



# Atlantic Gazette

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The Monthly Newsletter of the  
**Red Bank Area Chapter**  
Mid-Atlantic District  
Barbershop Harmony Society



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## THE 2019 VALENTINE REPORT



By Jon Greene

This year we sang 22 Valentines, 21 paying, and collected about \$1260. Our travels took us to 16 towns. The following quartets entertained in a variety of places, homes, schools, offices, and in a restaurant.

Monday: Weythman Dean Hanson Cameron

Tuesday: Weythman Greene Dean LeCompte

Wednesday: Milillo Ferriera Hanson LeCompte

Thursday: Milillo DeBruin Cameron LeCompte

Weythman Greene Dean Thomson

Wike Page Hanson Huetz D'Agostino

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*Chris D'Agostino earned his wings as a Valentine quartetter by singing to his friend and neighbor Vickie Rosa joined by her friend Nancy.*

*Vickie is a former member of an Adelines chorus that donated its risers to us when they disbanded. Vickie sings bass and joined in on a spirited rendition of "Coney Island Baby."*

## ***THE VALENTINE REPORT*** *continued from page 1*

Our requests came from repeats (7), PATCH (6), Facebook (6), local papers (2), and members (7). (Several repeats found information from media sources.)

As a bonus the reporter from Patch filmed two of the quartets, one on Tuesday, and another at a Deli, on Wednesday (see story on page 3), but it had little to do with new Valentines, because of the timing. However, the quartets, and others, got to see their performances.

Heroes of the day included **John Huetz**, who came on after his chorus work, **Joe LeCompte** who did all 3 days, along with **Jim Weythman, Allan Dean, and Bruce Hanson. Tom De Bruin**, when he saw the email out in Arizona, said "Pack up. Louise, they need a bass, and we're flying home!"

Thanks to all of you who put up with all the inconveniences, not the least of

which was the snow cancellation of the Tuesday meeting when I was supposed to hand out all the assignments, and fill vacancies. All in all, it worked out well; hopefully next year we can allow more of our singers to experience the fun of VALENTINES.♪



*In his second year of Singing Valentines, lead Sam Wike is now a seasoned veteran, singing not just to his wife Rosanne (above) but to several other ladies as well..*



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### **FROM A SECRET ADMIRER**



Every year, an anonymous but very generous lady purchases a Singing Valentine for someone that she believes may be forgotten on this special day. We went to the Majestic Nursing Home in Red Bank to deliver this year's "Secret Admirer" Valentine to this lovely lady. It touched the hearts of the other residents and the entire nursing home staff (as well as the four of us).. This is why we do it! ♪



# No Time to "DELI DALLY"



By Bruce Hanson

Our quartet's second job on Wednesday was at Stokers Deli in Shrewsbury. Before we got there, we got a call from Carley, a reporter for the *Patch*, who wanted to meet us at the deli and video the whole event. Apparently she had intended to video another quartet the day before, but logistical problems had left them without a tenor so it did not work out.

So we waited for Carley to arrive before we made our presence known to the sender, Charlie Rooney, owner of the deli and also a member of the Sea Bright Boro Council, and the recipient Marisol, his wife. When Carley arrived, she videoed us getting out of our car and interviewed our lead, **Tony Milillo**. She then met Charlie when he came out to meet us, asking him how he had found out about Singing Valentines, etc., all while videoing with her smart phone.

Finally she followed us into the deli where we surprised Marisol with a few songs and a rose. Apparently, Carley didn't have the time or the apps to edit videos, so everything had to be done in one long "take."



Marisol, Charlie, and Carley all seemed to really enjoy the event, and Carley posted the video along with an article in the local *Patch*. Unfortunately, it came too late to serve as advertising for more valentines -- but at least we had our 15 minutes of fame (or maybe more like 5 minutes?) ♪

# Idle CHATTER

## Part One: Brandywine Senior Living

by Chris Papa



The *Matinee Idles* opened their 2019 season with a return visit at Brandywine Senior Living in Colts Neck. On the cold, clear afternoon of February 19 they brought warmth to a gathering of about 40 folks, mainly women, assembled in a large meeting room. The illusion of warmth was furthered by the chorus members who were incongruously attired in their lightweight summer uniforms.

Most of the singers in the chorus, including Director **Will McCain** were present for an afternoon of sprightly music performed to perfection to the pleasure of both residents and staff. The *Classy Seniors* quartet paid special attention to the lady who had arranged the event by



singing the personalized “Honey Lil Liz” which delighted both the recipient and audience. It was the least the deserving staff member deserved. She had been on hand to personally welcome the Idles and to absolutely take care of any of their needs, such as providing bottles of drinking water, seats to rest and a very nice room to use for their preliminary warm up. Something very unusual occurred thereafter which required even more of her efforts.

While the chorus always welcomes some audience participation, it was carried to extremes in this instance. As they practiced in the warm up phase, a slight, elderly, white haired lady ambled into the room and into the midst of the singers. She started to try to sing until the

staff member came and explained to her that she had to wait until the actual performance in the meeting room. The little lady yanked herself free and started to loudly insist that she wanted to continue singing with the chorus. After a mighty struggle, she was momentarily removed, only to sneak back in minutes later. She was once again forcefully removed and was not seen again until the actual performance got underway. There she was not happy to just sit and listen but once again tried to join in singing midst the performers. This time the lady in charge of the event led

her, protesting loudly, out of the meeting room and the remainder of the event peacefully proceeded without interruption.

The audience did mouth the words and softly sing along with many of the songs which were performed, particularly “The Beer Barrel Polka”, “That’s Amore” and “God Bless America”. It was further entertained and responsive to the singular singing of *Bayshore Four* quartet and the bevy of light heated jokes spun by MC **Dave Murch**. All in all it was a delightful afternoon for both the singers and the audience and the Idles look forward to returning to the facility, yet again, in the future.♪

# Idle CHATTER

## Part Two: Happy Return

by Chris Papa



On March 7, the regularly scheduled Thursday afternoon rehearsal for the *Matinee Idles*, the meeting room of the Eatontown Church of Latter Day Saints was a scene of absolute joy! After a full year's absence, **Director Jon Huetz** returned to resume his duties with the small chorus.

**Will McCain**, who had assumed the position of director in his absence, graciously relinquished the post back to its prior holder. Will had served the chorus admirably during his tenure and the members are very grateful for their shared experience. Also missing will be the only lady singer **Jean "Joaner" Garret**, who served well performing a much needed role as half the entire baritone section, and demonstrated that she was an enthusiastic and talented barbershopper. Additionally, she had served as the driver who regularly brought Director Will to the chorus' rehearsals and gigs. She easily outpaced any other chorus member when it came to attending BHS meetings and conventions all over the country. Both she and the Director will be sorely missed.

A few other significant things quickly became apparent. Long-standing friend **Frank Niemann** had finally joined the *Idles* as a much needed member of the bass section. Additionally, member **Frank Glaz** bravely volunteered to leave his comfortable stay with the leads and transfer to the baritone section, which really required bolstering.

Meanwhile, John Huetz was pleasantly surprised as the chorus opened the afternoon's session by serenading him



with a well-performed, and undirected, version of the heart felt, "Consider Yourself At Home". A very pleased director then took over and immediately launched a lively rehearsal which included many songs that the men had had recently performed, in addition to several that had remained dormant in the massive repertory for quite some time. One thing everyone quickly realized was the very different directing styles of their two directors and that much work will be needed to get used to the differing tempi and subtleties of each leader. Still, the men showed a great willingness to make the needed alterations, which augurs well for another successful and happy year! ♪

**Chorus of the Atlantic**

Music Director.....Craig J. Page  
Associate Music Director.....Kirk Thomson  
Manager .....Dave Murch

**Matinee Idles**

Director.....Will McCain  
President.....Joe LeCompte  
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**On the web at [RedBankChorus.org](http://RedBankChorus.org)**

**GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME!**  
The Red Bank Area Chapter meets  
weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30 P.M. at  
the Red Bank Middle School, 101  
Harding Road, Red Bank, NJ

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The monthly bulletin of the  
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