

# Taglines

*Greater New York Region 15 is dedicated to advancing four-part a cappella music through the original American art form of barbershop harmony by providing opportunities for education, performance and personal growth.*

## REMEMBERING DODY

For as long as I've been a part of Region 15, Dody O'Brien has been my one constant. So it was with a certain amount of dread that I packed for regional contest this year, aware our spritely behind-the-scenes magician wouldn't be there to cast her spell.

But even though Dody wasn't at the microphone, standing on a box to peek above the podium, it quickly became apparent she was everywhere: Her knowledge lives on within the talented members of Region 15's Regional Management Team, the Regional Convention Committee—and the many volunteers that make such an annual undertaking possible.

"Everything was easy with Dody," says Greater Nassau Chorus member Sue Tietjen, who as a former regent and regional board member spent many hours conferring with the former FBI administrator. When on occasion the team's best-laid plans went awry, Sue says she often turned to one of Dody's philosophies for strength: "No matter what happens, you can laugh afterwards."

Dody, who would have been 71 in September, joined Sweet Adelines in 1966, singing with the Staten Island Chapter. Within six months, she was the chapter's vice president. From there, she became involved with the Executive Committee, which later became the Board of Directors and, more recently, morphed into the Regional Management Team. Along the way, Dody was Competition Coordinator, Official Panel Liaison, TAGLINES Editor and regional historian. Her last "official" title was Events Coordinator.

Greater Nassau Chorus Master Director and Education Coordinator Harriette Walters, who shared many a long drive with Dody to and from regional meetings, says Dody dedicated herself body and soul to her many regional activities: "She could talk about anything and remembered everything."

Dody's longtime friend Cathy Bucholtz, who (like many Region 15 leaders) was pulled into the thick of things by Dody and was her assistant as Events Coordinator, remembers the Brooklyn native as a supportive leader who stood her ground. Dody also was a good sport. Cathy recalls an International Education Symposium (IES) in San Antonio, when the team decided to sight-see. They piled into the mini-van, only

to discover there was no space for Dody to sit. Solution: Have her lie down across the laps in the back seat. "We had to pack Dody like luggage," Cathy laughs.

**"Dody was always in charge, always teaching the details she knew and remembering EVERYthing that was ever discussed and decided."**

**—RCC Chair Joan Shuster**

Joan Shuster, chair of the Regional Convention Committee, was recruited early into management by Dody. "As we got to know each other better, we found that we worked very well together on whatever project was at hand. She was always in charge, always teaching the details she knew and remembering EVERYthing that was ever discussed and decided. And while she was in charge and reminding us of that, she was always delegating and letting us do our jobs as we saw fit.

"Most important was the way Dody valued, respected and cared about everyone in the region ... appreciating and applauding everyone's efforts, and always complimenting a job well-done. I admired and respected her and miss her very much."

*—Heather Collins*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**WINNING FORMULAS FOR GREATER NASSAU, LIBERTY OAK.....6**

**ESCAPE'S RENDEZVOUS IN VEGAS.....19**

**AROUND THE REGION.....8**

**WHO ARE YOUR SHINING STARS?.....15**



**Regional Management Team (RMT)**

Team Coordinator → Peggy DiSunno  
 Finance Coordinator → Jeannie Allen  
 Education Coordinator → Harriette Walters  
 Director Coordinator → Sharon Vitkovsky  
 Events Coordinator → Carol Schultheis  
 Communications/Technology Coordinator → Beth Fulton  
 Marketing/Membership Coordinator → Christine Klepeis  
 Chapter Coordinator → Lisbet Kline  
 Administrative Assistant → Pat Friedhoff

**International Appointments**

Communications/Technology Coordinator → Beth Fulton  
 Competition Coordinator → Joyce Brandt  
 Education Coordinator → Harriette Walters  
 Marketing/Membership Coordinator → Christine Klepeis

**Staff Coordinators**

Education Coordinator → Barbara Blaisdell (Blaise), Teresa Heuser & Kathy Sullivan  
 Director Certification Program → Mary DiLeo  
 Quartets → Katie Pinto  
 Young Women In Harmony → Carolyn Schmidt  
 Arrangers → Sonny Steffan  
 Coaching → Sharon Vitkovsky

**Off-Team Chairs**

Events Coordinator Assistant → Cathy Bucholtz  
 Registration → Helen Caponigro & Catherine Lynd  
 Taglines → Heather Collins  
 Bylaws & Rules → Johanna Herudek

**Regional Convention Committee**

Chair → Joan Shuster  
 Official Panel Liaison (OPL) → Sandy Adams  
 Events Coordinator → Carol Schultheis  
 Assistant, Events → Cathy Bucholtz

Competition Coordinator → Joyce Brandt  
 Competition Coordinator Assistant → Jeannie Allen  
 Technical Assistant → Lauren Heller  
 Tickets/Registration/Ushers/Photos → Jan MacCaskill  
 Housing → Johanna Herudek  
 Assistant, Housing → Kathleen Wright  
 Awards → Penny Sheppard  
 Front of House → Susan Johns-Greenfield  
 Convention Program → Lauren Heller

**Advertising Rates**

1/8-page = \$25  
 1/4-page = \$35  
 Half-page = \$50  
 Full page = \$75  
 Inside back cover = \$100

**Deadlines/Submissions**

Want to submit an article? Seeking quartet personnel? Need to let us know about an upcoming performance? Here's your contact:

Heather Collins, Taglines Editor  
 68 West Summit Ave.  
 Midland Park, N.J. 07432  
 E-mail: [heather@voiceonly.com](mailto:heather@voiceonly.com)  
 Phone: 201/612-4385

**Future Deadlines:**

Fall 2006-2007: Oct. 1, 2006  
 Winter 2006-2007: Jan. 15, 2007



# NEWS AROUND THE REGION

## TEAM TRANSITIONS

"From the first hello to the last goodbye." That familiar song describes the changes being made as we start our new fiscal year. Many of our choruses are saying good-bye to team members or board members and are welcoming new members to the table.

At the regional level, we say goodbye to Chapter Coordinator, Sandy Adams, who sings with Greater Nassau Chorus. Sandy began her work with the region in 1998 on the transitional board as they made the change from Board of Directors to Management Team. She was Administrative Assistant and Regional By-laws and Rules Chair from 1999-2002. Sandy has been a coordinator on the RMT since 2002: first as our Membership/Marketing Coordinator and in 2004, Sandy became our Chapter Coordinator, working with membership. We have all seen her behind the scenes every year at our annual contest. She has worked as the Official Panel Liaison (OPL) for five years and before that, had a three-year apprenticeship with Cath Lynd. It is very clear that Sandy is truly a dedicated worker for our region. Thank you for all you have done over the years, Sandy. We appreciate your efforts, and we will miss you.

We also say good-bye to our Events Coordinator, Susan Jane Story, who sings with Ramapo Valley Chorus. When our previous Events Coordinator, Dody O'Brien, became too ill to continue, Susan Jane stepped up to fill in the last year on Dody's term. We knew from the beginning that Susan Jane is a very busy gal and she would be with us only a short time, but we were elated to have her on our team. Susan Jane coordinates events with the corporation she works for as Corporate Travel Manager, so how wonderful for us to have her experience working for our region! Every event we have had this past year has had Susan Jane's professional touch. Many thanks for helping us out, Susan Jane. You will be missed!

Now for our "first hellos." We welcome two new members to our team this year, Lisbet Kline, the director of Song of the Valley, who will be our Chapter Coordinator, and Carol Schultheis, a member of Evergreen Chorus, who will be our Events Coordinator. Welcome Lisbet and Carol! Here is an introduction on our two new team members:

Lisbet Kline comes with vast experience from her 26 years in Sweet Adelines International. As a chorus director she has won regional, placed third and fifth, won First-Place Small Chorus and qualified for Harmony Classic at IES. In addition, she is a past regional quartet champion (1982).

Lisbet has extensive experience on the regional level as DMA faculty (Director of Musical Activities), MDR (Membership Development Representative), Directors' Coordinator, regional faculty member, and as a regional board and team member for more than a decade. She has coached numerous choruses and quartets and considers that to be one of her most exciting endeavors, next to being a chorus director.

Internationally, Lisbet was a Regional Leadership Training assistant chair and co-chair twice back in the 1990's. At the organization's 50th anniversary in New Orleans, she had the honor of chairing the Worldwide Celebration and being the emcee.

Lisbet was on the board of the Young Singers Foundation for six years and recently was the female clinician for the Harmony Fest for high-school kids in upstate New York. She is extremely honored and excited to start her new job in Region 15 and is looking forward to meeting all the members on her road trips around the region.

Now, on to Carol Schultheis, who sings lead in Evergreen Chorus and has been a member of Sweet Adelines for nine years. During that time she has been chorus manager, publicity chair, membership chair, worked on the board of directors, music staff, choreography team, grant-writing committee and many show committees. Carol says she "acquired an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and travel" during that time, having attended International Convention every year since she joined as well as assorted IES and Region 15 events. She has even been known to attend a Region 1 and 16 contest or two.

Carol has worked as a Convention Assistant at International for the last five years. During the last year or so, she has been Assistant Events Coordinator for Region 15 where she had "the pleasure of working with some very hard-working and dedicated ladies who very graciously took me under their wing and showed me how to make regional events go off without a hitch. Thank you all."

Carol is married and lives in Hopewell Junction, N.Y., with her husband and Boston Terrier. She works full-time as a database administrator at the State University of New York at New Paltz. Before taking this job a couple of years ago, one stipulation was

that she HAD to be able to take time off to attend International, IES and regional contest each year.

During her travels around the region and the country, Carol says she has met many wonderful and talented people in our organization. She looks forward to meeting and working with them and many more of you as well!

—Peggy DiSunno

## RECOGNIZING YOUR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Congratulations to Song of the Valley, this year's winner of the Community Activity Award.

Their application included extensive media coverage of a great many of their events and performances. Media coverage is often the key to our chapters' names being remembered by our communities. Copies were provided of several local newspaper articles and clippings of ongoing advertisements of their weekly rehearsals welcoming guests and potential members. Every chapter event was publicized—before and after the event!

Building a working relationship with your local newspapers' community events reporters will serve you well. Articles and digital photos that need little if any editing are welcomed as fillers—if not the week you submit, possibly in the next week's edition. Get that Sweet Adelines International word out there!

## THE INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

Our International contest was re-routed to Detroit last fall after it became obvious the city of New Orleans was under water. Within three weeks, International headquarters had a magnificent contest rescheduled and what a contest it was! Region 15's quartet, Escape, wowed all of us with their dynamic sound. They looked and sounded beautiful, placing 32 out of 47 quartets, and made all of us proud.

Region 15 was blessed twice in the chorus competition by having both our regional winner, Ramapo Valley Chorus, and our wild card winner, Greater Nassau Chorus, as contestants. It was such a thrill for those of us in the audience to see our friends on that International stage. Both choruses did a fabulous job representing our region. Ramapo Valley placed 16th out of 33 choruses and Greater Nassau placed 10th, giving them the honor of singing their entertainment package. Greater Nassau also won the prestigious International Harmony Achievement Award for being the highest-scoring midsize chorus.

Our Region 15 competitors were magnificent, and we thank you for making our region so proud to say

you are part of our family...Now we will hear from first-time International competitors: "Adrenaline-filled, wide-eyed, overwhelmed, excited, experience of a lifetime." These are some of the many words and phrases you'll hear if you speak with any competitor who has competed on the International stage with Sweet Adelines. Can you imagine the experience of competing at International AND being a new member of Sweet Adelines, too?

We asked one member from Greater Nassau and one from Ramapo Valley, who fit in the "new" category, to share their experiences at the recent competition in Detroit last October.

## REVVED UP AND MOTIVATED!

What an incredible experience! Unbelievable! I'm still in awe of all I experienced in Detroit in October.

I was accepted into Sweet Adelines last August as part of the Ramapo Valley Chorus under the direction of Renee Craig. And there I was, two months later, in Detroit, at an International competition!

I was so impressed that a gathering of this size and all that it entailed could be put together in such a short time. I can't imagine how hard the committee had to work to get this all together.

I was taken with what I saw in every chorus and quartet: the passion, the dedication, the hard work, etc. The musicality of every group was so overwhelming. What I felt especially poignant was the love everyone had for each other. Even though it was a competition, I felt everyone sincerely cared for the women who were singing at that particular moment and only wanted the best for them.

I laughed. I cried. I experienced the music and the beautiful harmonies. I saw friendships that had gone on for many years and felt a real "sisterhood" among all who attended. Thank you, Sweet Adelines, for allowing me to be part of you. It is a great honor.

—Marianne Glennon

## FOREVER CONNECTED

"Hey, remember that time in Detroit when we..." Six months later, Greater Nassau is still buzzing about the amazing experience we had at International. The contest week was exciting for everyone who went, but perhaps even moreso for me: I had just joined Greater Nassau two months earlier and had the thrill of going to Detroit just as I was beginning to form an identity as a Sweet Adeline.

From the time we arrived, I was enamored with the experience. I proudly wore my All Events badge

with the “Definitely Diva” and “First Timer” ribbons stuck to its sides. I strolled wide-eyed around the Harmony Bazaar and visited merchants selling Queens CDs, sequined outfits, wiglets, sparkles and bling. I worked hard during our practice sessions and enjoyed the finetuning, the last-minute coaching, the energy, the pep talks, and the sheer exhilaration of it all. That Thursday, our hard work was channeled into a brief but exciting Semi-Finals performance. It was over in six minutes and went by in a flash. But the experience of the intense focus and solemnity of the pattern, the surreal excitement of the International stage, the roar of applause from the huge stadium crowd, and the satisfaction of putting forth our best for our Sweet Adeline Sisters in Harmony made all efforts seem worthwhile.

For the eight hours following our performance at the Semi-Finals, our chorus sat together in anticipation, still unsure of how well we did compared to the many other talented choruses we saw perform. During breaks, I spent time with different members of our chorus—a special opportunity for me as a newer member. We talked, wandered around, made each other laugh, traded stories about how we joined Greater Nassau and began to connect. There was something about being there all day, listening to amazing barbershop music, and just being together that felt like the ultimate bonding experience. Before we knew it, evening rolled around, and the results were being announced. We held hands, crossed our fingers and prayed together, hoping for the best. When we were presented with the Harmony Achievement Award and informed of our Top 10 finish, there was wild, electric, joyful mayhem in the Greater Nassau block unlike anything I had ever experienced: jumping, screaming, laughing, embracing anyone and everyone. We were brimming with pride in ourselves, our hard work and our accomplishment—and the celebration continued late into the night.

Amidst our hugging and cheering, we understood that our job in Detroit was not finished: More long rehearsals were ahead to prepare for the Finals on Saturday, and it was still too early to guess how we would rank in the end. But by getting the chance to find my place among the love, connectedness, and energy that was at the heart of Greater Nassau, I knew I had already won.

—Jennifer Jablonski

## Events Calendar

### 2006

- June 17:** Kick Off/Assessment  
Workshop, Long Island
- June 17:** RMT Meeting
- June 20:** RMT Visits Greater Nassau
- June 26:** RMT Visits Brooklyn
- June 27:** RMT Visits Golden Apple
- July 12-15:** IES, Trinity University,  
San Antonio, Texas
- July 25:** RMT Visits Evergreen
- Aug. 1:** RMT Visits Hudson Harmony
- Aug. 21:** RMT Conference Call
- Aug. 22:** RMT Visits Song Of The  
Valley
- Sept. 15-17:** Regional Meeting,  
“TRAX V”
- Sept. 27:** RMT Visits Ramapo Valley
- Oct. 10-15:** International Convention,  
Las Vegas
- Oct. 15:** Golden Apple Show
- Oct. 21:** Hudson Harmony Show
- Oct. 28 & 29:** Evergreen Show
- Oct. 29:** Long Island Sound Show
- Nov. 5:** Song of the Valley Show
- Nov. 18:** RMT Meeting
- Nov. 26:** Metro Rhythm Show
- Dec. 2:** Hickory Tree Show
- ### 2007
- Jan. 6-7:** RMT Retreat
- April 12-15:** Regional Convention,  
Philadelphia
- Oct. 9-13:** International Convention,  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- Oct. 28:** Song of the Valley Show



## Regional Contest Recap - Here's To the Winners!

### Chorus Results

#### **Greater Nassau (646)**

*Ramapo Valley (615)*

*Island Hills (586)*

*Liberty Oak (571)*

*Millstone Valley (570)*

**Most Improved = Liberty Oak (+127 Points)**

#### **Midsized Winners**

*Ramapo Valley (615)*

*Island Hills (586)*

*Liberty Oak (571)*

#### **Small Chorus Winner**

*Golden Apple (406)*

### Quartet Results

#### **Escape (607)**

*Xclamation! (536)*

*Just4 (534)*

*Shangri-La (532)*

*Fortissimo (524)*

EDITOR'S NOTE: TAGLINES Editor Heather Collins interviewed the directors of regional medalists Greater Nassau and Liberty Oak about their competition philosophy.

#### GREATER NASSAU

With their win this April in Philadelphia, the 72 members onstage with Greater Nassau turned a corner, moving clearly into that elusive "A" level.

For Master Director Harriette Walters—or "just Harriette" as Island Hills Director Scott Brannon joked during the Show of Champions that weekend—the victory can be pinned to two key factors, trust and teamwork. "They just want to do it. They are flying in the same formation," she says shortly before post-contest rehearsal one Tuesday in mid-April.

That connection was forged and strengthened last fall in Detroit at International Competition with

GNC's 10th Place finish and Harmony Achievement recognition. The energy endured and drove rehearsals in the months following the Detroit experience and leading into regional contest. During those sessions, individual members were encouraged to work at home and to seek additional help appropriate to their skill level. Harriette's goal: To drill "infallible" technique off-stage so it became instinctive in performance. That way, she can concentrate on drawing out the message and emotion of the song.

For outside ears, Harriette turned to coaches including Pride of Baltimore Director Janet Ashford and Melodeers Director Jim Arns as well as vocal expression and sound expert Michael Hayden and the legendary Betty Clipman.

During the April rehearsal, she drills vowel matching as a warm-up and stops the chorus frequently, urging different sections to listen and provide feedback and reminding the group that they should "perform" even this technical exercise. As they begin running repertoire, the interruptions continue as Harriette calls on riser personnel to explain the reason she has stopped and then asks them for the potential remedy. When the chorus finally has the chance to sing a number through from edge to edge they dive in willingly and the wall of sound overwhelms guests sitting on the sidelines.

That sound has defined GNC's personality for some time, but this regional contest brought a less technical expression. The brand-new ballad the chorus took onstage is a perfect case in point, showcasing a freedom that contributed to their new level.

Harriette says, "Everything that happened on stage was not planned. ... But I said we could go in the emotion together, and they all went."

We're sure glad they did.

## LIBERTY OAK

Liberty Oak Director Katie Pinto leaves very little to chance.

She attributes a disciplined regimen of vocal "encouragement" established by the chorus' board and music team—a regimen adhered to religiously over the past year—as the winning formula for Liberty Oak's achievement of this year's Most Improved Chorus for Region 15. Liberty Oak's leap of 127 points in score was the largest margin of improvement among ALL regions granting a Most Improved award this spring.

It didn't take a huge increase in Liberty Oak's music budget to achieve this. Just focus and commitment. "They always know what they're going to be working on," Katie says.

Schedules for each rehearsal are distributed to the chorus' approximately 40 members in advance and notes from the previous week are transcribed and distributed by a diligent chorus member, Sandy Robinson. A half-hour of each session is devoted to vocal skills development, and the existing library of learning tapes and CDs was overhauled in favor of tools from learning trackers from men's barbershoppers Tim Waurick and Tony DeRosa. Members are encouraged to be off paper with new songs within three to four weeks.

For this contest season, Liberty Oak was focused on improving its vocal and physical performing skills through a regimen of weekly and some extra section rehearsals. Katie also had hoped for "B" level scores and the Most Improved distinction at contest. Looking forward, the chorus hopes to develop more chorus unity through a quartet program, more performances and education about music theory, and the role of the various judging categories.

Katie thinks her perspective as a performing member of Millstone Valley and as lead of the Quest quartet has been invaluable for finding new ways to approach education and direction. For one thing, she's been able to bring a performer's knowledge to music selection. "Choruses have a personality just like a quartet does," she says.

For Liberty Oak, this has translated into a new freedom and confidence when it comes to performing, something its six new members are learning from the get-go. It's worth noting that Katie stepped out of her front-and-center directing position for much of Liberty Oak's contest uptune onstage in April, demonstrating the strong rapport she has with the chorus.

For next April, Liberty Oak is determined to maintain its B level stature and hopes to remain in the medals. Aside from Katie's and the music team's rigorous regimen, the chorus plans to work with Greater Nassau's Harriette Walters, Ramapo Valley's Sharon Vitkovsky, Millstone Valley's Jack Pinto and Gale Jencik, director of Rhode Island's Coastline Show Chapter, which just captured Region 1 blue ribbon with a score of 662.

## Round The Region

### BROOKLYN

Since we returned from competition, Brooklyn Chorus has been busy preparing for the wedding of our former director, Mindy Fliegelman, to Carl Jacobsen on May 20. Mindy is now a very active singing member of Brooklyn Chorus, lending her voice to the Lead or Bari sections (and even to Bass and Tenor on occasion, if needed). We were all invited to sing at the wedding ceremony and the reception, so we have been learning new music and brushing up on old favorites, such as "My Romance."

On April 22, most of the chorus traveled to Manhattan to attend Mindy's bridal shower given by her friend Joyce at the Selis Manor. The chorus also surprised Mindy at rehearsal with our own mini bridal shower, complete with a champagne toast by our Director Mary Ruffin, and both humorous and sentimental gifts. A visit from "Zelda" and, of course, lots of snacks and sweets made the evening fun.

May 21 found Brooklyn Chorus at the waterfront to sing for the annual Bay Fest in Sheepshead Bay. We have performed for many years at this all-day festival of music, arts and crafts, and a health fair. One highlight of the day is the Blessing of the Fleet of the fishing, sightseeing and pleasure boats in Brooklyn Bay.

—Carolyn De Paolo

### EVERGREEN

Yay! Spring is here, my favorite time of year! Another competition has come and gone—hard to believe. Congratulations to the winning choruses and quartets, especially Greater Nassau and Escape. And to our own quartet, Xclamation!, who placed second, we are SO proud of you! To After Hours and Breathless, you were awesome!

We had six members on stage with Evergreen for their first competition including two brand-new members, Janet MacMillian (Lead) and Dorothy Bethel (Bass). We are delighted to welcome you to our musical family!

April 29 brought the third annual Spaghetti Dinner/Karaoke Night at the Beacon Boat Club in Beacon, N.Y. All reports indicate it was a fun-filled and crazy night. No telling what combination of people you might see sharing the microphone. Anything from a soloist to an octet and everything in between.

As of May 1, Evergreen began fully implementing the team management system for our chorus. Thanks so much to everyone who worked so hard and put in so many hours to bring this to pass. It will be exciting to see more individual members involved. And we look forward to a visit from Region 15 representatives on July 25.



In May instead of Ready, Set, Grow programs, we held a month of "Divas Wanted" nights. They are kind of like the old Guest Nights of long ago: No free voice lessons, just getting to know us and see what we are all about. Very informal, relaxed and (hopefully) fun!

Coming up June 11, we once again will perform at the Vassar Cancer Survivors meeting in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Always a very moving experience. And on July 22, we will sing the National Anthem for the Liberty Women's Basketball game at Madison Square Garden. Last year was such a thrill (one of the highlights of my 44 years as a Sweet Adeline) and we can't wait to go again!

Evergreen wishes everyone a safe, happy, music filled spring and summer!

—Ruth Martin

### GOLDEN APPLE

We were so excited to win the First Place Small Chorus award at Region 15 competition this year! We proudly wear our medals everywhere we go. And more to be proud of—a new quartet from Golden Apple, Awesome Foursome, debuted in competition this year. We were all on pins-and-needles as they took the stage, and they did a great job! Congratulations to them for bravely going where no Golden Apple quartet has ever gone before! And bravo to all the



choruses and quartets who competed.

Our annual weekend retreat was held in February, to prepare our competition package. Coach Heidi Zacchera from Region 1 drilled us on matching vowels and energizing phrases. Lots of hard work, but some fun-time, too. Members Diane Buschel and Donna Motta hosted a hilarious game of "To Tell The Truth," which kept us all laughing for hours.

April performances for the Contemporary Club in Pleasantville and for residents at the WestLedge Health Care Facility in Peekskill were well-received. The audience loves to sing along to their favorite tunes.

We began a Ready, Set, Grow program in April, which continued until the middle of May. Our guests show lots of promise, and we hope to announce them as new members in the next newsletter.

Our new management team is in place for 2006-2007. Tenor Brenda Felletter has accepted the position of Team Leader. Way to go, Brenda! Diane Buschel remains Membership Chair, Gayle Elson is Grants Chair, Amy Kruse serves again as Secretary, Donna Motta continues as Financial Chair, and Delia Siemers becomes Public Relations Chair.

Congratulations to a great team. And wishing you all a wonderful spring and summer!

—B. A. deFerrari



## GREATER NASSAU

We are so happy and proud to be Region 15's First Place representative to International Contest in Calgary in 2007. It's all so exciting!

Greater Nassau congratulates all regional competitors for the wonderful quartet and chorus performances that were put on stage. A big thanks to Hickory Tree Chorus for their work as Hostess chorus. Also we want to wish Hickory Tree and Escape all the best of luck in what is amounting to one of the most exciting International Contests ever in Las Vegas! Big things are happening for us all.

A small group of Greater Nassau singers performed for another small group of folks from the Sons of Norway in Glen Head on Valentines Day. Our two emcees, Lynn Smith, and the very funny, yet informative, Dara Eskenazi, really left them happy and laughing with a wonderful barbershop experience.

The Island Hills Chorus came to visit us March 14 for a dual-rehearsal evening. We both performed our contest packages for each other and appreciated the opportunity of performing for Sweet Adelines before contest. We plan another dual rehearsal soon as it was lots of fun and a beneficial teaching tool at the same time.

Our Family and Friends evening March 28 was the real send-off for us before Philly. It was standing room only for a warm and welcoming audience. We all have great friends and family supporting us, and it really shows in our singing and love of the hobby.



Spring and summer performances include the annual Music Festival and Street Fair in Bay Shore, Long Island, on Sunday afternoon, June 11. The chorus always looks forward to it: Lots of musical groups to hear and lots of new listeners to entice with barbershop harmony. We have been invited back to sing the National Anthem in Madison Square Garden for the Liberty basketball team. This was an inspirational event last year and will surely be again. A performance at the Freeport Library is also scheduled.

Coaching was a priority this season. Jim Arns and Betty Clipman are on board as well as Janet Ashford and Michael Hayden. And, of course, we have Harriette.

Stay cool and visit us at Hofstra on Tuesday nights for the summer months.

—Georgia Goldstein

## HEART OF LONG ISLAND

The Heart of Long Island chorus wishes to congratulate Greater Nassau Chorus and Escape Quartet for their victories in Philadelphia. Congratulations also to Golden Apple Chorus for their Small Chorus win and to Liberty Oak for their Most Improved victory; what a jump in points! Although Heart of Long Island chose not to compete, a few of our members were in attendance to cheer on the competitors and enjoy the show.

In March, we performed at the United Methodist Church in Ronkonkoma, N.Y., for their St.

(continued next page)

Patrick's Day party. We all had so much fun with the audience sing-a-long! One little boy in attendance was so delightful with his participation that we were all "A-Smiling"!

The Heart of Long Island has been very busy working on the "Divas Wanted" campaign. We are proud to share the success of



these efforts by announcing the addition of the following new members:  
Marcia Mach (Lead), Betty Lehman (Baritone),

Rose DeFalco (Bass), Terri Gafarian (Bass), Katina Nineva (Bass), Rhoda Gertner (Bass) and Gina Cicero (Tenor). Welcome and congratulations, ladies! We are also excited that there are five more prospective members through this program who are looking forward to their auditions —and so are we!

All of our chorus members, especially the new girls, are looking forward to our upcoming coaching sessions in June with Sonny Steffan and in June/July with Lisbet Kline. We hope everyone has a great summer. See you in the fall!

—Gina Cicero

## HEART OF NEW JERSEY

Kudos to all Region 15 choruses and quartets for an exciting and entertaining competition. Congratulations to all of the medalists! Heart of New Jersey wishes Hickory Tree and Escape the best of luck at International. May "Lady Luck" be waiting for you in Vegas.

We are really proud of our new quartet, Best Regards. We look forward to watching their growth in the years to come. Keep up the good work!



Another contest has passed, and it is time to get back to work. We look forward to learning new music for our show in November. Our new year begins (began!) with numerous performances in May and June.

We are saddened by the loss of two charter members to cancer. Carol McCarty and Eve Domenichetti will be dearly missed. As we do every year, the Heart of New Jersey Chorus will perform and participate in several Relay for Life walks. Our participation in Relay for Life will take on new meaning as we help celebrate those who have survived and remember those who are gone.

Lastly we are proud to announce that our spunky little Assistant Director, Carolyn Wolf, has chosen to participate in the Director Certification Program. Good Luck Carolyn!

—Ellen Greenhouse

## HICKORY TREE

Spring is in the air, and Hickory Tree has so many exciting things happening, it's hard to know where to begin! An exciting contest weekend, coaching sessions, performances

and new Divas. What else could a Sweet Adeline ask for? The highlight of our year so far was hosting the "Ain't Misbehavin'" regional weekend in Philly. We were delighted to see everyone there. Congratulations to Greater Nassau for their winning performance in the chorus competition and especially to Hickory Tree's own chapter quartets, Escape, for again winning the title of regional quartet champions and True Blues, for taking home the Novice Quartet Award. We are very proud of you!

Of course, one contest leads to another, and Hickory Tree has been hard at work preparing for Las Vegas. In the next several months, some terrific coaches are coming our way to help us along our journey. We also have a number of performances on our calendars, including a dinner show, a street fair and our local Relay for Life, which will allow us to showcase what we have learned and share our music with the community. We can hardly wait for it all to unfold.

Among other things, the search for Divas also continues. Since the beginning of the year, five new Divas have been added to our Hickory Tree family. They are Trea de Jonge, Deb Holland and Molly May (Leads); Patty Danner (Baritone) and Sara Meek (Tenor). We're thrilled to have you on the risers.

In addition to welcoming new members, we had a unique opportunity to host an interchapter party in April with Northwest Spirit, a traveling group of 70 Sweet Adelines led by Zoe Thompson and representing different choruses from Oregon and Washington. After vocal warm-ups, each group performed for the other, and we finished the

evening singing together. It was so much fun to sing with a combined chorus that was literally overflowing the risers!



Regular chorus business continues with our newly elected management team for the 2006/2007 year. Karen Ayres will be our new Team Coordinator, taking the helm from Bettie Hatem, who has filled this role admirably for the last two years.

Finally, we recognize two faithful chorus members who recently received longevity awards: Maxine Kuhl for 35 years and Lynn Sloan for 25 years. We congratulate and thank you for your commitment to Hickory Tree and to Sweet Adelines.

Happy spring and summer to all of you, and we'll see you in Las Vegas!



## HUDSON HARMONY

Sincere congratulations from Hudson Harmony to not only the winners of our regional competition but to all who participated.

Now it's back to basics for our chorus, a Diva program that started June 6 and coaching with the effervescent Lorraine Rochefort.

Welcome back to snowbird, Judy, after a winter vacation in Myrtle Beach and a Mother's Day vacation in California, thanks to her two thoughtful daughters.

We are excited to again participate in Goshen's Fourth of July celebration, the Great American Weekend, with a performance and a booth. It's an extremely popular weekend event with crafts, pony rides and great food. If you're in the area, stop by and say hello! We are also singing and participating in two Relays for Life (for the Heart Fund), one in Pine Bush and one in Goshen; Old-Fashioned Days in Walker Valley (isn't that appropriate); and singing in many local senior citizens' residences.

We're looking forward to a visit from the regional team in August, hopefully with some new members from our Diva drive. A safe and happy summer to all.

—Kay Crozier

## ISLAND HILLS

Congratulations to all Region 15 chorus competitors and to Harriette Walters and Greater Nassau for their first-place finish. Congrats also to the competing quartets and our champions, Escape, for their wonderful performance at regional competition. We are proud of you all and hope to be in the audience when you compete at your International competition.

The winter and early spring were busy with our annual retreat and extra rehearsals. To add to the excitement, we learned new music and started working on our May 20 show. Never a dull moment! Speaking of competition, we would like to congratulate four new members of our chorus who competed with

us for the first time: Christina Taylor, Judy Peters, Tommie Squerciati and Marianne Fulfaro. You're Island Hills veterans now!

In March, Greater Nassau invited Island Hills to an inter-chorus rehearsal at their home base in Baldwin, N.Y. We performed for each other, then sang together. Thank goodness for regional songs and strong risers! It was truly a fun evening for all. We look forward to a repeat performance.

Many of us are preparing to travel to Las Vegas in October to support Hickory Tree and Escape as they take the international stage representing Region 15. With such an entertaining and fun venue, many of our husbands are coming along. This is one contest we don't want to miss!

Very best wishes to our Marion Kelly who recently announced her retirement from our chorus. Marion was not on stage with us in Philly, she was in the audience. She's our resident cheerleader and dearest supporter. Thank you, Marion, for your contributions throughout the years. We will miss you when we perform, but we know you'll be out there cheering us on.

With summer around the corner, we're setting up our performance calendar and making arrangements for coaching sessions. We look forward to seeing you all at TRAX.

—Chris Klepeis



Island Hills Chorus

## LIBERTY OAK

Hello everyone. It was wonderful to see you all in Philly. What an amazing time for Liberty Oak! Thank you for all of your generous congratulations and support for our achievements at contest. Region 15 is the best!

Special thanks go out to Katie, our incredible director, as well as our coaches, for all their guidance and inspiration. And a huge "thank you" to each and every member of Liberty Oak for stepping up and being prepared to give individual best performances. Congratulations for a job well-done and for bringing to the stage all the skills, confidence and love of our music that we've gained this past year. It obviously all came through.

Thanks to all those who joined us at our Spring Showcase. We were thrilled to share the experience with our special guests, quartets Just4 and Quest. Thank-you to our show committee for all your time and commitment to this event. Special thanks to Jackie Palmer, our committee chairperson, whose efforts made this endeavor go smoothly.

Liberty Oak is anticipating a busy summer with coaching, learning new music, and the implementation of our quartet program to continue honing our skills. But, these past months have been filled with such energizing achievements, we're prepared for the tasks ahead.



We look forward to seeing you at TRAX this fall. Until then, Liberty Oak wishes you all a happy, harmonious summer!

—Anne Gerard

## LONG ISLAND SOUND

Greetings from The Long Island Sound Chorus, and congratulations to the winners of our Regional Competition: Escape, Xclamation! Just4 in the Quartet division and Greater Nassau, Ramapo Valley and Island Hills in the chorus division.

It was truly a wonderful competition. I know in a personal vein, our chorus was thrilled with



our 99-point increase in score, bringing us from a C-chorus to a

B-chorus. We

have a wonderful, dedicated director, Peg Di Sunno, whom all of you know. Well, that has inspired and motivated us to have made this giant improvement! And along with our wonderful coaches, Harriette, Elaine Gains and Pam Calveric, with whom we will continue to work, we hope to continue on this upward swing!

Riding home on the bus from Philly, our dedicated director passes out our projected rehearsal plan for the entire year, with the goals, music and schedule for each rehearsal. We have started it, and so far we are on track. We have had one performance since competition, with a very busy performance itinerary following for the summer months. And the most exciting news is Long Island Sound has agreed to host this year's TRAX, Sept. 15-17!

We are very excited about doing this, and as all of you that have done this know, we do have some work and organizing to do. It will be fun, and it will give us a chance to again participate with and enjoy our wonderful sister choruses in Region 15.

I do want to mention by name our very newest members, four of whom did compete with us in April: Joan Colao, Linda Euell, Colleen F. Marron, Ellen A. Stevenson, (the four that did compete); and Linda C. Esposito and Kathy Solomon, who joined just before competition. Congratulations to all of you!

And Congratulations to Olive Hildreth, our highlighted member from Long Island Sound.

Yours In Harmony,

—Thea Di Sunno

## METRO RHYTHM

Thanks to Region 15 for its warm welcome for our new director, Daniel Chernosky. He seems to have made new friends during competition weekend and had the chance to talk and sing with other directors. We were proud of his directing "How We Sang Today" at the Mass Sing.

The competition was fantastic! Congratulations to Escape and Greater Nassau for the big prizes and to all other medal winners and contestants. The high caliber of talent in the region is evident. We're hoping to be back next year with all of you.

Metro Rhythm hosted two spring guest nights in late April and early May. Quite a few prospective members attended these evenings of tag singing, performing and socializing. It was



## METRO RHYTHM

fun, and we hope our guests will return.

Daniel's debut as Metro Rhythm's director came May 2 as the chorus sang at Muhlenberg Hospital. This was the first performance in a long time, and it was exciting and rewarding to be in front of an audience. On May 10, the installation of our officers was held at BJ Fields Restaurant in Westfield, and June brought a jewelry party fund-raiser before rehearsal.

Metro Rhythm will be having a garage sale July 22 (rain date Aug. 19) at Judy Douglas' home on the Boulevard in Mountain Lakes, N.J. Come one, come all! We should have a lot of good stuff!

We are setting our sights on improving musical skills and learning new repertoire. We want to have several new songs in place before the summer interferes, since our show will be Nov. 26 in Cranford, N.J. All of that should keep us busy before the big push for competition.

Again, thanks for all of your support and encouragement. We truly appreciate your good wishes.

—Sue Schmehr

## MILLSTONE VALLEY

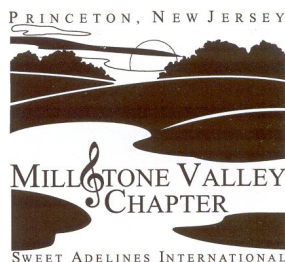
Ahhh, isn't it wonderful to enjoy all the benefits that come along with springtime: longer hours of sunshine, birds singing, flowers blooming, a whole new set of eager and enthusiastic team leaders?

At Millstone Valley spring never means "take a break"! We're deep into a brisk schedule of learning new repertoire, performing regularly and supporting an all-out effort for new members and retention.

Fresh off the heels of regional competition, Millstone Valley would like to congratulate all the winners and participants for a great effort. We're especially proud of our own Katie Pinto and Liberty Oak Chorus. As a first-time director, Katie was a smash!

We've been having lots of fun performing for a variety of audiences. Sharing the stage with the Brothers In Harmony, we again had a great experience performing at their spring show. Coming up in September, the Brothers will return the favor, performing for the Millstone Valley audience. Of course, our director, Jack Pinto, will have lots of interesting and fun surprises worked into the repertoire.

There was a good old-fashioned get-together for our installation celebration. After our scrumptious buffet of bring-a-dish dinner, our new team, headed by Trish Wolfe, was officially installed by Corynn Ganley, the outgoing team leader. Corynn was feted as our Sweet Adeline of the Year, a well-deserved honor after serving Millstone Valley in fine style. And now we'll let her rest, or not!



We're so proud of our quartets, 24 Karat and Sweet Revival, who were the top choices at the Somerset Patriots' Baseball Team National Anthem Contest. Sweet Revival recently performed at a May game and 24 Karat will appear in August.

So get ready for vacation time! Bring your music to the beach, maybe visit a chorus in another city, and try to get more exercise to be ready for that crazy choreo. Because, at work or play we're always Sweet Adelines! Have a great summer!

—Carole Auletta

## RAMAPO VALLEY

I know it doesn't happen every year, but it certainly feels like every Region 15 contest falls on the daylight savings time change weekend! Despite the loss of 60 minutes of all-night barbershop in the hospitality suite, it was still 72 hours of non-stop fun for Ramapo Valley.

We were blessed with three competing quartets this year, third-place medalists Just4, fifth-place medalists Fortissimo, and Vanity Fair. They were great, and had us rolling on the floor (literally) laughing our sequins off when they came back "home" to our room to sing. We were also happy to have two women with dual memberships who did double duty at contest. One also sang with Island Hills Chorus and the other with Golden Apple.

Congratulations to Escape and Greater Nassau Chorus. We know you'll have an exciting time preparing for Las Vegas this fall and Calgary, Alberta (Canada!) next year!

(continued on next page)



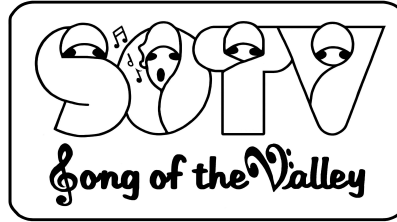
We've got big plans for this summer, and to start everything off on the right foot we did our annual outdoor performance at the Ridgewood Bandshell in June.

Usually this particular venue has us come in August, but this year they wanted us to open their 2006 concert season. So we brushed up on our packages, patriotic tunes and crowd favorites to make it a terrific evening of harmony.



On a more serious note, Ramapo Valley is not alone in having a number of members over the years who were afflicted with breast cancer. We have had our share of survivors and our share of those we have lost to this terrible disease. Our 2005-06 president, Pat Friedhoff, will be doing the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in October, to fund research to find a cure. If anyone is interested in learning more about her efforts and how to help, contact Ramapo Valley.

*—Stephanie Robinson*



## SONG OF THE VALLEY

Song of the Valley Chorus began this year with the naming of a star, near the Big Dipper, to honor our very special, talented and much loved Director, Lisbet P. Kline. Little did we know that we would be able to end the year with the symbol of a shooting star as one possible representation of where we are in our journey as a chorus.

Since January, we have begun to explode, nearly bursting with a myriad of new knowledge and developing skills. Though not yet mastered, these months have allowed us a tantalizing glimpse of a joyous and exciting performing future that we know we can achieve ... together. The possibilities are limitless. We need only decide to grasp the bright star of musical promise that shines before us and, then, we can go out and light up the sky.

*—June Pierson*

## TWIN COUNTY

It's spring again. What a lovely time of year. And a busy one for Twin County.

Before I get into that, we would like to congratulate Greater Nassau and Escape, and wish them, as well as Hickory Tree, the best of luck in their respective International appearances. We had a great time in Philly and loved strutting around in our new red outfits.

Our busy season began on April 6, with our Board of Directors elections. The installation dinner for the new officers was at the South Bay Diner on May 4. Sometimes, some of the diner staff takes their break while we're there, just to listen to us sing.

On April 27, we sang for the residents at Huntington Terrace, who had such a great time, they've already invited us back for next year. The treat for us was that one of the residents was a charter member of Twin County back in the early 60's.

As of this writing, we are set to sing at Snug Harbor in Amityville on May 7, and for the residents of Somerset Gardens in Plainview on May 11.



Keep watching our website for news about our upcoming Chinese Auction and mini concert on Friday night, June 16, at the Knights of Columbus in Babylon. We have some truly fabulous items lined up for the bidding; and be sure to save Thursday Nov. 9 for our bi-annual fashion show and dinner.

Our BIG news this season is that as of May 18, we've moved our rehearsals to Farmingdale to a bigger room, with better acoustics. We're all very excited about this new space. And it was just in time for our Divas Wanted campaign. More on that next issue.

Whew. I'm tired just writing about all this stuff! Have a great summer, everyone.

*—Naomi Rose*

## REGION 15 SHINING STARS

IN THIS NEW FEATURE, THE RMT ASKED EACH CHORUS TO HIGHLIGHT AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER WHOSE ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE MADE A TRUE DIFFERENCE TO THE GROUP. WE SALUTE THIS GALAXY OF SHINING STARS!

### GOLDEN APPLE, DIANE BUSCHEL

Early in 1977, when Diane answered an ad for ladies who "Love to Sing," I'm sure she had no idea that almost 30 years later, she would be the one hanging those all important flyers all over town and working tirelessly to increase our membership.

Diane has been our Membership Chair for countless years and has held the position of Baritone Section Leader for as long as I can remember! During her tenure with Golden Apple Chorus, Diane has been Ways and Means Chairman, Secretary, Vice President, Hospitality Chair—and I'm sure at least one or two other positions. Her one true passion is membership, and she is always looking for innovative ways to increase our numbers. We all know what a difficult job that is, but Diane always does it with energy and enthusiasm and never gives up!

Diane is married to Doug, and has three wonderful children. Her daughter Nancy, newly married, her son Danny, who is a junior at Rochester Institute of Technology and her daughter Carolyn, who is a sophomore in high school. Diane works at Crompond Elementary School and is very active in her church. Whoever has the good fortune to have Diane on their team is lucky indeed!

### GREATER NASSAU, ARLENE OBERHOFER

Greater Nassau is proud to present our Shining Star, Arlene Oberhofer. A Sweet Adeline and Greater Nassau member for 26 years, Arlene is one of the reasons for GNC's success. She is an integral music staff member, Music Staff Coordinator and cherished chorus member. She is also our Auditions Coordinator for prospective new members.

A mother of three and grandmother of five, she is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio. Arlene is the tenor of the wonderful medal-winning chapter quartet Shangri-La and has also been the tenor in Greater Nassau's Taping Quartet for the last 21 years, who consistently provides us with excellent learning tapes. Music is not Arlene's only talent. She is also the designer of our purple costume earrings, each one made by her hand. She stands top row, center, on the

risers, and her clear tenor sound anchors us all. Just to leave you with an example of Arlene's dedication, under doctor's orders not to travel by plane, Arlene took the very long train and bus trip to Detroit to help us make our dream come true. We are proud to name her our Shining Star.

### HEART OF LONG ISLAND, GERT WILK

Gert "Girly" Wilk, a Lead with Heart of Long Island for 25 years, celebrated her 84th birthday this May. She has been a volunteer at Mather Hospital for 20 years, is an avid bowler and is active in many other clubs. Gert has three children and four grandchildren.

Her philosophy in life has always been: "While you're healthy—do it!" Gert has followed her own advice faithfully throughout her 84 years. She feels she has led a very active and fulfilling life, and despite her many obstacles: cancer, a head-on car accident and, most recently, a spinal injury, she feels she has been very lucky.

Over the past few weeks, we have had to make do without Gert's presence as she is recovering from a compressed fracture of her spine. She is uncomfortable, in a lot of pain and quite bored! Of all her activities, Gert misses being on the risers most of all. We hope she will be able to return to her friends and her chorus soon. We wish her a speedy recovery!

### HEART OF NEW JERSEY, CAROL MCCARTY

In October 2005, Heart of New Jersey lost a very precious member, Carol McCarty. Carol was a charter member of Heart of New Jersey and Liberty Oak. She left behind her husband Paul, six children and many grandchildren. She and Paul were a great couple, he the jokester and Carol the straight man.

Carol was one of the "innocents," old-fashioned, pure of heart, THOUGHTFUL, always a smile on her face and never a bad word to say about another person. She was always there to defend a chorus member if someone else was critical of them. Carol was addicted to the shopping network. Whenever we had a show and we needed gifts for the raffle, she

would open her special closet and provide us with a plethora of beautiful merchandise.

As a chorus member Carol was dedicated, loyal and seldom missed a rehearsal. Truly an asset to the baritone section, she always knew her part by the second if not the first week a new song was introduced. As a worker she always said, "Yes" (sometimes with a little arm-twisting when it made her the center of attention). Some would say Carol was a quiet person. True, but when she spoke up it was always "on the money," and we sat up and took notice.

After driving to contest with Carol for 22 years, the car felt empty this year. Not just her physical presence but the warm and humorous friend that was always there with an optimistic attitude, a story about her children and grandchildren, and a "Yes" if you needed a favor. This emptiness was felt by every member of the chorus on the risers and in the hospitality suite at competition. She will be dearly missed, and her memory will be with us always.

## ISLAND HILLS, GINA BARTLEY AND BETTY BANACH

We call them the "twins." Gina Bartley and Betty Banach have been active Island Hills members for the past 38 years. Both joined the chorus the same year, both are Baris, have become very close friends after sharing so many experiences over the years, and are petite and lively; they even look and act alike!

Their greatest moment in Island Hills was winning International. (Betty confesses with laughter that it was even more exciting than getting married or having her first child.) The year was 1978 in Los Angeles. They never expected to win, especially since their director had resigned just months before. The assistant director, Estelle Grau, pulled them through with motivation and hard work; and the 85-plus members packed the International Stage and wowed the judges! It was very hot in the third balcony where everyone in the chorus was seated awaiting the announcement of winners. Many had unzipped and unbuttoned their costumes to keep cool, never expecting to go "on stage." When Island Hills was announced as No. 1, the screams roared through the third balcony and throughout the auditorium. As they raced down to the stage, the audience knew exactly where they were as the screaming was a constant. At the same time they were zipping and buttoning costumes! And the rest is history...

Gina and Betty have enjoyed participation in three International competitions and have attended many more, always taking a side excursion. They recommend everyone to experience International."

Gina is blessed with three children and six grandchildren; and Betty has two daughters, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## LIBERTY OAK, NEW MEMBERS

Liberty Oak Chorus would like to salute our newest members. Over the course of the last summer and fall, we have gained six new singers. They each come to us with previous music experience, as well as a desire to develop and advance their skills in the barbershop art form.

In the lead section, we welcome Marie Boyle, Nanette McCall and Diane Poulson, the latter two having previously sung with quartets and/or choruses. Joining the tenor section we're pleased to have Elizabeth Williams. Our wonderful new bass is Esther Krutzel. And, adding her voice and knowledge to the baritones is Deb Poulson, who also has dual membership with Millstone Valley.

The individual and combined talents of these women are evident each time Liberty Oak performs. Furthermore, their presence added considerable joy, energy and strength to our experience at competition — both on and off the stage. We're thrilled to have them be part of Liberty Oak. Here's to the future, ladies! Let the good times roll.

## RAMAPO VALLEY, PAT FRIEDHOFF

Ramapo Valley would like to highlight Pat Friedhoff, a bass, a front-row performer and our President.

Though Pat has been active in RV chairing numerous committees, recently she has begun training for something even more challenging—she has committed to participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in New York City. This is a 39.5-mile walk (that's a marathon and a half!) It is held on the weekend of Oct. 7 – 8, that's the weekend before the International Convention in Las Vegas.

Right now, Pat is actively seeking supporters so that her walk reaps the most financial rewards possible. You may have noticed that there was a booth set up by Wells Fargo at the Regional Competition in Philadelphia this year. Wells Fargo purchased necklaces and pins from the Avon

Foundation, and all the proceeds from these sales went to Pat's fund-raising goal.

Pat's walking because breast cancer has affected so many people she knows and loves. One of her sisters is a two-year survivor, and she has many dear friends, some are members of RV, who are also survivors or currently battling this terrifying disease.

I'm sure that your chorus is also affected. It would be wonderful if the Sweet Adelines in Region 15 could cheer Pat on along the walk route, to help crew the event, to walk with her or just to donate to the cause. Go online to the Avon site at [www.avonwalk.org](http://www.avonwalk.org) and check it out.

## SONG OF THE VALLEY, ELVA MCTAMNEY

Song of the Valley is proud to introduce Elva McTamney, who sings bass, and has been an active chapter member for 25 years!

When asked why she has remained with Song of the Valley for such a long time, Elva replies, "It's the challenge of ongoing education to become a better and better singer, the many activities and, most importantly, the people in this chorus that have made me want to keep coming back."

This is one active lady, having participated in several IES sessions, numerous regional meetings and many activities with other Sweet Adelines, such as cruises and a trip to Paris, performing at the Chateau de Chantilly and singing songs under the Eiffel Tower at midnight on New Year's eve, 2001.

Elva's most touching Sweet Adelines experience came while on a cruise to Alaska in September 2001. Kathy Carmody was the director, preparing the singers for a final performance at sea. The Sept. 11 attack happened during the cruise. Because of the tragedy and resulting surge of patriotism that was felt by all, the repertoire for the performance was completely changed. The emotional performance and, afterward, the gratitude and love, expressed by cruise passengers and crew toward chorus members were truly overwhelming. With tears in her eyes, Elva says, "This is one of my strongest memories. I will never forget it."

That sums up what membership in Song of the Valley and Sweet Adelines means to one who has given her heart to singing and performing.

## TWIN COUNTY, CARRIE SCHALLER

Carrie Schaller joined Sweet Adelines in 1970, singing bass with Heart of Long Island and Greater Nassau, also serving on GNC's board of directors, before coming to Twin County in 1987.

Carrie has handled our hospitality needs since she joined our ranks, both at rehearsals, and for our competition hospitality suite. An enthusiastic bass, Carrie always has a smile on her face, even when lugging around bags of groceries to feed us.

Carrie and her husband sang a lovely rendition of "I Remember It Well" at our Home Grown Talent Show last August. They are the proud parents of nine children and happy grandparents of six, and they love spending time with all of them.

Twin County says a great big Thank-You to Carrie for her hard work and dedication, and looks forward to many more years of her shining personality.

---

## MORE FROM THE FIELD ...

### A Report From The Festival Of Harmony

Nearly 100 students from throughout New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania attended this year's Fifth Annual Festival of Harmony held April 22 in Rahway, N.J. Our biggest group of attendees ever (49 boys and 45 girls), the students enjoyed a day of fun and fellowship while singing barbershop harmony!

Students were taught singing techniques and barbershop basics by two top-level quartets, Reveille and Quest. Each group, boys and girls, spent the day learning two songs, which they then performed in the evening concert. Music educators accompanied their students and observed the day's teaching sessions. During the day, the Festival Committee interviewed the educators to hear their reactions to the program.

Patrick Brady, Choral Director at William Allen High School, Allentown, Pa., brought 15 of his students. He said, "Barbershop is different, a unique style, and far more challenging to sing well than most people believe. It teaches kids to have a good ear, and when it's done well, kids love it!"

Stephanie Berger, Choral Director at Cinnaminson High School, Cinnaminson, N.J., and a longtime barbershop fan, brought six of her students. She was impressed with the festival and found it "interesting

(continued on next page)



to watch other people work. I picked up some ideas that will help me. For example, kids don't need the piano as much as they think. By learning to listen, they hear the music and read it better."

Patty Danner, Choral Director/Orchestra Director at Mendham High School, Mendham, N.J., and a member of Hickory Tree Chorus, brought 14 of her students. She said, "It's wonderful! My students are having fun in a light-hearted and instructional atmosphere. My students were at first reluctant and nervous about singing a cappella, but now, they love it!"

Ten student organizations attended. They were:

William Allen High School, Allentown, Pa.

Bogota High School, Bogota, N.J.

Celebration Children's Choir, Roselle, N.J.

Cinnaminson High School, Cinnaminson, N.J.

Cranford High School, Cranford, N.J.

Crossroads Middle School, Monmouth, N.J.

Henry Hudson Regional School, Highlands, N.J.

Mendham High School, Mendham, N.J.

Morris County Girl Scouts, Morris County, N.J.

Rahway High School, Rahway, N.J.

Our teaching quartets did a marvelous job with the students and incorporated expressive moves and creative staging to enhance the singing. Audience members at the evening performance enjoyed enthusiastic performances by both festival choruses and the very talented educator quartets.

The festival was managed jointly by members of the Barbershop Harmony Society and Region 15. Major funding was provided by Rahway Savings Institution and through a grant from the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

We expect to enhance the 2007 Festival of Harmony to make it even grander by expanding our Festival committee, incorporating input from educators and seeking additional funding. Region 15 members can participate in the success of the 2007 Festival of Harmony by doing the following: Getting involved with local schools' music programs; learning more about the festival by visiting the website at [www.festivalofharmony.org](http://www.festivalofharmony.org); letting your high schools and middle schools know about the Festival of Harmony; including chapter funding for the Festival of Harmony 2007 in your 2006-2007 budget

—Carolyn Schmidt

## Greetings From ... Gracenotes

Hello Region 15 and all those who've spent time nurturing and contributing to the musical growth of Capriccio and other young women in harmony!

I'm so happy to share with you some news from Kristen Waghorn, tenor of Capriccio, the 2005 Third Place Rising Stars. Kristen is a freshman music education major at West Chester University in Pennsylvania., and not long after arriving on campus, she received permission to start up a Young Women In Harmony group. Kristen directs this group and says she "parrots everything she has learned from Harriette Walters, Nancy Fuhrmann, Jeannie Froelich and Carolyn Schmidt."

Recently, the girls named their group, the Gracenotes and even bought matching shirts. On Saturday, April 8, they gave their first public performance. Here is Kristen's report on that performance in her own words:

"I just wanted to tell you all that Gracenotes' debut went very well yesterday! We sang at about 10 in the morning in the rain and freezing cold, but I got A LOT of positive feedback about our sound and our performance!

"Everyone who watched was very impressed (smile). We sang 'Candle on the Water' and 'Feelin' Groovy' and then four of us (out of the group of 10) sang 'In my Life.' While there were a few shaky spots here and there, it went great for our first performance. I had bought everyone part pins so we all had those, and one girl got us shirts so we all looked great, too! Just thought I'd share and THANK YOU for teaching me everything you all know about barbershop."

—Carolyn Schmidt



## Quartet Corner



### ESCAPE

By now, you probably know that Region 15's 2006 champion quartet Escape coined its name in homage to the refuge that quartet singing offers this foursome from their gaggle of young children (and grandchildren!) Watch out Vegas, these ladies need some family-free time.

But what you might not remember is that the original foursome formed in May 1998 placed near the bottom of the heap in their first quartet contest seven years ago. Two basses later, the quartet has elevated its scores more than 200 points since that start to its respectable 607 standing this past April.

Three Escapees—Lead Susan Schuman, Tenor Michelle Metallo and Baritone Georgette Chrystal—underscored this fact in a recent phone interview to offer encouragement to newer quartets. (Bass Janell Paviolitis, a past International Quartet Champion with Melo-Edge, couldn't talk for this article because she was visiting with her new grandchildren but sent some comments via e-mail.)

I asked the three to share the things they concentrate on individually to best amplify that unit ideal. Things the might benefit a less-experienced quartet singer.

For Georgette, it's singing the baritone line like a melody and always remembering her relative position to the lead in a given chord. By the way, she focuses on tuning to the bass. Michelle urges tenors to "be assertive. Don't let them tell you you're the icing on the cake, because you're not. You're the cake." (She tunes to the baritone.) Via e-mail, Janell urges newer basses to have fun, sing with a smile in your eyes, sing to the ring in your voice and (yes) sing like a lead. And Susan says her job is all about accuracy, authority and emotion. "If the lead doesn't buy into it, no one will," she says.

Escape's primary coaches over the past year have included Jo Lund, Jeannie Froelich, Nancy Fuhmann and Jim Arns. Certainly, winning

regional contest for the first time two years ago gave the quartet a new level of confidence, allowing them to try new things and tread on unfamiliar turf. It took a great deal of nerve, for example, for Susan to sing the lead feature "Scarlet Ribbons" for an audience that included the song's legendary arranger Renee Craig.

Speaking of performing, Escape emphasizes that all the coaching in the world can't simulate the lessons learned through live performance. Janell reminds the other three often that the yardstick of a quartet's true skill lies in the level of its worst performance—and that's the measure you need to improve. Upcoming opportunities for Escape to put that philosophy into practice include a July 22 gig for the Renaissance Group in Westfield, N.J., and an Aug. 23 date with the Bridgewater JCC.

"The only thing you can control is yourself," Susan says.

—Heather Collins

---

## Region 15 Regional Management Team 2006-2007

**Jeannie Allen**

**Finance Coordinator**

89 Edgewood Dr.  
Florham Park, N.J. 07932  
973/822-0798  
bassbell@optonline.net

**Christine Klepeis**

**Marketing/Membership Coordinator**

5 Sylvan Rd.  
Smithtown, N.Y. 11787  
631/724-8436  
cksongbird@optonline.net

**Sharon Vitkovsky**

**Director Coordinator**

180 Hillcrest Ave.  
Wood Ridge, N.J. 07075  
201/933-9065

**Peggy DiSunno**

**Team Coordinator**

30 Robins Way  
East Hampton, N.Y. 11937  
631/267-6441  
disunno@optonline.net

**Lisbet Kline**

**Chapter Coordinator**

475 Winona Lakes  
East Stroudsburg, Pa. 18301  
570/223-4292  
[lisbet@ptd.net](mailto:lisbet@ptd.net)

**Harriette Walters**

**Education Coordinator**

104 Woodland Estates Dr.  
Baldwin, N.Y. 11510  
516/867-8446

**Beth Fulton**

**Communications/Technology  
Coordinator**

73 Ferndale Ave.  
Glen Rock, N.J. 07452  
201/689-6896  
bethanfulton@hotmail.com

**Carol Schultheis**

**Events Coordinator**

6 Marcella Blvd.  
Hopewell Junction, N.Y. 12533  
845/226-7808  
[schulcl@optonline.net](mailto:schulcl@optonline.net)

**Pat Friedhoff**

**Administrative Assistant**

17 Garden Court  
Mahwah, N.J. 07430  
201/512-0035  
patsingstoo@aol.com

---

### *Taglines*

Greater New York Region 15  
*Sweet Adelines International*  
73 Ferndale Ave.  
Glen Rock, N.J. 07452

<p><b>Presort Non-Profit U.S. Postage Paid Bohemia, N.Y. 11716-9998 Permit No. 365</b></p>
--

**Dated Material**