room and all charges (room service, phone calls, movies, etc.) are put on the room bill and attached to this one credit card number. This can possibly strain your friendship with your roommates, but I, as event coordinator, have no control over how each hotel handles its check-in procedure.

I can recommend to all hotels that we handle the check-in process as in the first example, but it may not always be possible. Rest assured that if the check-in procedure is different from how we normally do it, you will be informed in ample time to be prepared. I love surprises, and most of you do too, but not in things like this, so you will not be subject to sudden change unless it's impossible to avoid.

I ask for your flexibility in this area. We try to move our events around the region as much as possible to share the driving distance, and I think this is a much more important focus in choosing a hotel than how they handle their check-in procedures. Hopefully you agree. Your regional leaders have your best interests at heart at all times.

In Harmony, Judy Lang, Regional Events Coordinator

Information About Regional Awards



Hi Everyone:

Following is a schedule of regional awards, which we, Region 1, present to our competitors/members:

Competition Awards:

International Chorus Competitors
- \$25.00 per competing member
International Quartet Competitors
- \$200.00 per quartet member

Most Improved Quartet - \$50.00 coaching scholarship
Division A - 1st Place Chorus Director - Early Bird
Registration to IES (*)

Division AA - 1st Place Chorus Director - Early Bird
Registration to IES (*)

Marge Bennett Angel Award - Early Bird Registration to IES
(*)

Assisting Chorus - Regional Weekend - \$625.00

Assisting Chorus - Regional Competition - \$2,000.00
(prior year's winner is AC)

Memorial Fund Awards:

Novice Director - Amount determined by RMT (usually \$50.00)

Shirley Herman Choreo - Amount determined by RMT (usually \$50.00)

Chorus with largest percentage of members in competing quartet -

Amount determined by RMT (usually \$50.00)

2 ROAR Scholarships - Registration to ROAR
(Roar Coordinator draws names by lottery at ROAR)

1 Quartet Scholarship to RQA or Area
(Education Coordinator draws name by lottery at RQA or AS)

(*) 2008 is the last year IES will be held. Region 1 has no representation in 2008.

A new awards plan will be implemented for FY 2009/2010

In Harmony, Ingrid Friedman, Financial Coordinator

A Message from our Talent Coordinator

Scouting for Talent-

It is the time of year when, once again, the Regional Management team, committee chairs, and planning leaders are looking for good people who want to share their talents by being involved with regional activities.

We are looking for YOU. We are looking for all kinds of talent!!!

The region would love to have you recognize that you are the someone to help with a one time task, emcee events, work with others on a committee, help plan and carry out regional events, competition tasks, take photos, help video taping the regional classes, and then also consider being a regional leader on the management team!

The process is easy:

- Decide to volunteer and contact me directly, talk to the RMT, speak to your chapter leaders
- Complete a talent form .(The form is available on our Region 1 web site, the first item under forms). A copy was handed out to all your Team Coordinators and Presidents at our Fall regional meeting, so ask for a copy from your chapter leaders.
- Submit form to me (by snail mail, e-mail, phone call)

I look forward to hearing from you!!

Carole' Mensing, Talent Coordinator, Region One • cm17av@aol.com • 860-558-3836

YOUR REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM



Seated: **Judy Lang**, Events Coordinator (judytenor@sbcglobal.net), **Angie Levine**, Team Coordinator (letsharmonize@sbcglobal.net), **Terrie Mavros**, Marketing (terriebari@yahoo.com). *Standing:* **Ingrid Friedman**, Finance Coordinator (ingrid.b@cox.net), **Lorraine Barrows**, Directors' Coordinator (LBISOK@aol.com), **Wendy Davies**, Membership (w.davies@sympatico.ca), **Sue Martin**, Communications/Web (martin@skmassociates.net), **Jennifer Wold**, Education (jenniferwjane@yahoo.com).

ALL OF OUR EMAILS ARE HERE! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

An Update from Membership



Dear Members,

First of all I would like to wish you all health, happiness and harmony in 2008. 2007 was an exciting year for Region One and I expect that 2008 will be the same and getting better all the time!

Congratulations to all our competitors at International in Calgary! Wow, we sure our doing something right in Region One! In 2007 we will have two choruses represent us in Hawaii. We proudly recognize that our top four chorus competitors in 2007 all scored over 600 points.

Congratulations to our newest chapter, Metro West Harmony! They chartered this October and are very enthusiastic and ready to grow and get involved. Greet and welcome our newest chapter members if you see them this weekend.

We welcome Diane Porsche and Kathy Carmody! Once again, Region One Faculty has done an exemplary job in organizing top educational opportunities for the membership. As always, the focus is on providing the best opportunities for you, the member. We are striving to maintain and increase our levels of success and keep the costs fair and attractive to all.

Have a great weekend and a great winter preparing for contest.

Wendy Davies,, Membership Coordinator

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Chorus Lines



Berkshire Hills

The beautifully restored Colonial Theater in Pittsfield was the venue for our A Cappella Showcase in November. The acoustics are fantastic! Regional Champions Alakazam! thoroughly entertained us, along with the Din and Tonics, a men's a cappella group from Harvard University, and our own quartet, Who Knew?. Four brand new members were thrilled to be in their first Sweet Adelines show, Marie Brodeur, Carol Hanford, Louise Frankenberg, and Sonja Ostrowski.

We sang at the tree-lighting ceremony at Berkshire Medical Center and then traveled from one unit to another spreading holiday cheer. We even sang in the ER! We also had a mini holiday show at a local nursing home and at the famous Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge. Two friends, Heidi Ferrin and Gail Wojtkowiak joined us for the season.

We already have Lorraine Rochefort and Karen Rourke lined up for coaching in 2008. Our ever energetic and amazing director, Valeri Reynolds continues to learn from them and many others.

We will see you all at Contest in May!!

Pam Basinski

Champlain Valley

We have had a very exciting time in our chorus since the last Tags & Swipes article. Our show on October 27th was well received with Boston Accent presenting a wonderful performance. We honored long time member Maria Niforos by dedicating the show to her. Maria has moved this year to an assisted living apartment downstate

near her children. It was heartwarming for all of us to have her present at the show.

The show was the last time that retiring director Dianne Tortorelli Brooks directed the chorus as she has moved downstate as well. We are extremely fortunate to have a new director from within the chorus. Jennifer Scofield has been directing us through the holiday season. Jennifer brings years of barbershop experience with Champlain Valley and a real interest in music education and Sweet Adelines. She is also the tenor in the Meter Maids quartet.

The Chorus has been very busy over the holiday season. We sang at our local mall for a Night of Giving fundraiser in November followed by the lighting of the Hospice Christmas trees soon after. We joined with our barbershop brothers, the Cumberland Bay Chorus and a local high school choir on Sunday, December 16, for a holiday concert at a local church. In addition we sang for a number of holiday parties for adults and children throughout the area.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all in Region 1!!

Carole Harsh

Coastline Show Chorus

"Coasting" in Calgary

Coastline Show Chorus is proud to once again bring a top five International medal home to Region One. Our fourth place medal in the highest scoring International Competition ever is another memory each of us will always treasure. Our stay in Calgary was marked by camaraderie, fun, sightseeing in the majestic Canadian Rockies and lots of rehearsal time!

In Calgary on Thursday we were jazzed to once again hear our name called in the top ten draw for order of appearance. We once again got to "sing on Saturday," surely the most

exciting experience a Sweet Adeline chorus can experience. That Saturday show is in front of a large arena filled with the best audience in the world. And we had a "package" tailor-made to fit that audience – Sweet Adeline Convention.

Our secret weapons were our young emcees, Alexa Roy and Sarah Cohen, ages 16 and 14 respectively. The poise and talent our "youngsters" display constantly amaze us Coastline "oldsters." Sarah and Alexa executed the script flawlessly, with flair and exuberance that flew across the footlights and endeared them to all present. We feel sorry for Mary Pevear, our 3rd emcee, who was equally perfect but totally upstaged! The local Calgary newspaper chose our chorus to feature when reporting this strange convention in their midst, and we're convinced it's because Alexa and Sarah were featured and photogenic!

But that was then and this is now. Since Calgary, Coastline has begun our next cycle, planning for hostessing this Winter Regional and making it a great experience for our Region One friends. We have learned a new uptune for Regional Competition 2008 and look forward to working our contest set on a weekend retreat with Dale Syverson and Joe Connelly, held earlier this month. Our calendar of coaching, performances and rehearsal are set through the dates of the Nashville, 2009 Convention. Coastline never stops!

-Lillian McDaniel

Colonial Spirit Chorus

We are pleased to welcome three new members to our chorus – Heather Mullins and our second mother-daughter pair Gina and Kerry Hubbard. Each of them has added a unique spark to our chorus, and our Director Norma Murray has already started to bring out some of their best qualities to help them to shine. It was fun to

watch Kerry do cartwheels at the end of one of our songs during our Annual Cabaret in November and equally fun to watch several of the other members build a human pyramid to add extra excitement to our show this year.

It seems like we have had non-stop activity practicing and performing since we wrapped up our summer with the Topsfield Fair performance. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas performances went very well, and the Christmas caroling that we did in Acton was a great opportunity to interact with people in the community who enjoyed singing with us. When the children all climbed on that huge snow bank in front of us so that they could see us better and frolic in the snow while they sang out their response to our songs, we all experienced the thrill of making our music come alive.

Colonial Spirit Chorus is proud to have celebrated its 10th Anniversary in December, and in January we are looking forward to performing for our new corporate sponsor. January will be a busy month for us and especially our Director, since we are offering three vocal lessons during the month as part of our new membership drive and will start learning two songs that will be new to most of us. Our Assistant Director Joanne Dockrell has been busy coaching two new quartets from our chorus, and they sound so good already that they may inspire more of us to try to form a quartet in 2008.

Several of our members are planning on going to Winter Regional in Worcester in January and look forward to the educational opportunities available to us, but personally I think having the opportunity to sing with so many women from the region all at

once in the same room like we did when Peggy Gram taught us "Fit as a Fiddle" at Fall Regional is breathtaking.

Farmington Valley

What a year it's been for Farmington Valley Chorus!

The highlight of 2007 was our trip to San Antonio for IES in July! We were so proud to represent Region 1 in the Harmony Classic Contest and bring home an international silver medal.

Some of our favorite memories from the trip include the classes we took with international faculty, especially the Unit Sound classes with Darlene Rogers (for which FVC was the demo chorus); harmonizing in the campus pool after dark; our own Scooter Brigade; getting to know Sweet Adelines from around the world; spending time with the members of

Merrimack Valley and Friends Perform in Ireland



July 13 – 22, 2009

Eileen Gioe, Musical Director, Jessie Samuel, Choreographer

Experience the beauty and history of Ireland. Perform and party with ladies barbershop choruses of the Irish Association of Barbershop Singers. See for yourselves WHY Ireland is called the "Emerald Isle".

Highlights: Ring of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher, Muckross House and Gardens, Blarney Castle, Cobn Heritage Center, Waterford Crystal Factory, Kilkenny Castle, Dublin Castle, St. Patrick's Cathedral!!

Air and Land Costs - \$2,633.00 (price is based on estimated exchange rate for 2009); Land Only - \$1,708.00

Per person, double occupancy includes:

Roundtrip Airfare – Boston to Ireland; Hotel Accommodations based on twin bedded rooms with private bath for 8 nights; Full Breakfast daily, five dinners plus a Medieval Banquet at an Irish Castle; Guided Tour of Dublin; Hotel portorage, service charges, and government taxes; Transport of luxury motor coach with a driver/guide for 9 days; Admission fees to all places in itinerary.

For a complete itinerary and travel details contact Eileen or Patsy.

Patsy Meiser at Harmony-Travel.net or patsymeiser@nctv.com

or Eileen Gioe at egioe1219@yahoo.com or www.merrimackvalleychorus.org

Region 1's own Profile Chorus; and sharing the fun with our dual members, Valeri Reynolds and Sue Ingui of Berkshire Hills Chorus. What a trip! Thanks to all the Region 1 folks who supported us all the way to Texas!

We came back from Texas and jumped right into planning for our annual show, Anything Goes! which was held on November 17. The whole chorus was involved in updating our repertoire with new songs, building a fabulous holiday set, and promoting the event. It was a humorous show that morphed into a full-blown holiday extravaganza by the end of the evening. Besides our special guests, The Trinity Accidentals and RING Quartet, FVC also placed FIVE of our own quartets on the stage that night, including one group of teen singers. Whew!

FVC also hosted guest nights in October and welcomed several prospective members onto the risers. We're looking forward to bringing our new members to Springfield in May! This fall we also bid a fond farewell to our former Tags & Swipes writer, Betty Jacob, who has resigned from the chorus to spend more time on her writing. We'll miss her, and we appreciate all she did for the chorus.

Our year was rounded out by holiday performances, chorus celebrations, and plans for 2008. Happy New Year to all our Region 1 friends! See you at Winter Regional!

Susie Milner

Greater Montreal

Wintry weather arrived on December 3 and found Montrealers unprepared. Hard to believe, but the mild winters of the past couple of years have lulled us into thinking that we don't have to get the winter tires on, or the shovels and boots out until after Christmas. Our rehearsal had to be cancelled. As luck would have it, we had planned to distribute our fundraiser items that night as well as the fruit and amaryllis bulbs several members had purchased to support local charities.

We coped.

In late September we had a successful membership drive where we recruited six members. Five of them auditioned and passed. Two have been participating in our recent sing-outs. Another drive is scheduled for January 2008.

The last couple of months we have been working on repertoire, trying to sing old and new songs with the same resonance that we are putting into our songs for competition. It's hard to re-train that muscle memory. We also chose a package of Christmas songs to sing at performances we have been giving around the city. Audiences seem to enjoy the old favourites as well as the unusual numbers like You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch, and The Twelve Days after Christmas. Yellow Snow is also quite a hit. Our chorus, all decked out in Christmas attire, has also had a couple of atypical gigs, one being an afternoon singing at the local supermarket. We hoped grocery shoppers would stop, look, listen and donate. Money collected will defray some of the expenses for competition. Choruses who are located close to Springfield MA may not be aware how much it costs to travel there. The bus this year is more than \$3000.

Several members attended Fall Regional and raved about the sessions. International in Calgary attracted others who loved the spirit and learned a great deal from watching the experts like our very own Coastline, Alakazam!, Celebrate!, and A Cut Above. They were amazing. Our chorus's new year's resolution is to think big: more singers and better quality singing. With all the wonderful coaching by Sandie Nason from Ottawa - two sessions so far and two more to come - and by our director Joy Kertland who works hard to maintain the momentum, the GMC should improve in that elusive sound category in 2008! See you at Winter Regional.

Harmony on the Sound

HOTS and the SILVER FOX

Well, we certainly have had a whirlwind few months! Since we last saw our friends in Region 1, we have had 2 guest nights, put on a show, appeared on national television, and had one of our members sing and become a star on national TV! Do you think we've been busy enough?

We have had a ball! We are soooooo incredibly proud of our SILVER FOX (aka, Jan Dalgard). She was the only Sweet Adeline in the country to make the final cut for Clash of the Choirs, which aired for four consecutive nights in December on NBC. Each Choir was directed by a celebrity, and they competed against each other for cash donations to the charity of the celebrity's choice (from their home towns). Jan made the final cut to be a part of Michael Bolton's choir. It was really fun to watch Jan strut her stuff on national TV, and to become the most talked about person on the show. Don't be shy...ask her about her great experience! She had a ball!

The HOTS chorus was also a winner for this event! The website for Clash of the Choirs announced a competition to appear on one of the promo's for the show. All you had to do was upload a video of your group singing one of the songs from their pre-determined list. They chose the winners from these submissions for each night. We were one of the first to be chosen, and we appeared on the promo the first night, along with 3 other choruses that evening...What a blast to be chosen and get an opportunity to be seen by millions!

As if that weren't enough excitement, we also held our annual Show this fall. We did something very different, however. The show was called Idol Dreams, and it featured an "American Idol"-type format. This was brought to us by our own Jane Tamarkin, who had directed it in Syracuse. We invited all of the Fairfield County high school students to audition, and the top five were chosen to compete for prize

money on the show. We had four judges, two of whom were "guest" judges from outside of the organization and the remaining two from within. The students competed on the first half of the show and the audience voted for their favorite at intermission. The Chorus then sang during the second-half, and the winner was announced. It was great fun for all of us; the audience loved the variety, and the chorus loved showcasing the young talent.

We are really looking forward to continuing our preparation for Hawaii, and we have added several new members for the journey.

All of us at HOTS want to wish you a very healthy, happy and successful New Year!

Anne Benowitz

Heart of the Valley

Another December - the end of another year - as I write this we're at the tag end of an ice storm of sorts. Our holiday party is scheduled for tonight

- so far no one has said they won't be with us. Winter in New England - our lives are tied to the weather reports. You have to love it!

Our November show, actually our 25th Anniversary Show, was fun to do, and a great success. The theme "Where is Christmas?, Through the Seasons in Song", garnered many positive comments from our audience members and was a way for us to finally get to sing a few Christmas pieces that otherwise languish in our folders from year to year.

We've just enjoyed a visit with Judy Lang, our Regional "Buddy", and the lists of wishes, assets and challenges that came from her meeting with us have provided food for thought and opportunities for action. We'll be using those lists as a springboard during the next few months.

A Christmas performance in Amherst, MA at the lighting of their "Merry Maple" was freezing and fulfilling, as we sang and also watched

the children in the very front rows of spectators, dancing and enjoying the music. It was our first year to perform there, and many spoke to us afterward, telling us how much they liked our music and hoped we'd be back next year.

Advertising does pay! We've had several women appear at rehearsals recently, who heard about us via radio and/or our website - or some family members heard about us and urged them to come and see what we're about. We look forward to adding new voices to our risers soon.

We'll soon be having coaching sessions with our coach and mentor, Marion Devokaitis, our retreat in March, and so on to Contest once more.

Happy winter to all - and may it never snow on rehearsal nights!

Estelle Cade



Merrimack Valley Chorus
presents

Spring Cabaret

Featuring

- ♦ Performances by New England Quartets and more
- ♦ Performance by The Merrimack Valley Chorus
- ♦ Silent Auction
- ♦ Refreshments
- ♦ Cash Bar

Sunday, April 6 at 2 pm, doors open at 1pm . \$5 per person or \$15 per quartet
Tewksbury/Wilmington Elks . 777 South Street, Tewksbury, MA

More info about the show on our web site at
www.merrimackvalleychorus.org

To perform as a quartet
info@merrimackvalleychorus.org

Island Grove

Island Grove Chorus has had a busy and exciting Fall and Holiday season. In October we had a wonderful show called "A Celebration of American Music".

IGC performed as did our own quartet, Essential Blend. We were joined by some of the finest local soloists from the Musical Theater genre and the Dixie Diehards, a Dixieland Band. The sellout audience was enthusiastic and enjoyed this smorgasbord of American music.

As always our holiday audiences delighted in our presentations and joined in whenever asked.

We had a great coaching session with Karen Sweeters and now we are eagerly looking forward to our Regional weekend and our competition in May.

Last but not least we are thrilled to have several new members who bring new excitement to our group. Onward to '08!

Judy Potts

Liberty Belle Chorus

LBC's best kept secret!! We were scheduled to perform at a meeting at the home of Helen Morse and husband Lynn; it was a company celebration. They could only accommodate a group of 25 singers. The costume was to be our blue dresses and accessories. We were booked for 6:30 on the fourth of November. In reality it was our celebration for having Master Director Barbara Braxten (better known as BB) as our wonderful director for 30 years. Really BB just came to fill in, I feel LBC should keep her!! A wonderful time was had by not just 25 of us, but the whole chorus.

LBC has a new Emeritus member, our own Sheila Howard. Welcome, Sheila.

Liberty Belle is also happy to have Janice Rudy back on the risers singing with us. Janice was in a coma for several weeks. With medical

personnel, her husband John, and the many chorus members singing music from LBC's repertoire over time, it was finally noticed that Janice's toes were keeping time with the music, and slowly Janice has fought her way back – first the toes, then learning to sit up, walk, talk, read and finally sing again. It has been a long tedious journey for Janice and John, but she is now in her spot with her pretty smile and voice.

It has been a busy summer. Of course we again spent a day aboard the Mount Washington cruising around Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. As in the past, the captain directed the chorus in the Armed Forces Medley. It is easy to see that the captain enjoys this as much as the chorus.

We had a lovely Fashion Soiree and garden party with fashions by Coldwater Creek. The chairpersons for this event were Barbara Fopiano and Liz Hatch.

At the installation of our officers we also honored our Star Performers. These are members who have gone that extra mile during the year, doing things to help the chorus on our journey. These busy people are Ria Kitay, Mary D'Eon, Fran Garland, Anne Hoag and Charlotte Temple. Again we thank you ladies.

If you missed our show "Steppin' Out," I'm sorry. As always the show was a great success. Not only did the Liberty Belle Chorus sing, but our guests were none other than SALT, the International winning quartet from Sweden. To add to that, the 2005 International Collegiate champion a cappella quartet Men in Black were fantastic. The chairpersons for this show were Sandy Taylor, Deb Surdel and Joyce Aijala.

The 10th of December was our Holiday celebration – yummy food, prizes and entertainment as always were enjoyed by all.

Have a safe, warm, cozy winter, and we will see ya in May.

Dolly Brown

Merrimack Valley

Hey, Region 1 sisters, Happy New Year from MVC! We hope 2008 brings us all good health, ringing harmonies, successful fund-raisers, and agreeable weather on all our important chorus and regional dates. Geez, have we had a demanding few months! It never lets up, does it?

In October, MVC presented Rowena and Martina's Laugh-In, our show, and it was a winner. Naturally many of us helped, but a huge chunk of credit goes to our talented show coordinator, Kate Cooper.

Next, our Director Eileen Gioe led a Performance Opportunity Program (POP). During consecutive rehearsals, we taught three holiday songs to "Poppers", ladies whom we'd love to retain as prospective members. The Poppers augmented the current MVC members for some of our holiday gigs. The POP gave a taste of a cappella to the Poppers, and everyone had fun.

Mary Kriener lined up lots of holiday performances for us. We sang at tree-lighting ceremonies in Stoneham and Woburn, in the lobby at the Boston Ballet's Nutcracker, and for a women's group in Andover. In addition, we grabbed a last-minute chance to sing for a community-access TV station. Recordings of that performance went to military troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. How cool is that?

For some reason known only to her, Mother Nature insisted that we postpone our merry-making and Yankee Swap until after Christmas. Remember that miserable December 13th Nor'easter that snarled traffic so badly? Well, the storm squashed our chorus party plans that night. Debbie Murphy worked so hard coordinating the event, and then it had to be rescheduled. Thanks, Debbie!

In January, we're having a DIVAs program. Did you realize that the word DIVAs is an acronym? Eileen learned that it stands for Dynamic, Innovative, Vocally Artistic Singers. We're offering four free vocal education sessions

during our rehearsals. Some of our Poppers will participate, and we hope to recruit other prospective members, too.

The Winter Regional Weekend falls within the DIVAs program dates. MVC is looking forward to performing for and learning with you at the regional.

We'll prepare for our March retreat with Bobbette Gantz by taking Personal Voice Instructions with Karen Rourke and Madeline Anderson. Isn't it remarkable how PVIs benefit the unit sound of the chorus?

Our Spring Cabaret is scheduled for April 6th (see our ad on page 9). The chorus will kick off the singing, of course, and hold a silent auction of irresistible goods and services. While monitoring their bids, our fans will be entertained by quartets, and not necessarily SAI quartets, by the way. Sound good? Please join us, and bring your checkbooks!

- Terry Lee

Millenium Magic

As fall has transitioned into winter our chorus is setting its sights for contest. We have joyously participated in both the Rays of Hope walk for Breast Cancer and a benefit concert for a woman with Pulmonary Fibrosis – a tough disease to have and to conquer. Giving back and supporting wonderful causes is what it is all about. We did a Christmas performance for our new hosts at the White Oaks Living Center in Manchester as they are so generous with their beautiful facility, allowing us to rehearse gratis each Tuesday evening.

We've participated in a few fund raisers this past fall, one being Pampered Chef and the other being the Festival of Giving at Buckland Hills Mall, also in Manchester, CT. This festival supports non-profit organizations and made for a very fun private shopping evening, as well as a great money maker!

We are thrilled to be working monthly with Karen Rourke. She is such a wonderful, talented musician

with tons to offer Millennium Magic. We will be working again with Jim Arns in March and really looking forward to spending more quality time with him.

Needless to say, WE ARE PSYCHED!!!

We are excited and proud to welcome our two newest members Arlene Isaac and Margaret Jackins. We also have a new competing quartet, Magic Touch, which consists of Susan Gunas, Annette Pulcinella, Arlene Isaac and Heidi Oswell.

Keep warm.....see you at contest and the very best of luck to all of you as you prepare to dazzle Region one with your hard work and efforts!

Happy New Year!!

Mollyockett Chorus

Marjorie Kimball is the grande dame of our Mollyockett Chorus. In May we helped her celebrate her 86th birthday with a cake after rehearsal. Marge lends her clear and beautiful voice to the Lead section and is one of our most dedicated and faithful members. She was one of the original members of the Mollyockett Chorus when it was chartered in 1996. Marge tells how she became a Sweet Adeline:

"When I was 72 years of age, a friend asked me if I could please be part of a group forming a Sweet



Marge Kimball turns 86.

Adeline Chapter, which needed 20 members. I agreed and promised myself to stay at least until the charter was granted. Now more than 14 years later I am still a member, and I am sold on the idea that music is good for body and soul. It was certainly a thrill when we held our charter party with family and friends, and we were on our way! We've had our ups and downs. Once the risers collapsed, breaking my foot. Not to be discouraged, I was able to perform in our show from a wheelchair."

Music has been an important part of Marge's life since she started piano lessons at age 7. She graduated with a BS in Education from the University of Maine at Farmington when music courses were still required of all education majors. She taught first grade and other grades for 26 years and put her musical abilities to good use. She also became the accompanist in church and for other civic and professional groups. She still plays the organ every Sunday in her church in Waterford, Maine, and was recently honored for 65 years as a Grange member. Oh yes, along the way Marge married and had nine children.

What keeps Marge active in the Mollyockett Chorus?

"It's the friendship with a great group of women. Singing barbershop music connects us in a special bond of friendship and harmony. I feel good when I sing. It's fun!"

A fun time was had by all when the Mollyockett Chorus joined the Hillsmen Barbershop Chorus in a Cabaret on November 3. There was a terrific rainstorm but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the near capacity audiences at both performances. The two choruses sang separately and joined in several numbers from "The Music Man" in honor of its 50th anniversary.

We had a great coaching session with Gail Jencik at our annual retreat in October, and look forward to more coaching with Heidi Zacchera and Gail in coming weeks.

Post Road Chorus

Post Road Chorus has had a very busy Holiday season. We have worked and played hard together from Thanksgiving right through the end of the year. It has been a very festive time for us with many performances, birthday celebrations, and Christmas parties.

Our appreciative audiences added to our high spirits. They are one of the important reasons we come together for three hours every Tuesday night to rehearse, but every Adeline realizes a good audience is not all that motivates us. The love of harmony and the sisterhood we share when we come together to sing are the glue that binds us together

There were several December birthdays in our chorus. Among them were two notable ones. Lil Bagdis, our senior Adeline, celebrated her 29th birthday once again. Carol Beeso, who has been with us for seventeen years, celebrated her 70th birthday as well as her fifth year as a cancer survivor. We had a surprise celebration for her at her daughter's home after a Christmas performance at Old Sturbridge Village. This was followed on the following Tuesday by a Christmas party held during our next rehearsal. On both occasions the food, song, and merriment were unforgettable.

Now that the Holidays are over we will be working hard on our competition package, and we are looking forward to seeing our many friends from sister-choruses at our Mid-winter Regional in Worcester in January.

As we begin a new year, our chorus extends our very best wishes to Adelines everywhere, that God will bless each of us abundantly with good health, and happiness, keeping us all free from want. Our deepest prayer is that everyone with a loved one in the military will have their dear ones returned safely to them. May 2008 be the year that peace reigns once again, and all our songs are joyful ones.

Profile

Profile Chorus kicked off the fall season with our annual retreat in Meredith, NH, this past October. Thanks yet again to the luminous Chris Ferguson for her wonderful coaching and support. We also welcomed two new members to Profile, Anne and Karen. We're thrilled to have gained their talents and enthusiasm!

In November we benefited from an evening of coaching with Dan Washington, who always has so much to teach us! Most importantly, our hardworking director, Terry Neill, is recovering slowly but steadily from long-overdue shoulder surgery. Each week her range of motion improves a bit more, and we have been assured she will be directing again with BOTH arms (and her usual gusto) very soon!

Profile has been busy with end-of-the-year performances and with reviewing our performance repertoire. Fresh from our success at IES this year, we are eager to work on our brand-new competition package, so we will be starting off 2008 with renewed focus.

We look forward to seeing our fellow choruses at Winter Regional. Happy holidays to all of you, from all of us!

Paula Concannon

Rhythm of New Hampshire

Happy 2008 from RNH Show Chorus!

After many months of hard work and lots of laughs, we presented our second annual show entitled, Mumm's the Word at the Stockbridge Theater in Derry, NH. We wowed the audience with our uproariously funny musical comedy whodunit set in a 1920's speakeasy. Rolled up as gangsters, molls, show girls and even a pair of nuns our ladies really threw themselves into their roles! A big shout out to our amazing director Jessie Samuel, writing team of Renee Fellows and Casey Blais,

and nationally renowned SAI coaches Jane Tamarkin and Karen Sweeters for all their assistance with the show. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

December '07 was busy with several holiday sing events in the community. We caroled at The Upper Room, a nonprofit family resource center in Derry for their teen parents and tots holiday party. The children all sang along and we even ushered in Santa with a round of Here Comes Santa Claus. We also treated several nursing homes in the area with holiday songs and sing-alongs.

After Winter Regional we'll be gearing up for Contest. Jessie has chosen a new ballad to challenge our skills. We're also working on a full plate of new musical selections to carry us into the summer and fall. The New Year promises to be a busy year.

We have several performances after the New Year. We will be singing at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in Manchester, the Boston Flower Show, and we have just scheduled another "Barbershop Night at the Ballpark" for July 19th at the NH Fisher Cats Merchants Automotive Stadium in Manchester, NH. We'll not only be singing the National Anthem, but God Bless America during the 7th inning stretch. It's an Atlas Fireworks night too, so get your tickets early as we're sure to sell out our section quickly!

Last year was a whirlwind, and it looks like 2008 will be even busier! We all look forward to the new year and all it will bring to our "musical family".

Royal River

Once a year, Royal River Chorus holds a "Divas Wanted" program; four weeks of group singing lessons with Master Director, Chris Ferguson.

Participants work on posture, breath support, vocal range and flexibility while being introduced to the fundamentals of acappella singing in the barbershop style. Each hour-long session focuses on a specific skill, and

those skills are put to use learning a song in our chorus repertoire.

This fall we had an enthusiastic, talented group of women who really enjoyed their lessons, the music, and the camaraderie. Some signed up after reading an article in the newspaper. Some came because they had received a gift coupon for our program. There were also mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends of current members attending. Several of this year's Diva class are now preparing to join RRC, so we are delighted!

In other news, our wonderful quartet, Celebrate!, returned from contest in Calgary feeling very good about their performance. They placed 32nd in the world, improved their scores from their previous International contest, and felt totally at ease on stage. Royal River Chorus members couldn't be more proud of their hometown quartet!

We recently released our newest CD, Royal River Chorus - Live! This is our fourth CD. The songs were recorded in October 2006 during our show, "Runnin' Wild and Feelin' Groovy." Two bonus tracks are our 2007 Competition songs recorded live during at contest in Springfield.

Congratulations to our resident arranger, Anna Parker, whose arrangement of "My Heart Stood Still" will be published by International.

Congratulations to one of our younger members, Kirsten Russell, who is part of a statewide competition to determine the Best Young Solo Artist in Maine. Prior to the live competition in January, competitors collected votes online, based on music clips they submitted, and Kirsten got lots of votes!

We have had wonderful coaching sessions with Gail Jencik and Jim Arns this fall, and can't wait to entertain you at Winter Regional Weekend, where we will serve as a demo chorus by day, then perform on the Saturday night show.

Sound of New England

It's January and another year has gone into history as 2008 takes center stage. SONE's holidays were fun and busy with lots of Christmas performances. And don't all we Sweet Adelines love to bring our music and good cheer to folks everywhere?!

We presented our show "Everything's Coming up Roses" at the beautiful Belding Theater in Hartford on

October 27th. It was a great success with Susan Raff, a local TV special reporter, performing one number with us as a woman searching for her inner "Diva". What fun! Then, on November 22, we celebrated our 14th anniversary with cake and laughter. How did those years fly by so quickly?

SONE's membership is growing and soon we will have 91 singers on our brand new risers. (The old risers were donated to a local school system.) Wait a minute. I was just thinking. Perhaps we will have 92 singers. We may have added another person through all the body part replacements some of our members have had - knee replacements, hip replacement, heart valve replacement....hmmm....

Well, before we know it Spring will be here and Symphony Hall will resound with barbershop harmony. We will not be performing/competing this year as we are doing that in Hawaii in November. Now that our show and Christmas are over we are brushing up several contest pieces and learning two more. Just like every other chorus, we want to sing what works best for us to represent Region 1 the best that we can.

Good Luck to all our Region 1 choruses and quartets at competition in May. SONE members will be out there in the audience cheering you on! We know you'll be fabulous!

Valley Chords

It is snowing here in the Upper Valley and the beautiful sights outside put us all in the Holiday spirit. We've been practicing "Frosty the Snowman," "Winter is the Loveliest Time of the Year" and other songs about snow and ice for some time and now it all seem so relevant.

Valley Chords will perform these and other seasonal songs, Christmas carols and other melodies from our repertoire at La Salette Shrine, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, and several nursing homes over the next few weeks. We will take time out to celebrate our Chorus friendships with



Royal River Director Chris Ferguson shows off her latest class of Divas following their group vocal training session this fall. Front Row: Director-Christine Ferguson, Kate Phillips, Meg Distini, Sheryll Hanson. 2nd Row: Judy Hawkes, Christine Daventry, Mary Brooks, Jan Caron, Laurie-jane Kelley. Missing: Kim Fox, Gail Johnson, Emily Leonard, Jessica Morrison, Linda Woodbury

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a Holiday pot luck party at the Marion Carter Home in Lebanon.

Earlier this fall we joined The North Country Chordsmen in their show "Remembering the Music Man, 50th Anniversary of the Broadway Opening" which was held at the Lebanon Opera House. I suspect many of you are as surprised as I when you read that it has been FIFTY years since "The Music Man" opened on Broadway. Perhaps the happiness that singing brings makes time pass more quickly.

Our Chorus wishes everyone "Happy Winter." It is the loveliest time of the year, especially when you're in the midst of a magnificent snow storm.

Valley Shore

Fall is the time for autumn leaves, raking the lawn and reflecting on the past year. We'd love to do that, but we've been too busy! Besides throwing ourselves into rehearsing our new material, we put together a Halloween party to thank our loyal fans at Village South, our rehearsal hall. Naturally we all dressed up as witches, pussycats, ER Docs, and a personal favorite, Carolyn Douglas as Dorothy from Oz complete with ToTo! That part was played by Carolyn's Yorkie, Spirit. Our guests loved the singing and the food...all sugar-free and low-fat...NOT! For some reason we just can't help but have a good time, even

at an ordinary Tuesday night rehearsal. See Photo below!

November came and we had plans for a board training session with Deb Richards from Royal River, the terrific Bass in Celebrate!. We spent an informative and fun day with her at our director Heidi Zacceras' home. Ellen Newberry, our hard-working president, thought this could benefit us tremendously. Deb was exactly the right person to give us the direction we needed. With her new ideas, we can't help but to improve in the future. It was great to learn from someone with such extensive experience in all aspects of the Sweet Adeline world! Thank you, Deb!

We also were fortunate enough to have an all-day coaching session with the team of the "Loris" from Pennsylvania's Red Rose City Chorus in Lancaster. That would be Lori Jo Whithaus, director and Laurie Wood, associate director, respectively. When they are not busy coaching, they also sing in a quartet called Act 4 from Region 19. They traveled all the way to Middletown to coach us on our new songs for contest! We learned our vowels in a new way and learned to sing upside down! That is not always conducive to a stage performance, but it sounded great. We look forward to seeing them again in the Spring!

Before we realized it, we were in the Christmas Season. Our first performance was at the Old Saybrook Stroll, a fun-filled street fair put on by the local merchants. Since it was quite cold that evening, we all decided a stop at the local watering hole, er, I mean, Mexican restaurant, was in order. The picture below was taken after an impromptu song session there. As you can see, Mary



Blewitt, our tenor, and Cathy Villwock, our newest Lead were having a very good time! The next gig was at the Wadsworth Antheneum in Hartford at The Festival of the Trees. We sing there every year. This year we were the closing act of the week-end event and brought the house down with a few non-traditional rockin' songs. In the days that followed, one of our members, Ellen Wildman, booked us at her place of employment, The Simsbury Inn. We sang there two week-ends in a row, caroling through the dining room, private Christmas parties and even a wedding reception! Our smaller daytime group, Sparetime, was also busy with several engagements, including one where our visual team leader and bari, Bev Thorpe, subbed for Jeannette Fudge. It also happened to be a holiday party for Bev's Aunt Dottie's group! It is called the Music Group, an offshoot from the Old Saybrook Women's Club. Their purpose is to enjoy and encourage all types of music in the local community. We also made a return trip to Water's Edge, an assisted living and convalescence residence in Middletown. Then the entire chorus got together for a Christmas performance at Chester Village South. They graciously had a wine and



left to right facing front are Jane Zanardi, Betsy Kirk, Ruthanne Bell, Bev Thorpe and Heidi Zaccera

cheese reception for us afterwards. We discovered several former members of barbershop groups in the crowd. Heidi even managed to get a signed CD from a resident who sang with the Wiffinpoofs!

After Christmas, we're planning a little fund-raising at Hubbard Park in Meriden where the town displays the most fantastic holiday light show at night. It should prove to be a great get-together if we don't freeze our tootsies! We don't expect to slow down much in 2008 either. We'll be singing at the Martin Luther King Day celebration, also in Meriden. After that we'll see you all at the Winter Regional Weekend.

West Island Chorus

West Island Chorus has had a very busy time of it. We were offered the opportunity to sing through the summer months, with our Director Mark Lewis offering his house if the numbers got too small. Well, as we discovered, his house would not have been big enough! People went on vacation and break as they saw fit, with the rest of the chorus coming in to hone their skills. No stress, just lots of fun and a real blast!

Of course, we had to have a summer fundraiser thrown in! What better than to have a garage sale and BBQ? Well, if your Director has a house... (oops) I mean driveway and nice front lawn.... At the end of the day we made \$\$\$'s, and Mark made supper for the remaining crew. Nice to have a Director who knows his way around a kitchen. Yummy!! We closed the summer with a visit from Lorraine Rochefort, who graciously offered her time for PVI's as well as coaching our chorus.

September saw us as the hostesses at the Fall Regional weekend in Nashua, NH. Prem Neeff was in charge and was ably supported by the chorus. We not only made gift baskets – thanks go to Alida Rossy for the coordination – but sold all manner of crafts including 'antique' jewelry,

Sharon Dee's pet project. West Island truly enjoyed singing for the region, especially "Bring Him Home," which had been arranged for us by Lorraine Rochefort. Nice to have a Director who knows his way around a song. Ah!! The coaching we got the next morning was a wonderful bonus. We had the best time and would like to thank all of you that were there for the kind words and wonderful support.

On December 1st., West Island started the holiday season with a fabulous Christmas concert. It was highly successful, with the Chorus singing old and new multinational holiday music, as well as performances from quartets, a children's choir and a vocal ensemble. There was something for every one!

Our performing year (thanks to Bonnie MacLeod for the extra bookings) finished with multiple performances. We went from the mall to the Danish Society, to one of the local senior's residences and the West Island Palliative Care Center. Never let it be said that we don't go the extra mile through snow, wind and ice!

Now, we are looking forward to a bright New Year, with new music and lots of enthusiasm. On that note and on behalf of The West Island Chorus, let me take this opportunity to wish you all health and happiness in 2008!

In Harmony, Jane Sembera

**NEXT
TAGS & SWIPES
DEADLINE**

Spring 2008 issue and
contest program
MARCH 15

SHOW TIME

- June 28, 2008
Cranberry Shores Chorus Show
- October 18, 2008
Merrimack Valley Cabaret
- November 1, 2008
Colonial Spirit annual Cabaret

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