



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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VALENTINES AND MORE VALENTINES



*Singing Valentines are a favorite activity and a fundraising staple of the Red Bank Chapter. Long-time valentine coordinator and dispatcher **Jon Greene** once again did a fantastic job of orchestrating this year's deliveries, and we are indebted to him. Here is Jon's annual Valentine Report along with a touching and personal valentine story by **Chris (Doc) Papa** and some other valentine vignettes.*

THE VALENTINE REPORT:

The 2020 valentines had some good spots and some poor ones. The good is that 15 members participated in the event, and that all customers were happy with the results. I scheduled 31 valentines, of which 27 were paid,

3 had to be cancelled because of customer unavailability, and one was our annual "Thank you" to the Red Bank Bd of Ed. Our income was over \$1600 for this most enjoyable activity.

Special plaudits should go to **Bruce Hanson**, who had to sing with different quartets, switching in the middle of the day, and to the "captains" of the quartets - Bruce, **Tony Milillo**, **John Huetz**, and **Terry Schmalzreid**, who had to organize their men, plan the routes,



and obtain the roses. All did so perfectly; we didn't lose a Valentine. **Allan Dean** deserves credit for reaching out to the public via the internet and the newspapers to advertise our service.

The only downside was that we only had those 31 requests. I thought with the picture in the Asbury Park Press, I would be deluged, but most were booked by that time.

The Valentine buyers expressed great excitement over how the quartets would be received, and many gave glowing reviews. We had our usual assortment of venues, reaching large audiences in schools and restaurants, some businesses and elder care facilities, and many homes.

I'm certain that quartets will be able to write about unique experiences they encountered along the way, and that they will be written up in future issues of the Gazette.

Jon Greene

A VERY SPECIAL VALENTINE

By Chris Papa

For the past 25 years I have had the supreme pleasure of participating in the delivery of Singing Valentines to countless recipients. Each and every instance was a unique and happy experience which brought messages of love and affection that were greatly appreciated. There were only two occasions when I had been responsible

prescribed. Since movement was so painful we searched for a therapy site that would be close to our home. With a stroke of luck, we learned that Centra State Hospital in Freehold was just opening a satellite medical center in Marlboro, a very short distance from where we lived. My wife was one of the very first patients who had sought



for the event and had some intimate personal feelings invested. The very first instance was when I sang to my beloved wife. She sat on the steps, being surprised, listened to the usual two songs the quartets sing, hugged me and said, "How about you guys singing "Under the Boardwalk" for me! A truly memorable occasion.

Today was also truly memorable. This Valentine event came from both me and my wife, and was meant to be a token of gratitude and affection for a special young lady we had come to know during the past year. It was a time of enormous difficulty for my wife. She had suffered a heart attack and stroke during orthopedic surgery which had only added many more physical and mental disabilities than she had originally. After a long hospital stay, as well as institutional rehabilitation, she finally came home, still with many problems. Outpatient physical therapy was

to use the facility. What we found was a very hard working young woman who was in charge of starting the new Rehabilitation Department. Her years of work as a physical therapist were obvious as we observed the new department growing each week, with both equipment and young personnel. Despite the large administrative responsibilities and tasks, the lady paid learned attention to my wife's special needs and worked to help her. Although her efforts were successful, new and different problems kept erupting. Each problem was immediately recognized and treated with efficient kindness and competence. Over the more than a year that has passed, the lady provided very special personal care which provided relief and, importantly, hope, as well as happiness.

Thanks to the special efforts of **Jon Greene** and the assigned *More on page 3*

VALENTINES AND MORE VALENTINES *continued from page 2*

quartet of **Joe Le Compte, Allen Dean, Bruce Hanson** and **Jim Weythman**, I was allowed to be part of the singers who delivered the Singing Valentine my wife and I had ordered for this very special lady. The quartet picked me up at home and we went to the Rehabilitation Department at the Marlboro Medical Arts Center, a very familiar trip for me. The friendly receptionist and the laboratory assistant, also a friend who worked next door, were part of the group that burst in and caught our recipient by complete surprise. She jumped back and screamed with delight,

and the patient under her care also sprang up from the treatment table with a great big smile on her face and joined all the other patients and staff as interested bystanders. Soon, several staff members had cameras in their hands and were recording the event. The quartet sang "Heart of My Heart". "Let Me Call You Sweet-heart", and an extra personalized, "Honey Li'l Liz". All was bright and happy. A photo was taken, (see photo) I got a hug, and it was the end of a completely joyous happening! ♪

SOME VALENTINE FUN

By Bruce Hanson

Deliveriing a singing valentine to a guy is an adventure -- some are embarrassed, some don't know what to think, and a few even consider it a challenge to their masculinity. But then there are some who just have a good time with it and enjoy it for what it is; a bit of a spectacle and a chance for a loved one to show how much they care.

And so it was when, **Allan Dean, Jim Weythman, Kirk Thomson** and I visited the Whole Foods in Middletown to deliver a valentine to one of the Butchers. This guy had a great time while his fellow butchers videoed our performance which included a rousing rendition of "Coney Island Baby." Needless to say, store

patrons and other employees crowded around for their own enjoyment,

Our recipient showed his appreciation by displaying his biggest knife in our attached photo.

After delivering this valentine, we adjourned to the nearest diner for lunch. Of course diner staff and patrons immediately noticed our outfits and insisted that we sing a song or two. Who were we to say "no.," (especially with Allan Dean there), so we sang a few including "Breakin' Up," "Honey Little 'Liz," and "Coney Island Baby," earning some nice tips in the process. We were hoping to have our bill comped by the management, but -- no dice. ♪



Note: The attached article was co-written by our own Allan Dean.

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The Monmouth Journal

LOCAL



CDR. Tracie M. Yeoman, USN (ret.) was serenaded by a quartet from the Red Bank Area Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society for Valentine's Day.

Photo courtesy Allan Dean

Barbershop Harmony Society offered surprise serenades on Valentine's Day

By **Muriel J. Smith**
The Monmouth Journal

SANDY HOOK — CDR. Tracie M. Yeoman, USN (ret.) was serenaded by a quartet from the Red Bank Area Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society for Valentine's Day when an

admirer requested and received permission for the quartet to present their singing rendition of the annual event during her Naval Science class at MAST, the Marine Academy of Science and Technology at Sandy Hook.

The Society has been offer-

ing the Valentine program for more than 20 years, and also performs for the public in several venues all year long.

The Chorus of the Atlantic and the Matinee Idles will host their annual Spring Show on May 2 at 2 p.m. at the Red Bank Middle School.

KINGS OF THE ROAD

By Bruce Hanson

The **Road Warriors**, our chapter's most recently formed quartet "hit the road" to Rahway to compete in the, Rayway Novice Contest, an event in its 59th year of providing a shakedown venue for new quartets. Quartets at all levels come there, ranging in quality from division contenders to those who are still trying to ring their first chord. The rules are simple: the quartet can not have performed in the novice contest before or in any other society competition; their 2 songs do not need to be contestable; and the 3 judges will provide informal scoring. The pri-

tetThere were also mixed and all female quartets this year.

Our own Road Warriors, **Terry Schmalzried, Chris D;Agostino, Rob Maber** and **Ray Smith**, chose to reprise the two songs they sang in our Spring show last year, "King of the Road" (which explains the quartet's name) and "Feelin' Groovy" (which explains the "hippie style" glasses in the photo). They were following in the footsteps of past chapter quartets who went to Rahway, including **Boys' Night Out, Special Delivery** and **KBAM**.



mary purpose is to provide a real contest experience and adjudication, but there is also a competitive element, with the top 3 quartets being selected.

In recent years, things were starting to get out of hand with more than 20 entries, some of which were not ready to get on stage. But this year, the event was limited to 12 quartets which provided the opportunity for the judges to have a constructive feedback session with every quar-

The Road Warroirs gave a fine accounting of themselves, earning a score similar to our chours scores in recent competitions.

The night's winners were **Rule #1**, a quartet from **Parkside Harmony** in Hershey PA, the 2018 International Chorus bronze medalists. Their singing was great, but their odd choice of songs wasn't nearly as entertaining as our own boys singing the Roger Miller classic that gave them their name. ♪

6TH READY SET SING CLASS BEGINS

By Allan Dean

We fulfill our mission in many ways. One such way is through free singing lessons.

The Red Bank Area Chapter was founded with the mission to provide cultural enhancement and arts education to all audiences at the Jersey Shore through high-quality performances and to encourage and promote the education of its members and the public in music appreciation, and; to initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects, and; to promote public appreciation of barbershop harmony. Since 2016, the Red Bank Area Chapter has offered free singing lessons twice a year to men in the area as part of the fulfillment of that mission.

The Spring 2020 class of Ready Set Sing has nine students from various musical backgrounds. Some of the men have confined their singing to the shower or around the house. Others had chorus experience in high school and college, but haven't sung since. Some have performance experience with a band, or solo

work at their church. One fellow has lifelong experience harmonizing with family, and another enjoys karaoke.

During the 5-week course, under the direction of **Kirk Thomson**, the students will learn the fundamentals of singing: breathe support, posture, phonation, melody and harmony. For the first lesson, held in the school cafeteria, students were divided between high and low voices. Sheet music for the Valentine's package, *Story of the Rose* and *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* were distributed. Kirk introduced the lead and bass parts and had the students learn a musical passage by ear. (learning tracks will be distributed later). Later in the evening, the students were invited to join the Chorus of the Atlantic on the risers to learn a few tags from Director **Craig J. Page** and experience singing as a body. The men of the Chorus of the Atlantic had a wonderful time and the students seemed to really enjoy the evening. ♪



: *The Chorus of the Atlantic welcomed students from the Ready Set Sing class onto the risers at our rehearsal February 25, 2020.*

PROUDLY WE SERVED

Personal Bug

by Chris Papa

Over the years the *Atlantic Gazette* has published many personal tales in the "Proudly We Served" column. There were plenty of military adventures from a surfeit of veterans who sang with the chorus. Nowadays, there are very few men with a reserve source of such memories. However, while military service is, indeed, something of which to be proud, there are also numerous civilian activities which also justify pride, and should be a continued source of "Proud" articles. All one needs to think about is how service is performed to others in our community, as well as country. Are there policemen, firefighters, emergency medical technicians or volunteers of any stripe that might want to share a story? I personally consider the annual effort by member **Frank Glaz** to qualify. Each year he arranges for barbershoppers to perform for the veterans at Lyons V.A. Hospital. (*Ed. note: You can read his story following this article on page 8*). By coincidence, his efforts rekindled special memories that I wish to share, not of singing, but of my volunteer efforts for the veterans at Lyons Hospital.

First of all, let me advise you about the special services provided by physicians. There is the long, difficult path to becoming a doctor. It is both a mind and body challenge full of hard work and long hours, that only just prepares you for more of the same in actual practice. You will agree that military service can be dangerous. Well, the same goes for medical service. The doctors constantly care for a stream of sick people and stand to risk unwillingly sharing whatever diseases the patient may have. My story is about such an event, and how it occurred in my life.

In the 1970's I was the Director of Clinical Research for the Johnson & Johnson Dermatological Division, which I had helped establish. The company had graciously provided me with one day each week to continue my earlier work

in providing clinical care and teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, where I had trained. When Rutgers started its new medical school, the C.E.O. suggested that I might better devote my efforts there in New Brunswick. That made good sense, and I was on my way to working to establish a dermatology department at the brand new institution. It was purely volunteer work. During this time someone also told me that the Lyons V.A. Hospital also needed dermatological clinical care. Lyons is primarily a psychiatric hospital, located in the isolated hills of Central New Jersey, hard to even travel to or visit. Nonetheless, I started providing regular cover for the sick veterans. One day, I received a phone call declaring that there was an emergency need for me to come immediately to the facility.

When I arrived, the patient in great need appeared to be an immobile elderly veteran whose body was completely covered by a thick, flaky white scale. I had never

seen anything like it before. I quickly noted, however, that while the patient was not scratching, everyone near him was! I looked at the adjacent patients' skin. I had seen that disease before. The patient had a very rare condition called Norwegian scabies. He also had immunological deficiencies that had permitted the scabies mite to swarm and multiply all over his body. The house staff and other patients in the ward did have a normal response, hence their limited areas and intense itching was characteristic. The diagnosis must be established by scraping the affected skin and showing the invasive tiny bug under the light microscope. This was done, and medication was quickly prescribed, which cleared all the affected people in a matter of a few days.

Unfortunately, about 4 days later, I started itching in the tell-tale sites.



PERSONAL BUG *continued from page 7*

I knew I had contacted the disease from the patient, as had the others. Then, a special idea came to me! Johnson & Johnson was one of the few institutions in the 70's that possessed a very expensive instrument called a scanning electron microscope (SEM). You might be very interested to know why. Even a full 50 years ago, they were very cognizant that asbestos in talc was a danger and they were doing all they could, including using the SEM, to make sure their baby powder

was free of asbestos!!! I had used the instrument to publish the very first photos of human skin and several disease conditions with the rare instrument. So it was that I also used it to publish the first SEM of the scabies mite.

Take a look at the bug on the previous page, folks. Imagine a bunch of those critters digging tunnels in your skin and setting up nests and families. Even the thought is enough to make you itch! ♪

ENTERTAINING OUR VETERANS

By Frank Glaz

On Friday Feb. 7, I organized and ran a program for the hospitalized veterans at the VA facility Lyons NJ Campus for the 25th year. In 1995, while I was working at ATT, I made it known that I was available to perform musical programs for non-profit organizations, specifically any which were involved in improving the lives of people who needed some hope. I was asked by a fellow employee, who was a Vietnam vet, to accompany him and a bagpiper to do some songs at the hospital at Christmas time. The audience members for the event were soldiers committed at the campus in the PTSD unit. It was great to temporarily turn their sad faces into smiles.

The next year, I was expecting to go again, when I found out that the vet who asked me the previous year had retired, and was no longer going to organize the program. I saw the need to keep this going, so I took it upon myself to put that year's show together. Because ATT employees who had various talents had recently all been a part of a fund raising concert for

hurricane victims, I knew many of them would want to go up that year with me. And so, from that year until today, I have made sure the show goes on every year.

At one point, I was asked to change the date of the event from Christmas to February. Why? I was told, "Everyone remembers and visits the vets at holiday time, but February is hospitalized veterans month, and sadly nobody remembers or visits then."

When I became a barber-shopper 12 years ago, I thought it would be great to have a quartet or two as part of the show. For the past few years, **Alan Dean, Jack McDermott, Kirk Thompson** and **Ken Hicks** of the Brothers in Harmony have been making the north. I thank them and value their contribution greatly. For another VA program I do in the Spring at the retired vets home in Edison, **Andy Ferreira** has been the bass and I thank him as well. May the lord bless all the vets in our chapter. ♪



Chorus of the Atlantic

Music Director.....Craig J. Page
Associate Music Director.....Kirk Thomson
ManagerDave Murch

Matinee Idles

Director.....John Huetz
President.....Joe LeCompte
Manager.....Rich Dunne

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GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME!
The Red Bank Area Chapter meets
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