



# Tags & Swipes

## A Chorus with Heart

The West Island Chorus of Sweet Adelines is always looking for ways to give back to its community, so when member Helen Lewis's daughter, Maria, called to see if a small group could sing for the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre's grand opening, Abi Lancaster, our Performance Coordinator sent an octet to perform. Over a hundred and fifty people gathered to celebrate the official opening. (The Wellness Centre helps people encountering cancer and their families through professional resources, educational programs and many services, offering free compassionate support and information).

Several local dignitaries were on hand, as well as some cancer survivors. Bob Benedetti, the local mayor of Beaconsfield at the time, gave a moving speech about living with his wife who had cancer. The octet was requested to sing "It is Well with My Soul", an uplifting ballad, and a few other songs. They gave out pamphlets and brought the red banner to let people know who they were. It is in small ways like this that the West Island Chorus participates in community building. We are especially interested in causes that support women, since we are a women's chorus. We received a lovely thank you card from the Centre.

Shave to Save is part of many events organized by the Que-

bec Breast Cancer Foundation in October, for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our youngest member, Lieska Guzman, 16, in conjunction with her school, Beaconsfield High, decided to shave off her thick long locks and donate them to Locks of Love, to be made into a wig for someone with cancer. This was a special sacrifice, since this is her graduating year. Lieska told her mom, Abi, also a member of the WIC, that it "was more important to give my hair to someone who needs it" than to have long hair for prom.



*On the steps for the opening of the West Island Cancer Wellness Center*

this for you!"

Lieska raised \$3,125 altogether from friends and family, well over the \$2000 amount suggested, and this was partly with the help from generous members of the chorus who donated to her cause. The students raised a total of \$23,600 for a worthy cause.

Abi decided to join her daughter in the shaving venture, but kept this a secret. On the day of the event, she arrived at BHS to cut Lieska's hair and shave her head as previously arranged, but unbeknownst to Lieska, she had visited her own hair stylist that morning and had her hair shorn. Abi came up behind Lieska with a bandanna on her head (her sister in law had cancer last summer). Lieska said, Why do you have that scarf on your head? And Abi pulled it off, saying, "I did

# News from your Regional Management Team



Are you a chorus Team Coordinator or President who wants to learn to run meetings on a larger scale?! Are you a member of your chorus Management Team or Board who absolutely must expand (or just bust!) your administrative horizon?! Have you introduced yourself to me or any other member of your Regional Management Team and submitted a Talent Pool Form (which can be found on our Website)?!

I know - I know! You have heard these (exact) words from me before, but I am hopeful that this time and at this stage of your Sweet Adeline "career" that you are saying to yourself, "She is describing me!" A transition of team members can be so much more effective if a new team member comes on board feeling enlightened about her responsibilities. We strive to work together as a team and assist each other, but it is such a good feeling to have a basic understanding, to feel that you have made the right decision in accepting a position right from the start!

Call Me! Email Me! I am so-ooo ready to talk to you about what has been, and what continues to be an awesome and positive learning experience. The success of our organization as we move forward depends on each of us, our individual talents, efforts, and involvement both musically and administratively.

So, what do you see on your (personal) horizon? Don't wait another minute! Share your talents to make a difference behind the scenes! Take this opportunity to reach out and expand your Sweet Adeline horizon!!!! Your Regional Management Team - Your Region - needs You!!!!

In Harmony, Angie Levine, Team Coordinator, RMT

## Continuing Education...

- Jennifer Wold, Education Coordinator

Happy New Year! It hardly seems possible that it is 2010. Just seeing it in print is mind boggling. And we have lots of great stuff lined up for the year. The wonderful Chris Noteware is here for Winter Regional, bringing her zany sense of humor and infectious enthusiasm for all things Sweet Adeline. We are offering an hour of free coaching to any registered quartet that met the registration deadline. We are continuing to work on new regional songs, incorporating them into classes from tags to choreo. If you haven't purchased your copies of Fit As A Fiddle and Tuxedo Junction, be sure to check for them at the registration desk.

You have been hearing bits and pieces about the regional Harmony Train. We are continuing to schedule visits with chapters. This is an opportunity for your chorus to get an additional visit from faculty and RMT at your regular rehearsal. We will be meet-

ing with the management of each chorus over this weekend to share more information and schedule visits.

In addition, we are planning for RQA again this summer – details to follow. This is a great opportunity for quartets and those interested in quartetting to get some training from outside faculty. We hope to provide coaching sessions for quartets during the day as well.

Speaking of quartets, it is wonderful to see both familiar groups and new ones at the RQA Clubhouse at regional weekends. It is a chance for these quartets to try out new material, perform for their peers, and to feel the support of their sisters in the region. As a reminder, the Sweet Adelines International website has on it the "Basic Criteria for Public Performance." It is a good idea for quartets (and choruses) to periodically review these criteria and do a self-check.

It is important to remember that your audiences will always have a variety of people, and they may not all share your sense of humor or political leanings. Be sure that both the music and emceeing take that into account. As the guidelines say, "Good singing is the emphasis." It is important to remember that we are representing more than just our quartet. We also are ambassadors for our chorus, our region, and the International organization.

Lastly, we are thrilled to continue the YWIH Festival program this winter. If you see these young ladies in the halls, be sure to say hello. Directed by Julie Jeffrey, and with section leaders A Cut Above, we can look forward to an exciting performance on Saturday night.



### 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)

## Behind the scenes...

some key regional people whose jobs are rarely recognized

Meet **Amy Cravetz**, Housing Chair (acravetz@comcast.net) in her own words:

Most of the Sweet Adelines who live and sing in Region #1 don't live in the areas where the hotels are located for our regional weekends. That's why the region needs a Regional Housing Chairperson to collect the housing lists from all the choruses, quartets, CALs, guests, and sometimes vendors for each event. That's my job – challenging at times, but I feel that I am up to that challenge!

The hotels chosen for the regional events are selected by the Events Coordinator (currently Laura Pienkowski), and these venues are contracted for several years in advance. For contest, we have contracts with the Marriott and the Sheraton in Springfield for a number of years in advance. I get the pricing from the Events Coordinator, set up the deadlines for getting the information to me, receive all the housing lists from the choruses and others needing housing for the weekend, and then I turn around and send the housing information to the contact at the hotel. I know the deadlines may sometimes seem too early for the event, but it takes me several weeks to review all the paperwork and payments, make copies, and send the information out to the hotels. Additions, deletions and changes can all happen up to 72 hours before the event without losing any room deposits. Speaking of deposits, our regional Financial Coordinator, Ingrid Friedman, is now accepting credit card room deposits for the three regional events. Please contact her for more information. Chorus, Quartet, or CAL deposit checks are still welcome!

I hate to complain, but this is the only forum that I might get to do that. Particularly at contest time, there are a number of individuals who stay in different rooms over the three nights in Springfield. While it is fun for you, it is a lot of work for me and for the good people at the Springfield Marriott and Sheraton hotels. If there is anything that I could change, it would be to ask people to stay in the same room for the entire weekend. But I understand that individuals need to be with their quartets on Thursday night, and with their chorus the rest of the weekend, which might mean one or two room moves. On a positive note, both hotels in Springfield really have their acts together in regards to check-in on Thursday and Friday. The complaints on both sides have gotten fewer and fewer.

Something else that Region #1 members may not know is that we need to reserve a certain number of rooms for each of the regional weekends, in order to get the function rooms that we use for classes, shows, and meals for little or no cost to the region. So far, we have been able to meet our contracted numbers, but who knows what will happen in the future? The region wants to provide the best facilities with the best faculty and best education possible. Therefore, we need everyone's cooperation by your attendance at as many weekends as you can, and when possible, stay a night or two in the hotel. It's a lot of fun, you don't have to drive home late at night, you can spend time with your friends, and you can usually make some new friends as well!

I am always interested in feedback after each event, so feel free to contact me to tell me about the good, the bad, and (hopefully not) the ugly that happens with each hotel where we stay. I will pass that information on to the Events Coordinator, and that may adjust the thinking as to whether or not to use that hotel again, or if more serious action needs to be taken.

I cannot finish this article about regional housing without mentioning my predecessor, and my housing mentor, Jeanne Allen. Jeanne did this job for a number of years, before so much of it was done on a computer. I appreciate all the time she spent with me showing me the ropes. She was a tough act to follow, but I hope I have done her proud.



## **Region One Arrangers Retreat (ROAR) Saturday, May 8, 2010**

Region One has a proud, and active, tradition of providing training for Arrangers of Barbershop Music. For many years, Linda Masterson opened her home on Cape Cod and hosted the Region One Arrangers' Retreats (ROAR) with guest arrangers such as Marge Bailey and Jo Lund. Many of the attendees have been introduced to arranging for the first time; some have honed their skills; and still others have gone on to become Certified Arrangers, such as Sharon Holmes and Lorraine Rochefort.

In 2010 the tradition continues. This year's Region One Arrangers' Retreat (ROAR) will be a one-day session on Saturday May 8. Our fantastic guest instructor will be Region One's very own Certified Arranger, Lorraine Rochefort. Music will be sent out to anyone interested in attending. Attendees with some experience with arranging are asked to arrange the song, write an intro and a tag if you can and bring several copies of your arrangement to the Retreat. We will spend the day with Lorraine working through the song, seeing how each of us treated the various sections, and learning as we go. While the day is planned for people with some arranging experience, anyone is welcome to attend and learn.

The Retreat will be held in Wilmington, Massachusetts at the Wilmington Arts Council Building, the rehearsal hall for the Merrimack Valley Chorus. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to Ruth Widerski at [bariten1@yahoo.com](mailto:bariten1@yahoo.com) or call 781-862-6634. Directions will be provided. Let Ruth know if you plan to attend, and if you will need a place to stay if you have to drive from a long distance. Registration is free. Lunch will be at your expense.

If you have questions that are not answered here, please contact Ruth at the email or phone number above.



# Membership News

Judy Lang, Membership Coordinator



How's it Going? The holiday season is behind us. Many choruses have membership drives connected with holiday performances. Have you tried this? If so, has it worked? I encourage you to look at your membership drive efforts and brainstorm what has worked and what, with a little tweaking, could work better. Remember, much of the success of a membership drive comes through your marketing efforts. Terrie Mavros, regional marketing coordinator, is a wealth of information and a wonderful resource in this area. I suggest you contact her for marketing ideas (terriebari@yahoo.com).

Let me hear from you on what's going on in your choruses. Remember, things are easier to adjust/fix/etc when they are in the early stages of evolution. All of us on your RMT are available to help.

In Harmony, Judy Lang, Reg. Membership Coordinator

## YOUR REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

In back: **Sue Martin**, Communications (martin@skmassociates.net); Middle: **Judy Lang**, Membership Coordinator (judytenor@sbcglobal.net); **Terrie Mavros**, Marketing Coordinator (terriebari@yahoo.com); **Angie Levine**, Team Leader (letsharmonize@sbcglobal.net); **Julie Jeffery**, Directors Coordinator (juliejeffery@yahoo.com); Front: Laura Pienkowski, Events Coordinator (apienkowski@snet.net); **Ingrid Friedman**, Finance Coordinator (ingrid.bf@live.com). Missing: Jennifer Wold, Education (JWold@CrossAgency.com)

### save the dates!

#### Upcoming Events

15-18 April 2010

Regional Competition  
Springfield, MA

17-19 September 2010

Fall Regional Weekend  
Nashua, NH with Molly  
Huffman and Lynne Smith

October 19-23 2010:

International Competition  
Seattle, WA

21-22 January 2011

Winter Regional Weekend  
Newton, MA  
Faculty: Sandy Robinson  
and Renee Porzel

#### Check the Region

**One website for all of  
the upcoming chorus  
shows!**

**www.sai-region1.org**



### Reflections of a Newbie at Fall Regional 2009

When we arrived at the hotel they somehow must have gotten the idea that we were a loud and rowdy group because they separated us on five different floors.

Part of the entertainment on Friday evening was the Tag Contest. Some of the members of our chorus fudged their birth dates and got in the group that acted tipsy and sang about "throwing their thongs". Oh my! But the judges thought it was a great act and awarded them first place.

When we decided to go out to dinner across town, the restaurant kept moving away from us. We thought it was only in Maine that "you can't get there from here". We finally all caught up with the restaurant, no thanks to our GPS systems or Newton's Byzantine street layout.

At the restaurant we found out that we had a kleptomaniac in our group. A certain bass tried to convince the waitress that she didn't have a butter knife. Lo and behold, it turned up in her purse. She said it must have fallen in there. A likely story!

The people next to us in the restaurant were celebrating a birthday, so when they started singing "Happy Birthday", we joined in with our beautiful four-part harmony. They thanked us and asked if we were all teachers. We told them, "No, just happy Sweet Adelines".

What fun we had and we learned a lot.

Mabel Soucy, Mollycokett Chorus

## A ROYAL RETIREMENT

After 13-1/2 years as Director of the Royal River Chorus in Yarmouth, Maine, Chris Ferguson is retiring. During her time with Royal River, the chorus qualified twice for IES, winning the inaugural Harmony Classic for mid-size choruses in 2000 and again in 2002. The chorus also qualified as a wild card for International competitions in Phoenix, Detroit & Nashville.

A member of Sweet Adelines for 35 years, Chris' first directing job was with North River in Hanover, MA. The first coach she ever worked with was Barbara Farrell, and Chris says, "I went into contest knowing we were together and in tune, and that was about all I knew." From there Chris went to Liberty Belle, and in 1992 moved to Maine with her husband Ralph.

Once in Maine, Chris joined Royal River and served as the choreographer and Assistant Director. In 1996 when RRC's first director, Lorraine Barrows, was tapped to work for Sweet Adelines International, Chris took over. "In the beginning, when I was sure that singing in the front row was "heaven," I thought directing could never be as much fun. But Tori Postma (director of Mountain Jubilee in Salt Lake City) told me that directing was like playing a big pipe organ, and evoking the sound from so many loving friends would take me to a magical place. She was so right, and sharing that sound on stage with an audience is what I have loved most."

Asked what her favorite memory is of her time directing Royal River, Chris replied, "I remember asking the chorus 'Will you have special memories of the Millenium, 2000?' That year we won first place in the first Harmony Classic. All week at IES I watched my chorus making friends with women from around the world. Singing "Sweet Adeline" to our new friends was an incredible high for us. And then to top it off, we won!"

Over the years, Chris has directed the chorus in a wide variety of songs, but her favorite is "This Is The Moment." She sees it as a "song about seizing opportunities, taking risks no matter what the odds – a song that tells the story of Royal River Chorus."

And what is next for this intrepid performer? Well, first and foremost, more time with her wonderful husband of 43 years. For much of their marriage, Ralph worked nights, so they had little opportunity to get out and do things together. They plan to see more of their grandchildren, do more traveling, and just enjoy their beautiful home in the country. Last year Chris took up oil painting and she is looking forward to much more time to devote to that new skill. And lastly, Chris will be taking a Sweet Adeline tour to Italy in 2011 – traveling to Rome, Florence, Venice and Assisi. Her ancestors

are all from Italy, and Chris believes she inherited her hand skills from her Italian grandmother. She is excited about being able combine sightseeing with singing and painting!

Of course, leaving the chorus is bittersweet. When asked what she will miss the most, Chris got a little misty and said, "I will miss seeing the smiling faces of my chorus members every week. That is by far the hardest part of leaving. It is a powerful thing to have people share their voices with you."



# SPLENDORS OF ITALY!

**JUNE 6-15,  
Ext. June 15-19,  
2011**



**Venice**



**Assisi**



**Rome**

**10 days/8 nights - \$1,899**

**Amalfi Coast Extension**

**4 days/4nights - \$1,125**

**LAND ONLY**



**Amalfi Coast**

**Contact: Chris Ferguson - [fergsings@securespeed.us](mailto:fergsings@securespeed.us)**  
**Patsy Meiser - [patsymeiser@att.net](mailto:patsymeiser@att.net) - [www.harmony-travel.net](http://www.harmony-travel.net)**

# Chorus Lines



## Champlain Valley Chorus

The Champlain Valley Chorus has had a busy four months starting with the completion of our yearly "Highway-clean-up" duties. Starting in the spring we clean up the highway four times ending in October.

We also were preparing for Christmas performances and love singing Christmas music. Of course we wanted to look a little different this year, so our costume chairpersons, Gayle and Bonnie, found a good deal on velour Christmas green outfits with a touch of silver sparkle on the top and really looked very flattering and festive.

Our first occasion to wear it was for the local Public Broadcasting Channel's taped Christmas concert. Local talent and musical groups from the surrounding area and schools sing Christmas songs and it is televised during the holiday season. Our portion was taped on November 11th which gave us a good start on working on our Christmas package.

November 18th found us singing at the local mall for "A Night of Giving". Tickets were sold by the members and participating stores gave discounts. Money collected for the sale of the tickets was given back to the performing groups. What a fun way to make money!!

A local Catholic School sponsored a craft fair in the beginning of December. Like "Wandering Minstrels" we traveled from room to room and sang and sang! We also got some shopping done!

Each year, we and the local Men's Barbershop Chorus put on a free concert for our friends who have supported us throughout the year. This year the concert was December 6th. One of the participating quartets was Meter Maids who sang their version of "Scarlet Ribbons". It was beautiful and certainly helped to make the concert a big success.

Also in December we had the opportunity to sing for a church dinner in a nearby town and earlier that week, we rang the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive. Fortunately we were able to stand inside and we

spent three hours "ringin' and singin'!!

In between all this we found time to have our own Christmas party at a local restaurant. Past members were invited and we also saw some new faces.

All in all we've been busy this fall and so far this winter and looking ward to the Winter Regional weekend. We're hoping the New Year brings us new members and as much fun as we've had this past year.

## Coastline Show Chorus

Hello, again from Coastline! We are back from Nashville totally blown away by the highest-scoring International Competition ever. It was a privilege to be there representing Region One and to finish in the top ten! What a week it was and we wish to extend our congratulations to Royal River, Millennium Magic and A Cut Above who shared the magic with us.

As all of you know, Coastline stretched itself a little this time around by including "OOTers" (Out of Town-ers) from several states and two other countries. This involved our Music Team and Management Team working hard to amend our Standing Rules to establish guidelines that would both maintain chorus standards and clearly define the rules for those participants. Special attention was paid to the needs of remote learners and we mastered the transmission of digital audio recordings and posting choreo to YouTube.

It all worked out much better than we could hope. We made some very special friends who both worked hard and had fun. Below is an excerpt from an article our Scottish OOTers (who enthusiastically claimed our affectionate nickname of SCOOTers) wrote for the Region 31 newsletter.

"In the spring of 2008, during a coaching session with Mac4 quartet in Scotland, Gail Jencik, invited us to join her chorus as 'ooters' (out of towners) and accompany them to sing in International Contest in Nashville in 2009. We looked at our various commitments and realized that 3 of us, Elspeth, Maureen and Elaine, were in a position to explore the prospect more fully. So started an incredible journey, which taught us so much and brought 90 new friends into our lives! It also led us all the way to the International Finals and the proud possession of 7th place International medals out of some 600 choruses world-wide. We believe we are the only members of Region 31 to have experienced barbershop singing in a chorus at that level.

So, back to the beginning. As we had no idea what we were taking on, we decided it would be a good idea to have a trial run. We took the first steps, to familiarize ourselves with the music, learn the audition piece and attend a coaching weekend with Coastline in the autumn of 2008.



"SCOOTers with Dale, Gail & Turkey

At the end of that weekend we made the final decision to commit to a year as dual members with Coastline. Almost immediately after advising Gail of this, she emailed us all of the music, seven songs with learning media!! One of the potential finals package songs had been selected as the audition piece, so we jumped on that first! We also became the 'Scooters' - Scottish out of towners and, over the next twelve months this seeped into the language of Coastline - more of that later! We have to mention our virtual 'Scooter' our amazing Mac4 Lead, Carol Butters. She was so supportive, volunteering to learn all the music with us along the way, so we could practice with all four parts. At our Mac4 regular Monday rehearsals, we would take a little time to sing through the Coastline songs and Carol would listen, encourage and sing along with us.

We had an action packed rehearsal that first night, with Joe Connelly coaching the chorus. The chorus had also learned the tag for 'Scotland the Brave' and, when they sang that to us as a welcome, we cried! It was to be the first of many emotional moments! Everyone was so welcoming and excited to have us there, we felt like celebrities! The rest of the weekend passed in a flash, with extra choreography rehearsals planned for us, chats about costumes and financial matters, etc. It was also a coaching weekend with Dale Syverson, so we were really in at the deep end, having to keep up with all of the things Dale and Joe were teaching the chorus.

Of course, after that amazing weekend, we were HOOKED! We let Gail know we wanted to go ahead with the project and started working on all of the other songs, so that we could pass those too. We couldn't

have done this without all the electronic postings Coastline did for us. Not only the songs and learning tracks, but when there were any interpretation changes they would be posted too. We also got section rehearsal recordings and, of course, lots of choreography on You Tube! We made 3 other trips, although Elaine sneaked in another one in May - she must have needed the extra work! Before we knew it we were in Nashville and on stage!

This whole experience has shown us all just what a truly International organization we have in Sweet Adelines. Apart from the Scooters, Coastline also had 2 ooters from Australia and lots from other States in the USA. It was an amazing journey for us and we want to thank Gail and Coastline Show Chorus. It was a very innovative, generous and brave invitation that Gail extended to us and we will always be grateful to her for having such vision and generosity. We also made 90 new friends and their acceptance of us was overwhelming. We count ourselves very privileged to have had this incredible opportunity. As a mark of our gratitude, we wanted to leave Coastline with something to remind them of our time together. We bought a traditional Scottish dish, called a Quaich, which is a friendship drinking cup and had it inscribed, 'The Nashville Scooter Award' and we presented this to Gail and her Music Team for their determination in making this whole project work. Of course they sang the 'Scotland the Brave' tag to us again and we cried buckets, but that's how it's meant to be isn't it?! Follow your dreams, no request is too extreme!"

Maureen, Elspeth, Elaine (and Carol!)

Mac4 Quartet, Proud Dual Members Of Coastline and 7th Place International Chorus Medalists

The Coastline "in-towners" already miss our Scooters. We made special friends "across the pond" and had the chance to observe hard work and dedication up close and personal.

- Lillian McDaniel

## Colonial Spirit Chorus

Colonial Spirit Chorus has fond memories of our co-founder Peg Scott and we wish her well as she embarks on her new life in Florida. Her tenacious attitude and wonderful bass voice will make us smile every time we think of her. As a 25 yr member of Sweet Adelines, she had garnered a lot of experience in every aspect of chorus life and willingly shared

her knowledge with us. She worked very hard to make sure that every member in our chorus had an opportunity to grow and



her enthusiasm never waned. We will miss her intensely, but we are happy that she is following her dream.

We welcome two new leads to our chorus: Brenda Jones and Mary Bunker and our Membership Committee is working diligently to try to increase membership in 2010. We've started to increase our performances and were quite busy in the Fall.

Congratulations to Gina Hubbard in being selected to the Music Staff as one of our Section Leaders for the Leads. She is very confident both on stage and in her ability to help the Leads understand the musical objectives. We will miss one of our Bass Section Leaders - Deb Clark since she decided to leave the chorus after almost 12 yrs. We will think of her as one of our Barbershop BFF (Barbershop Best Friends Forever).

Heather Mullins, Linda Green, Pat Marais and our Director Norma Murray had the great pleasure to be in Nashville to participate in the Guinness World Record during last Fall's SAI competition as part of the 6,651 people involved in the Largest Singing Lesson ever. It was fun to get a little publicity for our chorus in our local newspapers as a result of our participation and even more fun being there in person to hear that intense resonant sound as we sang under Peggy Gram's instruction.

## Cranberry Shores Chorus

What a busy Fall we've had! It seems as if we haven't stopped since hosting the Fall Regional. Many thanks to everyone in Re-

gion One who helped make this a special weekend for the "Rhinestone Cowgirls". A special treat on Saturday night was the announcement that the 2009 Marge Bennett Angel Award was given to our own Sara Walden.

We've had several coaching sessions with Gail Jencik on Saturdays and at Tuesday evening rehearsals. The music committee has introduced new criteria for contest eligibility, so extra section rehearsals, taping and individual practicing abound.

Several members attended this year's International Contest in Nashville. Once again, all the participants from Region One made us proud.

For the second consecutive year we have our "Harmonize The Holidays" program in place. Guests are invited to learn part of our holiday repertoire, and eight women have been rehearsing with us since the beginning of October. We hope to have sparked their interest in becoming members.

Several holiday performances have taken place. The first was Saturday, November 28, at the lovely Highfield House in Falmouth. We sang at the Hyannis Stroll, Heritage House and Museum in Sandwich, two performances at the Hyannis Cape Cod Mall, and finally, our Winter concert in Falmouth, where we were joined by the Notescapes, an a capella men's group from the Falmouth area.

It wouldn't be the Christmas season without our annual holiday party. This year, as many times in the past, it was held at the home of our assistant director, Dee Pelletier. Along with delicious food, music and a gift swap we brought donations for local food banks, another annual tradition.

Finally, the first Saturday of January we shall have our "2010 Kickoff" rehearsal, a half day of working in sections, quartets and other fun and educational ways of making music.

We hope to see many of you at Winter Regional in Burlington.

Happy New Year!

- Sally Anderson

## Farmington Valley Chorus

Meet Minnie and Lulu Pickett... they showed up to the performance late, wearing the wrong costume, talked loudly through the whole show and Minnie even took a call on her cell phone!!! All in jest of course for our very successful Fall show



"Born For the Stage" at Wethersfield High School November 21. Along with the chorus the show featured the Simsbury High School Men's and Women's Acappella Groups, Without Warning (Cheryl Wilcox, Cathy Saunders, Anne Benowitz, Karen Sweeters) and Joy Ride!! (Laura Towles, Carol Wilson, Amy Sheehan) with substitute bass Beth Paul from the International Champions "Millennium Magic" filling in for Kristin Martin who was off singing at a wedding in New Zealand. Beth did a fabulous job! If we didn't tell the audience about the switch, I'm sure no one would have known. Our special guests were the men's champion quartet Our Town who dazzled the audience with their harmonies and humor. A wonderful night continued on into the wee hours of the morning with a very entertaining and yummy afterglow.

The holidays came on strong after massive turkey consumption. We performed our holiday program for churches, assisted living homes and senior centers.

Our quartet On Tap (Laura Riley, Rebecca Hardee, Nancy Propfe and Melissa Blais) visited at the home of one of our members who recently had back surgery. They did their Christmas program to brighten her holiday. The chorus even found time to get together for our annual Christmas party where warm, thoughtful helpful gifts like Snuggi's, snow globes and ceramic plates were exchanged.

Now it's time to straighten up and fly right towards contest. We are really looking forward to our coaching sessions with Jim Arns, Judy Olsen and Ida Biladeau. Our

new members are ready to experience lots of make-up, false eyelashes and All-In-Ones. There's rumors of new costumes in the works to go along with our new song. Hard work ahead, but we're ready and excited for it.

our version of, "A Buck-A-Roo Christmas" complete with horses and reindeer, Santa "Tina" Fe and the chorus dressed as their favorite western hero topped off with their own ingenious creativity and a flair for life on the penderosa. A SRO crowd also welcomed the Quantum Quartet of 16 Saugus High School Girls, our very own Terri Sherman sharing a little bit of Hannukah beauty with us, and the 10th Year Reunion Celebration of Club N.E.D. – who tore the roof off the barn!

Now we're gearing up for contest! In-between, we will offer a recruitment program aptly named, "So, You Think You Can Sing"; will perform for our long-week-end Valentine's love(r)s in either English or Spanish; get some outstanding coaching from Steve Tramack and will take the stage in our brand-new costumes full of sparkle and shine. The Harborlight Show Chorus will add rock-star energy and plan to bring the love of singing and the excitement of performance to our audience!

Wishing all Region One Contestants your best-on-stage-ever sing – much love to all, The Harborlighters!

-Adele Penkul

## Greater Montreal Chorus

Hello all,

Greater Montreal has had a busy Fall season. We began with our Director Joy Kertland's mentor's visit (Lee Davison), during which Lee also gave the chorus many helpful hints on vocal production. Next visit was Karen Sweeters for coaching, which added a lot to our knowledge of expression and use of our "mask".

Joy has instigated "blending" workshops every month or so, and they have been extremely helpful for small groups to get together and work at specific vocal tasks. The participants have learned a lot about blending that they can take back and incorporate in the larger chorus. Our choreo team has been working diligently, and new costumes are on our schedule.

A happy holiday season to each of you. Ring your bells for harmony!

- Shira Karpati

## Harborlight Chorus

It's always a challenge to write an article for the Tags & Swipes – especially in December when we're still winding down from all of our holiday performances! We were thrilled and delighted to sing for so many audiences who loved both the classic and traditional renditions of our arrangements.

This past December, we finished with a bang-bang, shoot'em up as we presented

## Harmony on the Sound

Here it is January already and we are into a brand new year! It is hard to think back and recall everything we accomplished in the last few months. This fall we held a successful membership drive. Lots of ladies came out to learn about barbershop and rehearse holiday music with us in preparation for our holiday show. We attracted some very talented women that will be a great asset to our chorus.

The holiday season was incredibly busy for us. We kicked off the season by singing Hanukah songs for the Rabbi Rocks cable show. Our next gig was at the end of November for the town of Trumbull tree lighting ceremony. This was followed up with our holiday cabaret show. Our newest members worked hard to get ready for the show and had a fabulous time performing on stage and singing some wonderful barbershop harmony. Our friends and family raved about the music and the food and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We had a great turn out despite snow and rain that night-a little bad weather would never deter our wonderful HOTS fans!

Oxford High School invited us to perform at their Holiday Spectacular. The audience was terrific and we had a great



time. Karen led us all in a sing along and it seemed to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Afterwards, we enjoyed some much needed sustenance at a local pizza parlor. We also performed for the St. Joseph's Manor residents. Our rehearsal room is located in St. Joe's and it is a wonderful opportunity to share some of our music with this appreciative and deserving group. We wrapped up the year with caroling for Marlo Thomas and Phil Donahue and family on Christmas Eve. Everyone had fun and it was a great finish to 2009!

With barely a chance to catch our breath we jumped right back into the swing of things with our annual chorus day. This is our day to shake out the cobwebs and get focused for the next big task....getting ready for competition. We are also looking forward to our retreat with Vicki Maybury in February, at the beautiful Dolce Center located in Norwalk. Her energy and enthusiasm are infectious!

Harmony on the Sound wishes everyone a happy and peaceful 2010!

## Heart of Maine Chorus

Greetings from "The Heart of Maine",

It's been a very busy year for our chorus. We have gained four new members bringing us to a grand count of 17 members at this time.

During the summer months we performed at a memorial service for a men's barbershop singer well know to our area, Dave Klocko. It was a wonderful celebration of Dave's musical life and we were proud to be included. Many of our

members had known Dave for many years. Others met him when his group, "Mainely Music" joined our chorus for our spring fundraiser at the University of Maine in Orono. This year our goal was to help the family of one year old Maggie Rudnicki. Maggie's family is currently facing high medical expenses associated with her serious blood disorder.

Our chorus also performed at several parks for the people of our surrounding communities this summer.

October 3rd found us happily donating back to back performances at Bangor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. One performance was at the nursing facility and brought great joy to the residents. The other was at a fund-raiser held next door on the same day. Their proceeds were aimed at making improvements to their very old facility. We were happy to help with this effort. We even allowed them to put us up for bid in their live auction. I am happy to report that the 30 minute performance we donated raised more money than any other item in the auction that day. We were thrilled!

Our director, Mary Anne McFadden has attended Directors workshops in Detroit and here in Region 1. She brought back many great ideas and techniques which have helped us a great deal.

We were also blessed with visits from two great directors this year, Rusty Mende from Delaware and May Downs from Canada. We loved them both. It was an honor to have them and we learned so very much from each.

This winter we continued to be very busy. On December 4th we appeared on a local radio show, the Ric Tyler/George Hale show of WVOM FM 103.9. We had three engagements at local nursing and retirement homes and sang at a church Christmas program.

Our most exciting event this winter was a fund-raising event that took place at Dysart's Restaurant in Hampden. It was

a spaghetti dinner and we sang several Christmas tunes that the audience loved.

We finished with a comedy rendition of "My Favorite Things" which was performed by Julie Andrews at Manhattan to commemorate her 69th birthday. It spoke of dentures and fixtures and several other aging calamities. We passed out the words so that the audience could join in. They absolutely loved it. The event was a huge success.

We look forward to the Winter Regional and Spring Competition and continue to work hard to improve our performance to the best it can be.

Hope to see you all there!

- Kathy Cheverie

## Heart of the Valley

Holidays and performances were the highlights of the season! We are thankful and excited television has played a big part in the recent promotion of a cappella singing, barbershop style. The networks are getting on board, lucky us! Among the programs, the December NBC show "Sing-Off" was seen by millions of viewers. We heard and watched Max Factor do their thing! Talk about free advertising for SAI!

Ellen Bledsoe is our spunky new bari from Mt Holyoke College! Born in California, now from Georgia, she brings her experienced rich voice and energy to HOV! She is a freshman, so we're hoping to keep her musically happy for the next few years!

And our semi-newbies, Toby and Sandy are awesome! It is proved over and over, each new voice adds such fullness and new dimension, every member benefits. Our barbershop harmony just gets better and better! Thus, the October performance in Chicopee at Loomis was warm and wonderful!

Recovery from their Palmer, MA house fire has been the focus for John and (bari) Carol LaChance. Thankfully, no one was hurt. It took a few weeks, but all has been cleaned up and they are home again. And Carol only missed two rehearsals! John and Carol are a dedicated husband and wife team valued by HOV. She is our talented costume chair and he is our efficient CEO of riser transport.

Thanks to John, we are very spoiled! He is sure our risers are at every venue ahead of time, all set up and ready to go. There are also other husbands who help our chorus run smoothly, and we love them all.

of the



Heart of Maine at Oct 3rd Bangor Nursing and Rehabilitation Art Show Fund-Raiser

## Tags & Swipes, Winter 2010

**V**ery snazzy are we! Carol arranged for HOV to have casual tops made with our logo in sparkles. So pretty, we have worn them to sing at small venues, and so comfy we can wear them anywhere! One time was before our annual Christmas party when we sang for the residents of Millhouse in Greenfield, MA. Their festive community room is our favorite spot to party and we are so happy Ginny lives there! In the spirit of Christmas, we took up a collection. The bags of food filled the back of Judy M's van, and were donated to the local food bank.

**A**s it was not a regular rehearsal night, we played and ate more than we sang. Getting to know each other better is a key ingredient to a healthy, harmonious chorus. The fun of opening a gift by number showed we have some very creative members. "Consumable" was the requirement, laughter was the true gift.

**L**oving to perform and to please Maggie, HOV was willing to show up at a senior center in mid November for their annual Thanksgiving dinner, just one hour before a scheduled coaching session. We sang a short program, hopped in our cars and drove 10 minutes, all warmed up for the one and only Marion D.!

**L**et us be thankful it worked! And we looked unusually sharp for a rehearsal (yes, those fab new tops)!

**E**very chorus thrives because of the dedication of its members. We at HOV are blessed; no matter what the "outside world" is doing, we find time and energy for singing together.

**Y**ankee Candle in Deerfield, MA welcomed us again for two Christmas performances in the same afternoon. The crowds loved hearing those holiday familiar tunes; and as always the kids enjoyed "helping" Maggie ring all her jingle bells!

We finished our performance year singing for the public at Florence Congregational Church, filling the sanctuary with all sorts of Christmas and patriotic songs. Our "script" was a collection of Christmas cards holding pretend messages from former members of the chorus. What an easy, fun way to introduce each song! The audience joined in whenever they heard a familiar tune, which was most of the time. We sparkled and smiled and enjoyed every minute. I think that's when we most appreciate the talents we were born to share!

Not to forget the melodious quartet

Straight From The Heart, their songs continue to entertain the Pioneer Valley.

On their recent holiday visit to Cooley Dickinson Hospital, SFTH added a few more voices to sweeten the atmosphere with Christmas carols. Surely the nursing staff as well as the patients were warmed by the blends of barbershop harmony on that cold December night.

Happy New Year Everyone!

- Joyce Monska

## Liberty Belle Chorus

The leaves have fallen and the seasons change, but LBC's fun and enthusiasm remains at a high level. One of the reasons that we are so excited is the addition of our new members. We are thrilled to welcome 5 new members to our LBC family: Heather Roe, Kate Leitermann, Rosemary Ford, Cara Kalf, and Alice Austin are shown in the photo here from left to right. Our new Baby Belles are talented, enthusiastic and motivated, and bring

their energy and excitement to the chorus. We are thrilled that they chose the Liberty Belle Chorus. They are happily learning the LBC repertoire and are adding their voices to our chorus.

It's hard to believe that at the time of this writing, the holiday season is over – wasn't it just summer?? We have kept very busy by sharing our love of music and entertaining at many performance venues; we have performed at the spectacular Lombardo's in Randolph for a very appreciative audience and caroled for shoppers at the elegant Chestnut Hill mall. However, the highlight of our holiday season was being asked to sing on the stage of the Huntington theatre in Boston (picture on the next page) as the audience filed into the auditorium for the production of A Civil War Christmas. Last



LBC at Lombardos



Gooch, and are excited with our new contest package. We have just begun to learn our new choreo and it is great! Thanks Mary and Joyce! Be prepared for a new LBC look at contest this year as we perform in

our new costumes.

Hope you all had a safe and joyous holiday season. We look forward to seeing you at Winter Regional.

Charlotte Temple

### MetroWest Harmony Chorus

Our young chorus has been undergoing an incredible transformation. At the conclusion of our membership drive (held 4 Wednesdays, October 28-November 18), we acquired 11 wonderful new members, virtually doubling the size of our chorus!! How exciting is that? Having sat out last year, we are doubly psyched about participating in Contest this coming April.

Early December found us entertaining the Women's Fellowship group of the First Congregational Church, in Marlborough, where our rehearsals are held. Our performance, which included jazz and country songs and a Christmas tunes sing-a-long, was very well-received by the ladies!



*MetroWest Harmony Chorus has grown!*

summer we were invited to sing on the grand staircase of the Wang Theatre for the production of A Color Purple, but at the Huntington, we actually performed on the stage. It was a thrill! Other choirs and choruses from the Boston area sang at different performances of A Civil War Christmas including our sister SAI chorus, Island Grove Chorus. The audience was very generous with their applause and approached us during intermission to remark on how much they enjoyed the performance. Since the stage was fairly small, we were only able to bring 25 chorus members, but some audience members remarked that we sounded as if we had many more voices.

We continue to become more electronically proficient. We have updated our LBC website to include electronic sign up sheets and other performance information. No more yellow sign up sheets on the bulletin board!!

Congratulations to the Coastline Show Chorus, Millennium Magic, and Royal River who represented Region 1 at International Competition in Nashville. Those of us who were not able to attend in person watched you from our living rooms and were thrilled to see you perform. About 15 Belles went to Nashville and some attended the Melodeers educational class. One of our members, Malin Goodwin, audio-taped the entire Melodeers session, uploaded it to our website, and in addition, took notes on the session and posted them on our site to make them available for us. Those of us who weren't able to see the Melodeers, were able to hear the session, read Malin's notes and obtain valuable information straight from Jim, Renee and the other Melodeers on how to run an effective rehearsal.

As all of Region 1 is preparing for contest in April, so are we. We are being coached by Jim Arns and Ann

Mid December brought a Christmas / Holiday party. In the past, we held a fun Yankee Swap, in addition to our pot luck supper. This year, in light of the tough economic times, we decided to donate toys, clothes, gifts and wrappings to an organization called Holiday Helpers, which distributed the presents to local children and families in need. There was plenty of good homemade food, good cheer, and good music at the celebration-even a "spirited" performance by the lively quartet, Treblesome! Thanks again, Ladies!

We hope that the New Year, two thousand ten

Brings peace, love and harmony to all women...and men!

And in the New Year... don't forget to say "Hello!" if you see us at Winter Regional. We will be the ones wearing big smiles on our faces! In mid February, MetroWest Harmony will be taking advantage of a wonderful opportunity to be coached by the incomparable arranger, Lorraine Rochefort. Then in March, we get to experience our beloved coach, Jo Lund. We are cheerfully gearing up (and getting our "preh" voices ready) for our chorus retreat with her. She is very skilled at helping us put the sparkle and finishing touches into our package!

Lastly, we would be remiss if we neglected to mention our dynamic director, Laura Murray. She is full of energy and optimism, constantly striving to bring out our best sound, while reinforcing good vocal

skills. Her invaluable advice to “smell the bread” (take a snuff breath) or “lift and hold out the ends of the phrases!” is, hopefully, imprinted in our brains!

We hope to heed Laura’s words and make her proud of us in Springfield.

Until then, you can visit us on the Web at [www.metrowestharmony.net](http://www.metrowestharmony.net)

- Karen Katz

daughter on the floor in front of me, and the knowledge of my mother’s presence in section G, Row 1, seat #4. Everything went precisely according to plan. We fed off of the energy that our audience gave freely and willingly during those 15 minutes. Our “Thriller” package had the desired effect and by the time we were done, the audience was out of their seats giving us our biggest reward of the contest...a resounding standing O. It was a moment we will never forget.



Region 1 was proudly represented by the wonderful performances of A Cut Above, Royal River and the Coastline Show Chorus. Millennium

Magic cheered them on ghoulishly, with great pride, from the audience.

On Saturday night, my sister, mother, daughter and I joined the International Family Chorus on stage and sang our hearts out! It was surreal and quite moving standing there, singing with my mother, consumed with the knowledge of my mother’s recent terminal diagnosis and the magnitude of the gift she has given us. She was so proud to be there with us! Thank you for the music Mom. Here’s to making each moment count!

We would like to give special thanks to Jim Arns for his infectious energy and last minute choreo changes, and to Karen Sweeters for her enthusiasm and honesty which profoundly contributed to our significant change of plans just twelve weeks before contest!

Millennium is blessed with members with many talents that have blossomed over the past year and a half. Three of the five songs we performed in Nashville were arranged by our own members! Façade, by

Laurel Strielkauskas, Tocatta and Fugue by Annette Pulcinella, and Thriller by Sandy Kerr. Thank you all for your hard work and diligence. And let us not forget our own Beth Paul, our slave master of the “THRILLER” dance. Thanks to her, WE DID IT!

And finally to all of you in Region 1 who cheered and supported us along the way, thank you, thank you, thank you! We are looking forward to seeing you all and performing our international package for you again at our regional weekend in January!

- Anne Wilson

## Mollycokett Chorus

Our big project this fall was our show on November 14. The setting was the “Acapella Grill”, a very musical restaurant where all the members of the chorus were cooks in the kitchen and waitresses wearing “Acapella Grill” aprons (picture next page). The directors wore big, white chef’s hats. The audience was treated to the goings-on in the kitchen as well as a series of quick-change scenes and songs involving patrons at a table in the restaurant dining room.

The script for the show was written by Jan Ward and the show was produced by Janet Coverdale and her able committee. Nature brought downpours for both the afternoon performance at Poland Regional High School and the evening show at Gould Academy in Bethel. The rain did not dampen the enthusiastic audiences at either location.

At Christmastime we sang in a “Christmas for Teens” concert at Oxford Hills High School. We support “Christmas for Teens” with personal toiletry items collected throughout the year and special gifts for several teens at Christmas. We also sang for our friends in Casco at Country Village Assisted Living, followed by our Christmas Party at Mimi’s house.

In winter our ranks are diminished as Nancy, Merry, Pat, Mabel and Mimi head south for part or all of the cold months. Wanda Foss is currently directing the chorus with the able assistance of Bonnie Fox.

We look forward to seeing many of our Region I friends in Burlington.

- Mimi Wetzel

## Profile Chorus

Happy Winter Regional, everybody!

Profile Chorus recently held its annual

## Millennium Magic

Greetings Region One,

On October 18th 2009, Millennium Magic Chorus packed their bags and headed for Nashville TN for the Sweet Adelines International Convention and Competition. Spirits were high and our only expectation was to do our best on stage, entertain our audience and just have fun! We had worked hard over the past year and a half, and we were ready!

What unfolded truly exceeded all of our expectations. Not only did we walk away as the Harmony Classic Division A champs and overall Audience Favorite, but more importantly, each of us recognized the personal fulfillment and satisfaction that comes from a profound amount of teamwork and commitment.

This international contest was my first, ever. When we took to the stage on October 20th, all I could think about was remembering my lines. I was calmed by the presence of my friends, my sister on the risers behind me, my sixteen year old

show at the Derryfield School in Manchester, and although the weather outside was frightful enough to keep some of the audience from attending, the atmosphere inside the theater was truly delightful! Some very funny scriptwriting -- along some x-treme hamming by our enthusiastic cast -- helped create an evening of humor and hilarity, as the chorus presented General Harmony Hospital, bedecked in either cotton hospital johnnies and bandages or nurses' uniforms and stethoscopes (quite a departure from our customary sparkly garb!). Our special guest act, Boston Jazz Voices, provided ultra-smooth harmonies in their festive holiday song set -- the perfect complement to the snow falling outside. Profile finished the second act with some great seasonal music of our own, including the crowd favorite "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch," as well as a special version of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," performed by our Music Committee octet, complete with fuzzy antlers ... and one blinking red nose bulb!

As we all know, it takes a whole lot of hard work and planning to put on a successful production, so we would like to thank everyone -- chorus folks and family members alike -- for all of their valuable contributions. We couldn't have possibly pulled it off without them!

With our show preparations now completed, Profile will be turning its attention to 2010 and the upcoming

contest in Springfield. Competition is scheduled earlier than ever this year, which means less time to get our uptune and ballad into tiptop shape for the stage at Symphony Hall. But if the past is any indication, there's no doubt that our tight-knit little group will do our very best to reach the goals that we set for ourselves. The personal challenges that several of our members bravely faced (and overcame) within the last year are a testament to the strength that lies within each of us. I am so proud to call these amazing and inspirational women my friends!

We're looking forward to another terrific year with our Region 1 family. See you all after "Tax Day!"

- Deanna Dean

### Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus

From the desk of RNH's Donna Bishop, a musical acrostic!

**H**appening right after Contest, our membership drive was in full swing. When all was said and done, Gloria Chase, a baritone and former SAI member, auditioned and reconnected with some of her former sisters in harmony on our risers.

**A** rollicking group of RNHers traveled to Ireland last July and had the trip of a lifetime. Casey Blais, Janine Hoidahl, Karen Hagan, Nancy Fletcher, and Pattie

Goodhue (a quartet with an extra bari or a quintet maybe?) returned to us refreshed, re-energized, and ready to sing!

**R**(NH) scored a homerun for our performance of the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America at the 7th inning stretch of the NH Fisher Cats game vs. the Bowie Bay Sox on August 6th. In fact, one of the fans in the audience, named Genni Kurtzman, expressed interest, and is now one of our leads.

**M**ore good news during that same game! We were invited to sing at the first Girls World Softball Championships in Concord, NH. It was wonderful to sing for those young athletes who were following their dreams . . . as we've been following ours through song.

**O**ctober brought us another new member and lead, Julia Wright. Jessie saw her in CVS and asked, "Do you sing?" You just never know when a new member could be standing right next to you just waiting for an invitation!

**N**ovember raised the mizzen mast on Captain Jess and her Lady Pirates in Marooned. Jessie and Linda Ryan drafted a spunky creation we won't soon forget!

**I**ncorporating several tunes you'd never expect pirates to be singing (Ain't Misbehavin', Fit As A Fiddle, Bare Necessities), they just flowed quite smoothly throughout the script.

**O**n Air Quartet, from the Granite Statesmen Chorus was the featured guest between acts and did a superb job. Kurt Boutin, the bass singer, just happens to be the son of long-time SAI bass, Bonnie Boutin!

**U**tilizing a room at the Nashua Holiday Inn with a schooner as our stage had its challenges, but we "stayed the course" (pun intended) and accomplished what was needed to transform the space for our purposes.

**S**hyamala Tucker and AJ Downing returned to join us in our pillagin' and lootin' and keelhauln' ways for the show. It was fabulous to have them with us once again.

**J**ust seeing the audience smile and hearing their giggles and laughter let us know all of our hard work and effort was truly bringing enjoyment to others.

**O**om Pah Pah was just the song to get the audience singing and feeling like they were a part of the show. What did I hear one of those pirates say? "You sound like a



Mollycoddle as the Acapella Grill Staff



*Rhythm of New Hampshire: A few of the 'crew' of the USS Bounty performing Captain Jess and Her Lady Pirates in Marooned!*

herd of mermaids!"

**U**nited in song, possessing so many varied talents as we have members, and the care we have toward one another, we were able to put on a unique show.

**R**eturning to rehearsal the following week, we had two women (who had attended our show) walk in the door wanting to be a part of our group. One of them has joined us as a baritone. Welcome, Martha!

**N**ot to be forgotten is Lisa, a lead who has been trying us out as time permitted. Always smiling at rehearsals and being able to join us for our show, membership is now official! She's a natural!

**E**njoying the holidays singing carols at retirement homes and nursing homes and spreading good cheer is always a favorite for us. Wrapping up the season with a candlelight stroll at Portsmouth's Strawberry Banke and for our community partners at the Upper Room, a Family Resource Center, even though it's been cold outside, we've certainly warmed some hearts.

**Y**es, it has been a HARMONIOUS JOURNEY for us, but we're looking to the future for new adventures in song that await us. For all who have supported us throughout the years and especially this year, we wish you all a safe winter season and can't wait to see all of our sisters in harmony at Winter Regional.

**Royal River Chorus**

Where did the year go? Reflecting on chorus activities brings back memories of fun, hard work and beautiful singing. We began the year with a membership drive, followed by winter regional, evaluation in Springfield, moving to a new rehearsal space, the Clam Festival booth and performance, excellent coaching from some of the best and brightest, International competition in Nashville (19th in the world, imagine that!), holiday performances and wrapping up the year with our annual holiday party. We are proud of our chorus' accomplishments as we close out 2009.

This year will be every bit as exciting with endless opportunities. We will miss our revered and loved director, Chris Ferguson who retired at the end of December, but we wish her great happiness as she begins new journeys. She plans to continue quartetting with Celebrate and coaching choruses in New England and beyond. And she will never leave Royal River completely because every fiber of her being is intricately woven into the fiber of the chorus and each of us.

Now we welcome our Assistant Director Wendi McPike as she directs us in preparation for contest. We will be conducting a director search during this time. We are so fortunate to have Wendi with all her wonderful skills, musicianship, knowledge of our chorus culture, understanding of singers, and her beautiful voice. We are very appreciative that she will help us stay on track with our musical goals in 2010.

We wish everyone a truly fulfilling new year. As we travel the peaks and valleys of Sweet Adeline life, we carry precious

memories with us and anticipate all that is to come on this journey we take together.

Susan Conley & Sue Bonior

## Sound of New England

Happy New Year! Can you believe that it's 2010?! Wasn't it just yesterday that we were all worried about Y2K? We hope your holidays were just what you wanted them to be, happy, unhurried, stress free....

What what has SONE been up to since September? First, we presented our show at St. Joseph College in West Hartford on November 8th. It was great fun to perform with two singing groups and one dance ensemble from the college. The show was well received and we plan to collaborate with the college again in June.

In addition to singing at the McLean Home in Simsbury, CT, the Cromwell Nursing Home and the Festival of Trees at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, we have sung two benefit performances this holiday season. One was in Springfield, MA at a benefit for the Shriners organization. Then, on December 17th, we sang at the annual Christmas Party of the Hartford Transplant Association. This performance is near and dear to our hearts as we have two members who have been involved directly with transplants – one as a kidney donor and the other as a kidney recipient. We are so proud of them both!

The highlight of this season came on December 1st. We sang a short Christmas program on the stage at Radio City Music Hall in NYC to open the matinee performance of the Rockettes Christmas Show! What an amazingly HUGE stage! And what a once-in-a-lifetime experience! We'll never forget the bus ride down and back with singing to die for – not! Even though it was only SONE on our chartered bus there were, at times, 2 choruses singing everything from SONE's repertoire to old camp songs!

Finally, SONE's Management and Music Teams, with input from the entire chorus completed a year long effort to reorganize and restructure ourselves. Under the guiding hands of our own Gloria Stalph we set new guidelines for every topic of music and management paving the way for continued improvement as singers and performers.

We wish you well in your preparations for the performance of your "Spring Songs". See you in Springfield in April!

## Valley Chords Chorus

The Valley Chords are energized after our performance at the annual North Country Chordmen's show in Lebanon NH. We sang a repertoire of 4 songs and made our usual pitch for new members to join us! So far we've gotten five, count them FIVE prospective members who saw and heard us perform and have come to try things out! We really appreciate our alliance with the local men's barbershop group. In October they invited us and our families to a potluck dinner with singing, the idea being that the respective spouses/significant others are potential members for each group. We heard some great harmony and hope to make this joint event an annual tradition.

Seven of us attended the Fall Regional in Newton, we learned a lot and brought home all kinds of kinesthetic moves to our members who couldn't attend. Those of us who sang in the Tag Contest thoroughly enjoyed that and look forward to joining in again.

After the flurry of preparing for our Fall

performance we planned a chorus potluck and "un-costume" party held at the home of our lead section leader, Judy Dixon. The plan was to eat, sing and bring all our various costumes that we've used in the past so that we could assess which to keep and which to pitch. A merry time was had, and several guests (and prospective members) came to hear the singing. Our assessment of the accumulated costumes proved useful and helped us choose ones that will work for us as well as those that can be sold or donated to another group.

We have a busy Christmas season planned with sing outs at several retirement residences and nursing homes, at our local hospital and our annual Christmas party. Along with learning some new Christmas songs and dusting off some from the past, we are busy getting off paper on our two songs for competition. We want to be ready early in the year and be well prepared before our retreat in late March. We always get a lot out of our weekend coaching session and this year our coach will be Lorraine Rochefort. Our membership is nearly

at the level where we will have sufficient singers to meet the requirements to compete in April.

Our board has been busy planning for our retreat and working on ideas for increasing membership, fund-raising, and finding new opportunities to perform. Our website is active being updated regularly, although so far our new prospective members have come from seeing us in person, rather than from ads or web sites.

## Valley Shore Chorus

Another season has flown by. Our chorus

entered the fall season with a resolve to add songs to our repertoire and improve on the old ones. With three new leads, Archana Bafna, Deepali Vilas and Hing Wu, we brought a different approach to some old favorites. All three worked hard to learn as many songs as they could quickly. Archana and Deepali decided to share some of their culture with us by cooking up some Indian specialties. When has a Sweet Adeline ever said no to food? Archana made Halwa, a dessert made from semolina, clarified butter, sugar, cardamon and saffron. Yum! Deepali brought dhokla, an appetizer made from chick peas, buttermilk, mustard and cumin. We all enjoyed it immensely.

Our new members had their first chance to experience performing in Meriden for the annual Soroptimists dinner. A great time was had by all! From that gig, we booked another performance in Willamantic with another Soroptimists club. We travelled over hill and dale searching for the country club with no sign! It had just changed owners. We all managed to get there and put on a fabulous performance. Since it was their Christmas party, we broke out the carols. Our esteemed leader Heidi Zacchera doubled as Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer, for a memorable moment.



( See the lovely picture!) That was the beginning of the very busy month of December. We sang at Gillette's Castle State Park, sitting high up over the Connecticut River. The local news station was there filming the Christmas decorations at the park and we managed to have a segment filmed of our singing. It was a great day! Soon after, we performed at the Festival of the Trees at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford. It is a beautiful event with hundreds of trees dec-

# Royal River Chorus

*"The Little Chorus That Could"*

International Contest Wildcard, 2003, 2005 & 2009  
 International Harmony Achievement Award Winner, 2003  
 5-time North Atlantic AA Division Champion  
 World Mid-size Chorus Champion, 2000 & 2002



Our Master Director has retired after 13 years with us. We are seeking a new Director who will lead our dynamic, fun, mid-sized chorus on the path of continued improvement. To apply, please visit our website:  
[www.royalriver.org](http://www.royalriver.org)

We rehearse Thursday nights at the American Legion Hall, Dunn St., Westbrook, ME



**Celebrating 25 Years of Harmony**  
 1985 - 2010

orated by different organizations. Following that event, we raced over to the Salvation Army Rehab Center and sang for one of our favorite audiences. They are always so appreciative when we come to sing, indulging our sweet tooth with home-made cookies and cocoa!

Our octet, Sparetime, was also busy with daytime performances. They sang at a variety of assisted living places during the season. It's a huge asset to have this group able to accept gigs at these smaller venues. Jane Zanardi manages to book us for repeat performances on a regular basis.

The chorus as a whole is looking forward to hosting the Winter Regional at the Boston Marriott in Burlington, MA, Jan. 22-24, 2010. We have been working diligently to make it a great experience for all who attend. Judy Alvord and yours truly have been planning and organizing with everything we have. The chorus members have been volunteering for duty and we expect to have a terrific time! We hope to see all of you there!

- Marylou Zinser

## West Island Chorus

Christmas began in August this year as we began to prepare for our December concert. At September's Fall Regional, many members celebrated major milestones and were named: Grace Dagenais, Jean Jarvis, Louise Lemonde, Prem Neeff for 20 years; Minerva Kuhlenschmidt and Dina Peron 25 years and Wendy Davies 30 years. Congratulations! We were amazed by the workshops with Dale Syverson – wow what a learning experience! Blending our sound, singing with less effort; those of us who drove down (7 hours) came away highly motivated.

Performance coordinator, Abi Lancaster is always on the look-out for sing outs. Read the story of our amazing experience at the new cancer centre on page one.

Our third annual Christmas Concert at St Thomas a Beckett Church in Pierrefonds on December 5 was a blast; we sang 4 eight-part songs with the men from Island City Chorus (also directed by Mark). We had 3 new quartets and one recycled; the spring Mix 'n match quartet event helped Abi Lancaster find 3 members to sing with from Harmony Inc's Montreal City Voices chorus. (Always in the mood for singing, they burst into song for the cashiers in Reitman's store).

Thanks to Show Chair Karen Mariasine

and her team of volunteers (Lise Roy and Helen Febrile on tickets), we had a full house; surely one of our best concerts, well organized (thanks Wendy Davies, stage manager) and well practised (thanks Music Team and Mark). Thanks also to Jean Kelly's husband Walter, who filmed the show. DVD's will be on sale soon and we are now on youtube!

We received many wonderful comments from guests and family about our show, which was followed by an Italian afterglow at Carmines, organized by Jane Sembera. Quartets entertained each table and Mark sang with men from Island City (apparently he's forming a quartet).

The fact that we have 3 new quartets is proof that chorus sponsored PVI's with Mark are paying off – in increased confidence, improved sound and breathing. Congratulations to Four's Company (Minerva Kuhlenschmidt, Carol Hamilton, Alice Weir and Bunny Ciceri), the Pink Ladies (Fran Kelly, daughter Melanie Provost, Heather Lewis and Linda Hayes from Montreal City Voices), Mix 'n Match with Abi Lancaster and 3 members from Montreal City Voices, and Over the Top, Jean Kelly and Jennifer Boire, CAL Marian Morkill and Christine Roy (associate member).

Christmas also brings sing-outs, at the Maxwell senior residence, the Queen Elizabeth Fairmount Hotel downtown, where a small group of 12 members sang Christmas carols in the front lobby for their supper. Singing at the Danish Society annual party has become a regular event for us too.

What else is new? Rehearsal plans are now being sent out by email the day after rehearsal. Now every chorus member knows exactly what song to practice, in which order we will sing them, and which songs to work on in sectionals. Louise Lemonde is very efficient at making sure all our music and learning tracks are uploaded to our web site pronto. Huge thanks to Toni Smith, who has not only been sending the rehearsal plans, but keeping Mark and the rest on track with the timing of our rehearsals (choreo, warm-ups, announcements).

If anyone in the chorus feels left out of the thank you's, we are still looking for two volunteer positions: our Historian, Yucca Bocaro could use some help, and a Social Convenor is needed...although lack of one hasn't stopped us from having our Christmas Potluck Dec 16.

We are a healthy thriving chorus, with 44 full time members and 3 associate mem-

bers. Welcome to our new members, Jeanie Trubiano, and our wonderful bass Sharon Dee who has returned to the Chorus.

Get Well wishes for Barbra recuperating from surgery and Jean Jarvis who had heart surgery on her return from Nashville.

Carolyn Genereux, our new Membership Coordinator is setting the wheels in motion for our annual membership recognition awards at the retreat Feb 26-28 at the Manoir d' Youville Chateauguay. Karen Sweeters will be joining us for some coaching in March.

Speaking of the new year, we've been learning two new songs for contest and preparing a jazz package for spring show in April. Some members may be driving down through wintery mountains for the winter regional weekend January 22-24 Winter in Burlington MA. See you there!

Jennifer Boire

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE FIVE-YEAR MEMBERS IN SAI

Berkshire Hills: **Laurie Boudreau**  
Champlain Valley: **Diana Lawrence**  
Coastline: **Susan Culbert & Alexa Roy**  
Cranberry Shores: **Judith Bevens, Diane Dineen, Nancy Evans & Nancy Gordon**  
Farmington Valley: **Susannah Milner & Laura Riley**  
Greater Montreal: **Bernadette Hsu & Sandy Hutt**  
Harborlight: **Elizabeth Black**  
HOTS: **Lorraine Mancini**  
Island Grove: **Margaret Bradley, Suzanne Bunker & Jean Noyes**  
Liberty Belle: **Amy Bischoff, Susan Brierley & Julie Ladner**  
Merrimack Valley: **Sarah Goldman, An-Chian Kao & Molly Lamson**  
MetroWest Harmony: **Coleen Garofalo**  
Rhythm of NH: **Mary Carey & Maureen Desrosiers**  
Royal River: **Janet Alexander, Harleigh Gillespie & Sandra Lary**  
SONE: **Barbara Healey**  
Valley Chords: **Myrielle Rugg**  
Valley Shore: **MaryLou Zinser**  
West Island: **Shelly Hall**  
Chapter-at-Large: **Carol Nason & Terry Powers-Phanerf**