



Tags

Swipes

Phyllis Tremblay: Sweet Adeline Legend in her Own Time

A gem of a lady, herself, Phyllis Tremblay recently received her golden 60 year pin, complete with diamond! This ultra-dedicated Adeline has a wonderful story to relate, so sit back and get comfy, as she shares her amazing journey and incredible, unforgettable experiences:

“60 years ago, in September 1951, I joined the Marlborough Chapter of Sweet Adelines, a relatively young chapter, just 2 years old. Soon, I was “assigned” to chair a committee for our first official costume. (At that time, most choruses wore black skirts, white blouses, and a red tie!) With about 20 members in the chorus (or ‘chapter’, as it was then called), I made 12 costumes, with the director, Madeline Dalton Lilly, a very dear cousin of mine. From then on, I sewed on nearly every costume committee!! It was a position I cherished year after year, truly a labor of love. I have numerous fond memories of so many former members. Many changed locations or joined other choruses, but somehow, through a note, call, or e-mail, we manage to keep in touch.

I served as President 3 times, secretary- several times, historian, and worked with Regional Boards long ago. I was given the honor of ‘Sweet Adeline of the Year’ from the Marlborough Chorus, way back in 1965 and again 24 years later, 4 years after we merged and became the Wayside chorus in 1989. Also that year, I traveled to the

Miami International Convention, to see my picture on the “Wall of Fame”!

While we were still the Marlborough Chorus, I had the opportunity to compete in Seattle, Washington, on an International Stage, in 1975. What a joy that was! Again, so many memories...



In 1967, my “chapter” submitted a bid in New York City to hostess an International Convention for the year 1970. We called our bid and skit, ‘Boston in ‘70’ and won the privilege of hosting the 1970 convention in Boston, at the new Hynes Auditorium. I became co-chairman of this memorable event. We all worked tirelessly to welcome all those who attended the Boston convention. At that time, only quartets compete on an International level. Chorus contest came into reality in 1973. The theme was ‘DC in ‘73’, and I’m proud to say that I was there!!

In 1985, our Marlborough Chapter merged with a chapter known as Nashoba Valley, and we became the Wayside

Chorus, growing to become nearly 100 members. There were many more costumes to be designed, fitted, and fabricated, but with truly dedicated members and endless hours of cutting, fitting, and sewing, this was accomplished!

...continued on page 5

News from your Regional Management Team

- Angie Levine, Team Coordinator



Hello Region 1!!!!

First of all, congratulations to both Coastline Show Chorus and Without Warning Quartet on your Houston International Convention performances! You certainly did your Region 1 members proud!!!!

As this is my final Tags & Swipes article as the Team Coordinator of your Regional Management Team, I would like to take this opportunity to truly thank each and every member of our Region for five years of continuous learning and growing in the administrative side of our organization.

I came to our Regional Team with chorus level administrative experience, and thanks to the very knowledgeable members that I was fortunate to work with on your Regional Management Team during the five years, I leave with a true appreciation of the responsibilities, the time, and the efforts involved in running a successful region such as ours. I have learned that it takes the organizational skills of the individual team members working together along with the supportive efforts of the membership of our Region to maintain our level of success. There are changes from International coming our way soon which will assist us yet again in moving forward both musically and administratively, changes that will make us even stronger in our craft and our organizational skills. Where else can you learn to be a confident speaker, a singer, a performer, and make lifetime friendships?!

A few of my favorite things:

*Regional Management Team training conducted by International Faculty! Classes to train your RMT members to work together and be as efficient as possible in assisting the needs of the Region!

*Networking sessions held at the International Conventions for RMT members from all over! Sharing ideas with each other of what works to run a region smoothly! I have to mention that I always came home very proud of being able to contribute helpful suggestions as we run very well!!!!

*Meeting and talking with chorus Team Coordinators and Presidents at our regional weekend meetings, sharing questions, solutions, and "good news" of successful chorus events!

*Introducing your RMT Members, and speaking at the Saturday evening show on Regional Weekends (when the microphone is lowered of course!) You might want to consider a TC height requirement, or making a platform available at the podium for those of us that are vertically challenged!

*Meeting and talking with you - the individual members who actually make up our Region, a Region striving to always learn and move forward.

My regional experiences have given me constant opportunities to become a more confident individual so again, I strongly recommend learning how your chorus operates from the inside out, and then sharing and expanding that experience by stepping up and becoming involved on your regional level. Believe me, you emerge a winner in all areas of your life!!!!

In Harmony, Angie Levine
Team Coordinator / Region 1
Regional Management Team



Core Values

Camaraderie, Musical Excellence, Personal Growth, Professionalism, Open Communication

Strategic Goals

- Provide quality education to enhance musical excellence and leadership
- Promote regional leadership excellence and develop new regional leaders
- Assure financial security
- Maintain membership (retention) and promote membership growth
- Assist Sweet Adelines International in creating a vision for the far future (15 years)

“One Voice, One Message”

- Wendy Davies, Region 1 Marketing Coordinator

The Global Membership Campaign has been creating awareness of Sweet Adelines all around the globe during the month of January. I do hope that your chorus has also been part of that effort to make our amazing organization better known in your community. Hopefully, this campaign will springboard future endeavors for creative marketing.

What was the most successful part of this campaign? What would you do again? What would you change? The International Membership Team has given us the challenge to brand and promote Sweet Adelines, let us now consider this a “New Year’s Resolution” to continue to grow.

The growth of our choruses is up to each and every one of us, not just our Management Teams. Each chorus member is part of the Marketing Team; every time you speak to a friend or acquaintance about your chorus activities you are marketing your chorus. You are your chorus’ best sales representative, take up the challenge! “One Voice, One Message”

Wendy Davies

Region one, Marketing Coordinator

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A Very Fond Farewell

- Judy Lang, Region 1 Membership Coordinator

I am coming to the end of my last term on the RMT (regional management team)! We have term limits on the RMT and can serve as a member for a maximum of 3 consecutive 2 year terms, for a total of 6 consecutive years. That sounds like a really long time but it has flown by!!! My first position on the team was Event Coordinator, and during that time I loved working with hostess choruses to make the event run smoothly for all! That was an amazing opportunity to identify strong chorus leadership. As Membership Coordinator, I have really enjoyed visiting your choruses in your rehearsal halls, experiencing your personality and hospitality, getting to put names and faces together, working together to assist in your growth, etc. I have been able to further identify strong chorus leadership while watching the interaction among your membership.

I encourage you to consider shadowing someone on the RMT in a position(s) that interests you. There is no obligation to apply for the position but you gain a lot of information about how the team functions, what the different positions do, etc. Then, when a seat becomes available, you’ll be ready to apply!

I appreciate all the encouragement you have given me over the years and as I return to simply being a member of my chorus, I look forward to having the time to visit with you more. Let’s plan to stay in touch.

In Harmony,

Judy Lang

Membership Coordinator (til May)

SAVE THE DATES!

2012 Regional Events

- 3-6 May 2012
- Regional Competition Springfield, MA
- 4 August 2012
- RQA with Peggy Gram -- NOT just for quartets!
- 21-23 September 2012 - Nashua, NH
- Fall Regional Weekend with Jim Arns and Renee Porzel

Money Matters

- Ruth Widerski, Financial Coordinator

Happy New Year! As we start the new year, it's also the time to start thinking about the budget for Fiscal Year 2012 - 2013. All our Fiscal Years start on May 1 and end April 30 the following year. Your Chorus teams and Boards should all work on the new budget, with each member budgeting for their area of responsibility and the Finance coordinator/Treasurer putting it all together. Some choruses have the chorus members vote and approve the budget while others leave that approval to the Team/Board. If the Team/Board approves the budget, it's a good idea to make sure your members see the budget and understand the expenses. After all, it is the dues of all the members and their fundraising efforts that provides the money being spent by the Team/Board. While some members may not be interested in the financials, it should be up to them to decide how much they want to know. Do your members know how much that great retreat coach cost? Do they know how much it costs to rent your rehearsal hall? If you're a chorus member who wants to know more about chorus finances, just ask your Finance Coordinator/Treasurer and I'm sure she'd be glad to answer all your questions.

Ruth Widerski
Region 1 Financial Coordinator
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Four members of your Regional Management Team were fortunate enough to attend the International meeting held on the Monday of International Contest week in Houston in October 2011. (Left to right:) Judy Lang (membership), Sue Martin (Communications), Pat LeVeze (International Moderator), Ruth Widerski (Finance) and Carole' Mensing (Education) were all in attendance. It was very exciting to be there as the Harmonic Progression was announced to us. While Region #1 has no boundary or chorus changes, we are one of only two North American regions with no changes. We had an opportunity to speak to an International representative, Pat Levezu, and since we had no regional changes to discuss, we took the opportunity to brain storm and talk about our ideas to enhance our region! We also spoke with members of other regions and it was very useful to be able to share what goes on in different parts of the country. It was wonderful to be able to hear about the changes in person. If anyone in the region has questions about the Harmonic Progression please ask any member of the RMT.

Namedropping in 2012-2013

- Carole' Mensing, Region 1 Education Coordinator



Happy New Year to all-

What an exciting time we are experiencing- new regions- an international membership drive- and..... what names am I dropping? Read on...

Thanks to our regional faculty and guest international faculty, there is a unique educational weekend ahead of us. This weekend the faculty is pleased to offer our membership exciting sessions with **Diane Porsch**, a special Directors Track guided by **Dale Syverson**, and a Young Women in Harmony (YWIH) all day event, coordinated by **Becky King** and directed by **Julie Jeffery**. All this in one weekend!

There's more....

Region 1 members can look forward to our competition in May, RQA in August with **Peggy Gram**, **Jim Arns** and **Renee Porzel** in September, and **DeDe Nibler** in Winter, 2013.

And of course, International in the Fall, with HOTS and SONE representing us in Denver.

Our future is bright, we are introducing youth to our region, and high profile names coming to enlighten us with their knowledge of the craft we so love... we are in good hands.

Carole' Mensing

Education Coordinator, Region 1

cm17av@aol.com

Phyllis Tremblay, Sweet Adeline Legend in Her Own Time continued from page 1

In 1986, we hosted a chorus from Holland and housed everyone in our respective homes. Along with a men's chapter of SPEBSQA in Framingham, MA, we performed in Boston's Symphony Hall.

In 1989, a European tour was arranged through the region. Many from Wayside Chorus (including my husband, Leonard, and me) traveled to Belgium, Holland, and Germany. We sang and entertained our way through these wonderful countries and were truly welcomed by mayors and other dignitaries. In 1990, my chorus won the Regional Contest and was eligible to compete in San Antonio, Texas in 1991, another unforgettable experience!

Sadly, in 2005, Wayside Chorus was dissolved. Soon after, however, a dozen or so members, under the guidance and direction of Laura Murray, formed the new MetroWest Harmony Chorus, which won 2nd place medals for small chorus at Region 1's Contest, last May(2011)!"

These are just some of the highlights of Phyllis' Sweet Adeline Life. This remarkable woman has been married 68 years, has 2 grown sons, 5 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren! Phyllis has experienced more than her

share of health challenges in her life. Her steady faith, positive spirit, and love and support from family and friends have helped her to surmount them.

Phyllis' skills and talents are admired by many. She is an avid "word buff", enjoying and completing crossword puzzles and cryptograms. In the kitchen, her cakes can give Martha Stewart a run for her money! This octogenarian has more energy than many half her age. Her positive outlook and determination, and this energy have served her well, as a Sweet Adeline and in life itself.

Yes, Phyllis Tremblay is truly a legend in her own time!

Karen Malitz-Katz, President
MetroWest Harmony Chorus
Marlborough, Massachusetts

Your 2011-2012 Regional Management Team

Chorus Lines



Champlain Valley Chorus

We've been very busy this fall and early winter with many opportunities to sing out in the community. Our holiday season began in November with a taping of a song on our local public television station's Holiday Spectacular. We introduced the North Country to a barbershop version of "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" which received a warm reception at craft fairs, nursing homes and Christmas concerts during December. One of the most heartwarming moments of the winter season was the audition of a new quartet from our chorus. Major Attitude is working toward becoming a registered Sweet Adeline Quartet. When they accomplish this goal, we will have nearly 50% of our chorus participating in a registered quartet.

Front row:

Ruth Widarski, Financial Coordinator, bariten1@yahoo.com
Judy Lang, Membership Coordinator, judytenor@sbcglobal.net
Angela Levine, Team Leader, letsharmonize@sbcglobal.net
Julie Jeffery, Directors' Coordinator, julieajeffery@gmail.com

Back row:

Wendy Davies, Marketing Coordinator, w.davies@sympatico.ca
Carolé Mensing, Education Coordinator, cm17av@aol.com
Sue Martin, Communications Coordinator, martin@skmassociates.net
Laura Pienkowski, Events Coordinator, apienkowski@snet.net

They want to hear from you if you have any questions or if you might be interested in serving on the regional management team in the future.



The above picture was taken when we performed in the show sponsored by our brothers in harmony, the Cumberland Bay Chorus at St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh, New York. This was the final pose for "Hippo."

Carole Harsh

Coastline Show Chorus

Coastline is happy to be once again addressing our Region One Sisters in Song. Since we last reported to you, we competed at International in Houston, TX. The caliber of this contest was exciting, and although we were happy to be part of it, we would be remiss not to admit being disappointed in not making the top ten. But, we are Coastline – known for being driven - and we have turned this into a learning opportunity. They keep raising the bar, so we came home from Houston, reviewed our audio and video tapes and turned our minds to our new game plan – learning to jump higher!

Prior to Houston, we had already decided to compete for evaluation only in the Spring Regional Competition, 2012. Having been on the International treadmill for ten years, we thought we'd take a page from the book of our more successful sisters such as Rich-Tone and Scottsdale choruses and sit out to re-group and, hopefully, focus on making major musical strides. So, we will see you in Springfield and have plans to wow you with new music and "A New Attitude!"

We are also focused on the International Membership initiative which we begin in February and which will remain an ongoing CSC focus. We hope to welcome new and enthusiastic members to our chorus at a time when the pressure on them will be a little less. We hope they will join us as we strive to take the next steps up that Sweet Adeline ladder of success.

We begin with new music in our repertoire. We're working on "Proud Mary" to be followed immediately by "I Feel the Earth Move" and an addition to our patriotic repertoire, "Let Freedom Ring." We will also keep our "Bring on the Beautiful Girls" International Finals package, refining and polishing it for our next trip to

International. As a wise woman once said, "it's better to aim for the stars and hit the fence post than to aim for the fence post and hit the ground!"

We start this new journey on January 14 and 15 when we add a new coach to our lineup of wonderful people who have helped us grow over the years. We will be working with Lynda Keever, lead of the 2008 Queens of Harmony The Four Bet-tys. Lynda is an Approved Candidate Judge in the Music category, vocal coach and maker of remarkable learning tapes. We look forward to seeing and hearing what she can add to our arsenal!

Also still on the books as we take a break from the International Contest merry-go-round is our Summer 2013 trip to Edinburgh, Scotland. Our former "Scooter" Elaine Hamilton is Education Coordinator for the Quartet of Nations RMT and she is planning a week of fun and Regional educational opportunities for all.

The next time we "talk" to you will be at the time of the Regional Competition Weekend. At that time, we plan to request early placement in the lineup so we can embark on yet another part of our kick-it-up-the-hill game plan. Each of our members is choosing one of the four judging categories to study and learn. We will be "trial judging" in our usual stage right balcony in seats in Springfield Symphony Hall and returning to chorus to review how we did. We've been working with certified judges to help us in this endeavor and it sounds as much fun as it sounds daunting!

Lillian McDaniel

Cranberry Shores Chorus

Cranberry Shores has been very busy this past season. We celebrated our 25th Anniversary in early November with a grand afternoon of song, laughter ... and food! Current and Former quartets entertained us all with fantastic harmonies. Cranberry

Shores performed their latest repertoire. Best of all however was the gathering of all singers to join in "How We Sang Today" as directed by four (4) current and former directors! The whole experience was wonderful.

Holiday performances were abundant in 2011. We had return engagements in Brewster and Orleans, including stops at the Bird Watchers General Store and Stop and Shop plus the Hyannis Christmas Stroll –where Santa himself greeted us. Our Winter Concert in Falmouth with the male singers of Notescape was well received. Cranberry Shores performed and shared the beauty of barbershop harmony all across the Cape for a variety of churches, clubs and stores this holiday season

We are also working on our new songs for 2012 contest and additions to our repertoire. Coaching sessions from Ann Gooch and Karen Rourke have reinforced our commitment to continued growth and performing excellence.

And finally this past season two wonderful new members were welcomed to Cranberry Shores Chorus, - Kristina Donnellan (Lead) and Amy Walenga (Bari).

See you at Winter Regional,

Yours in harmony Janet Pooler

Farmington Valley Chorus

Valley Chorus put on another really successful show December 3rd at Lewis Mills High School.

This year we saved a southern diner. We told Ms. Vanetta Jean Ervis to "Kiss Mah Grits" so she did not get her way with Dottie Faye's Diner. It was all thanks to the hard work of Omma Lee and Beth, Erleen Mae of "the Chicken Ranch", Loretta Lou of the "Snug As a Bug In a Rug Senior Center" and Ms. Marlene O'Hara of the "Georgia Hysterical Society; All

Things Gone With The Wind Division". A really funny show written solely by Cathy Saunders. The chorus played back up with some new and old songs, and even got to imitate a juke box. Our ending with "Side By Side" brought huge smiles from everyone.

Our special guests were the "Lewis Mills High School Concert Choir" who did an awesome job; the "Trinity Pipes", another fantastic a cappella group from Trinity College; and "DaCapo" the 2011 Men's International Harmony Sweepstakes Quartet Champions from Washington, DC. who delighted the audience with their incredible talent and humor. They were even funnier and more charming at the Afterglow at Cuginos



l-r : Ms. Marleen O'Hara (Helen Anne), Erleen Mae (Susan M) Loretta Lou (Corky) Omma Lee (Rebecca) Dottie Faye (Shari) Vanetta Jean (Susan C.) and Beth (Sarah)

Italian Restaurant that night, where the breakfast food was just what the hungry crowd ordered . A late evening some of us paid for the next day, but absolutely worth it.

Our little town of Simsbury was one of the hardest hit in that freak snowstorm in October. No one was hurt from the chorus, but lots of trees down, and one of our members actually had a tree go right through



Beth (Sarah) and Omma Lee (Rebecca)

her bedroom. Pretty scary. We lost two weeks of rehearsals which made the success of this show even that much sweeter.

Carols and parties filled the air in late December.

Our annual Christmas party at the local watering hole brought cheers from the open mic patrons when we sang a couple of carols to celebrate the holiday. They asked us to come back every week. An ornament making contest was won by Sarah and Amy - one ornament was naughty...the other was nice. One of the gifts passed around in the Yankee Swap was this beautiful crown hair clip modeled here by Cathy Saunder's sister CeCe.



Speaking of CeCe, right now she can use ALL of your prayers. She has had some major reconstructive surgery done to her ribs and sternum. Though she doesn't sing a note with us, she is a HUGE part of our chorus. She's a fighter so please think of her and send good, healthy, recovery thoughts to her, and strength to Cathy.

Contest is coming in May. Wahoo! We're loving our new song and we're cruising with coaches and extra rehearsals. What could be better then lots of time spent singing with your sisters ? We've got a couple of performances in February we're practicing for as well. Life is good in Farmington Valley.

Check out our new website at SingFVC.org. It's awesome!

Greater Montreal Chorus

Greater Montreal has had a full and busy year with our new director, Heather Solomon. We recently had our first holiday concert together, which was a huge success. Heather has organized some great coaches, and we have had some very worthwhile educational sessions with them, as well as extra coaching with Heather. More to come in the new year. We continue to sing for the less fortunate and elders in our community, and are working hard on honing our vocal skills. We are looking forward to our first Contest with Heather and our newest members.

Shira Karpati

Harmony on the Sound Chorus

We've had a great holiday season. It started in September when we began our 3rd annual Cool Yule membership drive. We invite women to come and learn holiday music and then perform with us in our show.

We hope they enjoy themselves enough to audition and join the chorus – this year, they all did!

Our show, *A Holiday Story for the Books*, was performed to a nearly sold out audience! We were extremely lucky to have all refreshments (enough for 400 people) donated by Fairway Market of Stamford. We also had small groups caroling for them on a couple of weekends at their store's holiday display. It was a whole lot of fun and a great way to promote our Open House, January 11, which we've called *Glee for Grownups* – to coincide with SAInternational's Global Open House this month.

Our retreat is coming up in February with Vicki Maybury and Joe Connelly is coming in March. We're really looking forward to them both. We'll also be singing the National Anthem at the women's basketball game at Quinnipiac University, February 27th.

HOTS is honored and excited to be hostessing contest this year and the theme is iHarmonize. Here's a sneak peak – we'll be offering T-shirts



with this logo. Pre-order your shirts and they'll be ready to pickup for contest weekend. See our website and our ad on the next page for more information:

www.harmonyonthesound.org.

Heart of the Valley Chorus

Thank you 2011! Thanks for the memories (most of the them), the songs, and the love we shared as a chorus family!

It's all positive news about our annual September fund raiser: the fried dough booth at the Belchertown Fair. Yes, we really are famous in that part of Massachusetts! \$weet \$uccess! It's a smooth operation because we have the best organizers and work crews any chorus could hope for!

October brought us the one and only Leigh Ann Dorman ,a very energetic visual coach -for-a day! With her fabulous, encouraging attitude, Leigh Ann showed us how to transform a simple song into an entertaining production! Her performance competence and a little caffeine made a great combo! What a workout! We love Leigh Ann!

Since autumn our chorus performances seem to have taken on a life of their own.The song list and the script are always created specially for each venue. Our speakers often play with the audiences, inviting them to answer a few test questions pertaining to the event or a particular song. Now more than ever, we are feeling rewarded by their exuberant responses! Could it be the chorus' joy of performing is contagious? We look forward to the next "party"!

Thanksgiving weekend means Yankee Candle to HOV! Two performances in one afternoon, Maggie's bells for the kids to ring, and shoppers galore were drawn to the sound of "carolers" on the risers. We just know potential new members are watching and listening, each hoping she herself will soon find the time to come and join us!

In not so happy news, our fearless leader, Betty Seelant, has been living with some very stubborn kidney

stones. Treatment is continuing, and we are hoping for Betty to feel better very soon!

And of course what would a report be without a hiccup from Mother Nature: The Halloween Weekend Snowstorm! Another unfortunate span of time for so many. Without electrical power, the long days and dark, frigid nights were a challenge to endure. Who can ever again take for granted heat and hot water, and coffee!

But aren't we all about going forward! Our friends know who we are, so what about the musical friends we haven't met yet? A fresh new year is beginning, and we are excited to welcome what's coming! To let you know what's happening in our house, I asked Judy Mathers , a whiz on our HOV Marketing Team, to share their excitement! Sweet Adelines love to sing, and we are thankful for every opportunity to offer the invitation! Sharing ideas is always a good thing; please enjoy Judy's article!

Joyce Monska

Marketing News: SAI has seen the need for change in their approach to marketing and membership, and HOV started down this path in May with the first meeting with new members of the Membership Team.

Getting ourselves noticed while living in an area of 5 colleges and dozens of singing groups of all kinds is not easy! As I had expressed interest in Marketing, I made up a list of possible ideas to blast as many media opportunities as possible. The possible plan to start with got off the ground this Fall. Because we have Kate Moruzzi on this committee, yeah, we have a website she keeps refreshing and provides the Marketing team with DVD's and translates lots of information that the marketing committee needs to send.

Last year we participated in the

local Public TV program, "Together in Song" and about that same time, Channel 40, the local ABC station implemented a program called "simplyliving". For a fee they come to your rehearsal or business, film the group and interview the Director or whomever they are featuring, and put it on the program; provide a DVD of the event and archive your event on Channel 40 for people to look at when searching for entertainment. So we are in that category with pertinent information about hiring the chorus or coming to visit a rehearsal, and of course, hope to entice a new member!

Northampton has a very active Chamber of Commerce, so I visited the Chamber with all kinds of brochures and posters, all nicely done by Kate. While there, I met with Lynn, who is in charge of securing new members and helping them get started. She gave me inspiration to see if HOV would consider becoming a member. The fee is nominal and our name is on their website - we are now on 3 plus our own! They mail a great booklet to over 20,000 businesses, homes, and interested residents.

Since our joining in November, we have received 18 views, and one request to perform. Businesses host a new member monthly meeting and an "Arrive at Five" event as well as a breakfast. Max Sumner and I went to a new member meeting a few weeks ago and met 12 new people, entrepreneurs - new to the area — and that was just lunch! Other businesses will be hosting in 2012, and I hope to get the chorus to perform for the Chamber members at one of the venues - a chance for others to get to know us. Max and I were very impressed with the energy and support we observed. I cannot wait for us to get the opportunity to have them enjoy our presentation!

Several years ago the chorus was

a feature in our local paper, a Friday insert, with all kinds of entertainment and feature stories. Thinking how well that was received - it appeared just before our annual show-the Marketing Team decided to inquire about doing a feature again! I had hoped for the Hampshire Life appearance, but it was not to be, but we did make the Amherst version of the Daily Hampshire Gazette, and hopefully the Northampton edition and story will appear next week. The reporter, an intern, did a good job portraying the joy and friends to be had being in a barbershop chorus - ours!!! Toby Monte and Kari Knapp went with me to the Gazette and gave their thoughts on the enjoyment of being in the chorus and being part of SA. Thanks to all who participated!

All these preview events we have set in motion will tie in well with the worldwide open house we have planned on January 18th. Plus we are doing the usual posters and free ads in local papers.

Judy

Island Grove Chorus

In Tune with Island Grove Chorus

The Island Grove Chorus (IGC) had another busy fall and Holiday Season. In October we held our annual fall concert titled Shine on Harvest Tunes. The concert was held at the Viking Club in Quincy, MA. We shared the bill with the Dixie Diehards – a Dixie-land band featuring our lead Adelene's husband on drums. The audience enjoyed this mix of acapella singing and Dixie-land favorites. Again, chorus members formed teams to create raffle baskets for the occasion, each basket filled with items of a specific theme. Shine on Harvest Tunes was very successful with tickets selling out and lots of participation in the raffle.

In November nine IGC members

went to Washington, DC joining our sister Region One Chorus the Rhythm of New Hampshire to sing at The Marine's Museum and a Military Officer's Retirement Home. A tour of the White House and visits of many other memorials were enjoyed by all. The chorus directors were so proud to be able to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during the ceremony. It should also be noted that members of the Island Grove and Rhythm of New Hampshire choruses were the first joint chorus to sing on the steps of the prestigious Lincoln Memorial!

We rang in the holiday season with our Holiday Concert early on December 4th at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Braintree with the award-winning quartet Alakazam!, our Kris Kringles mini-group and two quartets from IGC, The Jinglettes and Essential Blend. The altar was beautifully decorated with red, white, and pink poinsettias purchased by our members. Afterwards, we all enjoyed an afterglow with a delicious assortment of goodies baked by our talented women.

We had four additional Holiday performances to round out the season. This year we performed at Tuft University Medical Center's holiday employee recognition celebration in their Atrium. Additionally, we sang at the First Congregational Church in Braintree, MA, the East Bridgewater Library, and Blake Estates in Hyde Park where the residents participated heartily, ringing bells on cue during Silver Bells and singing a warm rendition of White Christmas with the chorus.

This January we start to prepare for Competition in May. This year we have several new members who will be experiencing the fun and excitement of Competition for the first time! We will be going on retreat to get some coaching to perfect our package in March at the Nantasket

Beach Resort in Hull. Our coach will be Eileen Gioe.

We continue to actively recruit new members to Island Grove Chorus. We have had several membership drives posting flyers in local business establishments in Quincy, Weymouth and Hanover. Other efforts to attract members have included going to local venues that host Karaoke where there already exists a "captive group" of singers who may be interested in joining our fun group of women performers.

We all look forward to seeing everyone at Contest. Have fun and enjoy your performances!

Merrimack Valley Chorus

What a busy and rewarding year 2011 was for MVC! We celebrated our 35th anniversary at our Cabaret in May with a huge cake and an exhibit of photos and old costumes going back many years. We couldn't believe that we actually wore some of those costumes!

We were pleased to welcome two new members, Debbie Kinne and Susie Richardson, in 2011.

The list of great coaches we worked with in preparation for Contest in Springfield reads like a Sweet Adelines Who's Who. Harriette Walters braved cold, snowy weather to work with us in February, and returned again in April.

March was packed with coaching, including Gina Kaiser and Lynne Smith; and Peggy Gram, who spent an entire weekend with us at our retreat.

Diane Porsch and Pam Calveric teamed to work with us in September. In October, Jim Arns energized us with his unique ability to jump among judging categories and provide a 360 degree evaluation of our

performance.

We were pleased to be 3rd place winners in our division and 5th place overall at Contest in May. MVC also won the award for the highest percentage of members in competing quartets at Contest. We love to sing!

Our 2011 performances were many and varied. We were honored to sing the National Anthem at the Lowell Spinners game at Lowell's LeLechuer Stadium and then stayed and enjoyed an afternoon of baseball. We performed at holiday tree lightings and parties, patriotic celebrations, and retirement communities.

In October we presented our annual show, Take a Chance, where a fledgling fairy godmother trying to earn her wings must persuade a young girl to take a chance on love. Chorus members worked hard on the script, scenery and costumes, to produce fun, entertainment and profits. Our special guests, Overboard,

wowed the audience with their fabulous a cappella performance that included both old and modern hits.

MVC was also busy taking care of business behind the scenes. Carol Smolenski, formerly Assistant Director, became our Associate Director; and Sally Jeffery was named Assistant Director. Carol and Sally work closely with Eileen Gioe, our hard-working Director and leader.

In March, Terry Lee was awarded the Marge Bennett "In Her Footsteps" award. Terry's hard work, integrity, dedication and willingness to tackle any task follows the example Marge set for all of us during her lifetime and as a founding member of MVC.

We're looking forward to a rewarding 2012 and are already working toward Contest in May.

MVC is excited to be hosting the 2012 Winter Regional in Burlington, MA.

Mary Martin

The theme for this year's contest is

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HOTS is honored to represent Region One in Denver!

MetroWest Harmony Chorus

Well, we certainly hope everyone had a good holiday season, and we are ready and eager to begin the brand new year, ready to kick off the campaign to prepare for contest.

We look forward to retreat weekend next month. For coaches, we have the privilege of inviting Sandi Wright (the bari from Ambience, Queen of Harmony and showmanship judge) and Liz Hardcastle (the lead from Ambience and Queen of Harmony as well). You know we'll be put through the paces with these ladies.

Our senior member, Phyllis Tremblay, received her 60 year pin from International last October and was able to join us for our holiday party. She looked wonderful and we are giving a shout out to Phyllis. And what a party that was! We all brought in a pot-luck something and ate very heartily indeed.

We all look forward to seeing our friends at Regional weekend and to learning all we can in the resources available to us. Doesn't it seem like the time has flown by especially fast? Can it be that contest time is just around the corner once more? Let us hope that the lack of snow continues. We deserve it, don't you think?

Millennium Magic

Millennium Magic members have been busy these last several months. We have had several coaching sessions with regional and international faculty which always prove to be educational and exciting! Winter regional's Diane Porsch met with us in September and we are looking forward to coaching with her again very soon! We also had third place international quartet medalist, Harriet Walters, work with us in November – what a

bundle of energy! We'd like to congratulate, by the way, our own Coastline and WOW for representing Region 1 in Houston so very well! We are proud of you ladies! MM'er Annette Landry and former member, now Tennessee resident, and arranger extraordinaire Sharon Holmes were there cheering you on!

Over the summer our tenor, Jessica Cianci married Valley Shore director Steve Wolf in a beautiful Wickham Park ceremony. Congrats Jess and Steve! We also have had to say so long to two of our young members who have gone CAL. Heather Wilson, daughter of bass Anne, along with sister Sarah, joined the Air force reserves and successfully completed basic training in the Texas heat this past summer. She has returned from her job training in Alabama and is heading to college. Stacy Strielkauskas, daughter of bass Laurel, has moved to Louisiana furthering her education. So this might be the time to say, Millennium Magic is always open to new singers – whether you want to dual or whether you just want to visit, come see what we're up to! We are interested in growing our membership – ask anyone of us! We'd love to have you come sing or be our audience! We are joining all of SAI in the membership initiative this January. So, if you're interested in coming to the Manchester area.. We'd love to have YOU!

This summer also met with tragedy and loss in our singing family. Condolences to our lead, Margaret Jackins, and sisters Kappy Carmel and Anne Wilson, who all lost their mothers. Nancy Dallaire, former Sweet Adeline and mother of our Kappy and Anne, lost her courageous battle with breast cancer. Millennium Magic



was honored to sing at her memorial service. Nancy greatly influenced her children and grandchildren, instilling a love and joy for music. She lived to see their varied talents, including the family singing group G-Wil-A-Kerrs. It was a most beautiful service filled with instrumental and vocal tributes in Nancy's honor, including Millennium Magic's Double Trouble, G-Wils, and Boston Accent's Ruth Berman. It was truly a joyful celebration of her life and legacy.

Millennium Magic is hosting a table at this winter regional. We are featuring homemade photo cards. Many of the pictures are Nancy's exquisite photos (e.g., the one above), and in her honor we're calling our fundraiser Nancy's Notes. Come by and check out our varied selection of beautiful quality cards!

We are looking forward to more coaching this spring leading up to May's contest. It'll be here before you know it! See you at contest!

Profile Chorus

Greetings, all! It's hard to believe that the holidays are over and that a new year has begun, but here we are again, looking squarely at another Regional weekend full of fun and education. We are looking forward to seeing you all and enjoying a few days of singing and socializing!

Profile spent much of this past summer and fall getting ready for our biennial show: a light-hearted, Halloweenish romp titled "Ghouls Just Wanna Have Fun." Having it all ready to go for its late October debut meant we wouldn't have the benefit of November rehearsals, so the push was on to have the script written, the lead roles chosen, and the music learned by early fall. The "spooktacular" theme and earlier-than-usual show time was the result of a decision by Profile's music committee, who had previously voted for festive holiday shows and scheduled them in early December. We always took a risk by having our shows at the beginning of winter, and the last two years' shows in 2007 and 2009 had us performing for a half-full auditorium, when significant snowfall kept many of our patrons away. We vowed that it wouldn't happen in 2011, and moved the date up a full two months. Weather was NOT going to be an issue this time around!

Fast-forward to October 29th. The Derry-Salem Elks Club was under contract. Our guest act was booked. Our costumes had been assembled, our lines learned, our songs perfected. We had a great comedy put together and we couldn't wait to perform it for a real audience! As the hall was smaller than our usual venue, we were anticipating a sell-out. It was going to be a great time!

And then ... we got the weather report. Predicted for the very same night as our show was the largest snowstorm to hit the Northeast since the Civil War.

The emails flew back and forth in a flurry. There was much weeping and gnashing of teeth ... much wondering if anyone would even attend ... many worries over whether to have an afterglow. (There were also some choice words for Mother Nature, which I won't print here.) We were angry and frustrated, but this was just totally beyond our control. With no snow date to fall back on, the decision was made: The show must go on!

And on it went! Even with the white stuff swirling around outdoors and completely covering roads, trees, cars -- everything -- we were surprised and pleased to find we actually DID have an audience. The room was about 2/3 full with family members and friends who knew how hard we had worked to make it all happen, and their support bolstered us and gave us the energy to give them our best!

Profile got all the way through the first act without a hitch. Despite the frightful conditions outside, it was looking as if we might be able to get through the rest of the night -- but during the 15-minute intermission, the hall suddenly went dark. It was among the first of many power outages in NH that would last for days, and we were the unlucky recipients. We only had about 20 minutes of generator light before we would need to vacate the premises. However, our guest act, a fabulous quartet called The Average Joes, weren't ready to hang it up just yet. They bravely offered to perform a portion of their prepared songs for us, a decision met by much enthusiasm from the crowd. Lit by the dim glow of cell phones and emergency lights, the Joes sang their hearts out for the very short time they were allotted. Thankfully, their energetic performance was captured on battery-operated video. It was over too soon!

Afterward, we headed outside to clean off our cars and begin the slow trek home. Many of us had 30- to 40-minute rides ahead of us. The roads were dangerous and slick, as evidenced by the number of stranded cars at the edges of the highway. Each time we saw one of these disabled vehicles, we said a little prayer that it wasn't one of our chorus members or show attendees. Thankfully, the Good Lord was watching over us, and we all made it home safely.

The reviews we received about that night were overwhelmingly positive, and our director has mentioned more than once that perhaps we should consider putting "Ghouls" on again, in a different auditorium this time. Time and date are still to be determined, but one thing seems quite certain: Should there be a snowstorm in July, it will undoubtedly be the fault of Profile Chorus!!

Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus

RNH Regional Chorus Takes the Capital by Song

Last October, members of the Rhythm of New Hampshire Regional Chorus packed their bags and took Washington, D.C. by storm to help our nation commemorate the 70th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor.

As part of the National Festival of the States in partnership with Music Celebrations International, the regional group consisting of members from RNH Show Chorus and Island Grove Chorus joined forces for a 5-day singing tour of the Capital. Venue highlights from the trip included a wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery, The Fairfax veteran's retirement community, the U.S. Marine Corps



Museum and the a performance on steps of the Lincoln Memorial. RNH Regional Chorus is the FIRST chorus to ever sing on those hallowed steps and it was a spectacular experience!

RNH capped off its 2011 season with holiday performances including participation in Nashua's Holiday Stroll over Thanksgiving weekend. Finally, we performed our original Holiday Radio Show, The Holiday Wish at Derry's historic Opera House on December 11th. All proceeds benefitted the Greater Derry Arts Council.

As 2012 kicks off, like sister choruses all over the globe, we are holding chorus Open House in conjunction with Sweet Adelines International and hoping to recruit some excited new members to further grow our sound and our membership.

Here's wishing everyone in Region One a successful 2012 with even greater opportunities for enrichment and harmony!

Members of the Rhythm of New Hampshire Regional Chorus pose in front of the U.S. Capitol building on the last day of their 5-day Washington, D.C. tour with the National Festival of the States.

Sound of New England Chorus

We were very excited to record our 2nd CD on October the 1st. Boy, is it hard to sing with energy while not being able to move on the risers! We voted on a title for the CD, and decided to call it "Shine Your Light," as it not only includes that song, one of our favorites, but also because those words and the words of the song have such a strong message, and mean so much to us.

We invited guests to join us for part of our rehearsals beginning in early October. They would learn two holiday songs with us, and then be able to sing them with us on our show on December 4. We called them Glee Chorus rehearsals, so the guests became "gleebies." Don't know how they felt about being called that, but they did seem to enjoy singing with us, and a few are planning to become regular mem-

bers. We kind of hoped all of them would want to stay on—well, with one exception. For this Glee Chorus performance, we allowed a MAN to sing with us. He and his wife came together, so he would get on the risers and sing bass. He refused to wear a dress or make-up for the show, though.

Oh, and the December 4th show just happened to coincide with the release of our aforementioned CD. How fortunate! And just in time for the holidays, too.

We are trying to plan some more social opportunities together, and one of those was a get-together on October 23 at the Charming Charlie's establishment at Evergreen Walk (a very nice mall) in South Windsor. What more could a Sweet Adeline want, but friends, refreshments, and discounted shopping! We will be doing it again this Sunday (to celebrate Jan Grant's birthday—Happy Birthday, Jan!).

It was a good thing for some of us that we had that extra chance to be together, as we did miss a rehearsal November 1st after the snows came... and the branches fell...and the lights went out..... Many of us were without power for a week or more. Makes us all the more thankful for what we normally take for granted, including singing!

It was another busy couple of weeks for performances at holiday time, beginning with a hospice performance at Eno Hall in Simsbury on November 29. Next came a memorial program at the McLean Home on December 1. Then there was that show (and CD release) on the 4th, followed by an evening at the Church of the Holy Spirit Ladies Guild Christmas party on December 14, a performance for realtors in Old Saybrook on December 16, and ending at Village Gate in Farmington on December 17. Whew!

Also in the middle of all of that was our holiday party on the 6th of December. We (what is the past tense of forgo?) Forgoed?? No. Forwent? Anyway, we didn't have our regular rehearsal that night. We had time with friends, food, and shopping! (Do you sense a pattern here?) Once again, we regretfully added several members to our emeritus ranks. Each was presented with a gift, and sniffs could be heard around the hall.

Currently, we are fresh from a coaching session this week. Farmington Valley Chorus kindly "loaned" us their rehearsal hall for Monday night. We can't wait to work on the changes that were made and continue polishing our songs for Denver. Speaking of Denver, we are proud to be going with Harmony on the Sound, and of course we all have started walking 10 miles a day up and down mountainous roads (well, at least hilly streets) and doing calisthenics (or is it yoga?) (or is it tai chi?) three or more times a week so we will be better prepared for the high altitude. Mm huh.

Also in the works are a Guest Night January 24 to celebrate Sweet Adelines' Teach the World to Sing initiative, a performance at the Trinity Methodist Church in Windsor on February 4, several "boot camps" (?), and, as always, Singing Valentines on February 14.

Further in the future we have another show. It will be held on Saturday, April 21, and will feature Voices of Gotham as our guest performers. Save the date!

Valley Chords Chorus

Happy New Year to all from the Valley Chords! Press releases, editorials, posters, phone calls: we are getting ready for our Global Open House in January! Hope to have a great turn out for our efforts. We had

6 guests during our holiday rehearsals and some performed for our performances. We welcomed two new members to our troupe!

We've been fundraising and hope to find new costumes this Spring. Our members held a fundraiser after Hurricane Irene and donated money for flood victims in our area. Now looking forward to Winter Regional, Retreat, and warmer weather!

Valley Shore Acappella

That's right! Among the many changes that have occurred in our chorus this year, we officially changed our name. It has been a year filled with innovative new music and exciting projects. Our director, Steve Wolf, has taught us that we are capable of learning creative and new methods of approaching barbershop music. Steve introduced our group to the marvels of the internet. We recorded a great, contemporary song for Youtube! During the summer, we started learning Michael Buble's hit, "Haven't Met You Yet." Steve wrote, directed, and video-taped us in an entertaining rendition of that song. We invite all our friends to view it. Just visit Youtube and search Valley Short Acappella. It should come right up. Or click on this link: <http://youtu.be/i1ap6YCW3Q0>

Over the course of the summer, we have been fortunate to have the talents of Debra Lynn as our terrific voice coach. She has been available to all of our chorus on a recurring basis for P.V.I.'s. We have all been working on different aspect of harmony. We are hoping our improved skills will have us all ringing chords like the best of Sweet Adelines! Thank you, Debra Lynn.

In September we had our annual chorus party. Besides the great food and camaraderie, we naturally broke into song. The neighbors seemed to enjoy the spontaneous concert. Then

our director decided to teach us some new tags, changing our parts to make it interesting! As you all know, Sweet Adelines DO know how to party!

In October, some of us attended a terrific International Competition in Houston, Texas. Our own regional champions, Coastline Show Chorus, did an amazing job with some very tough competition. We loved every minute of it. The quartet competition was also terrific and we were proud of our own, Without Warning. Meanwhile, VSA was busy filming and recording our video for Youtube. It was a busy autumn.

We also want to welcome our newest member and lead, Sharon Geils. She comes to us from Cheshire CT with a little bit of British flavor. Sharon lived in England for 12 years before returning to the States. We're so pleased she came back home and joined us! This December, she had her very first performances with us. We were quite busy with a traditional Christmas songfest at the Gillette's Castle on the Connecticut River. It is an incredible place built by the renowned actor, William Gillette, in the early 1900's. We had some smaller venues around the state which were great fun. Then we sang at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford. It was the annual Festival of Trees, gorgeously decorated trees to admire with innovative themes, for the enhancement of the season! What a wonderful afternoon we had that Sunday!

We're looking forward to an informative and successful Winter Regional in Burlington, MA, on January 20-22. It will be an exciting weekend with the talents of Diane Porsch and Dale Syverson as international faculty! How lucky is Region One! See you there.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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September 10, 2012 for Fall

UPCOMING SHOWS

SOUND OF NEW ENGLAND

Saturday, April 21, 2012
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MERRIMACK VALLEY

Sunday, October 7, 2012
Details in the Fall issue

LIBERTY BELLE

Saturday, October 20, 2012
2 p.m.
Details in the Fall issue

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