



The MVEer Monthly

January 2013

Top events for **January** include (1) Sunday, January 6 singout at St. Luke's Lutheran Church and (2) learning great new songs in the New Year.

New Year and New Songs: **Lullabye (Goodnight my Angel)** – article at end; **We Go Together**; and **Jersey Boys Medley**

Photos of our Christmas Shows at Alverno *(Photos courtesy of Laura Bartkowiak)*



MVE Chorus



Nth Degree



Nostra Vita

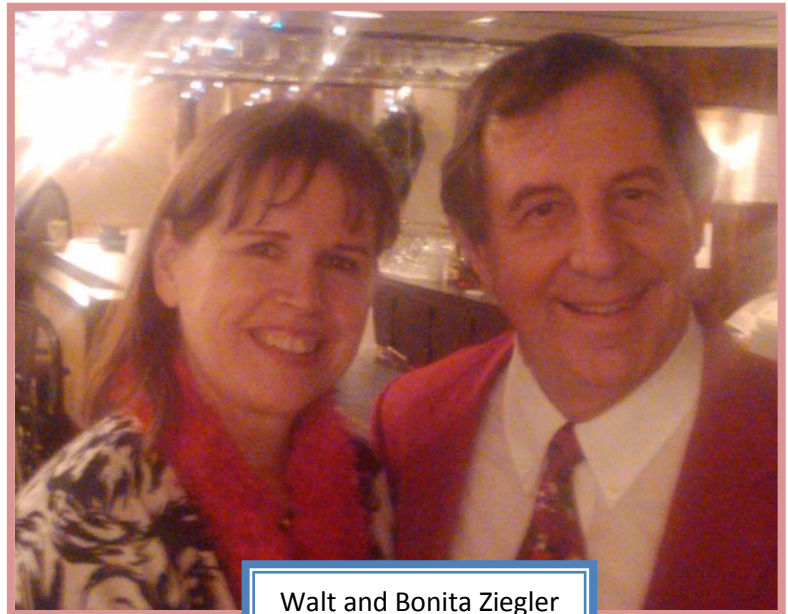
SuperNova



Highpoint

Recap of our Annual Installation and Awards Banquet – Mike Lietke

Walt and Bonita Ziegler put together an outstanding peak at our accomplishments this past year, and then a hilarious look at the years past, imagining many of our guys as various fish. This is to be their last time producing the “show” for the banquet, and we thank them for ten years.



Walt and Bonita Ziegler

Installer and friend of the chorus **Robb Thiel** reminded us of something he saw in us at District in our afterglow room, and during the shows this weekend, and whenever we visit: we are more than a chorus of good singers who perform with excellence. He sees that we embody our motto of *Fun through Musical Excellence*, and we truly enjoy each others’ company as much as the music. What a fine and astute tribute.

Do It Award’s will be announced in January.

Director’s Award was bestowed to **Tim Zielke**, for his tireless efforts and execution in reshaping the Pteam and acting as a guide and sounding board for our new director.

President’s Award was given to **Fred Graskamp** for acting as the brain of the chorus for years now: keeping us on track in so many ways as secretary and making my world personally better.

Rookie Award was given to **Bret Kelso** for his efforts in improving himself as a performer and taking over the Golf outing this year!

Barbershopper of the Year – Matt Nagel. Not only did he attain near-perfect attendance, he was the *treasurer* and *show chair* for both of our shows this year, in addition to picking up so many duties.



BOTY Matt Nagel



An Interview with Fred Graskamp

MVEer asks: How did you get started in singing and in barbershop?

Fred replies: In 1979 we moved from Sheboygan to Fond du Lac and at that point Karen got me started singing with her in the church

choir singing tenor. Karen has sung in high school and in church choirs forever. In 2000, Roger Zimmerman invited me to the **Plymouth Chapter** rehearsal and I started sing with them. We formed a quartet "**Final Approach**" with the Plymouth Chapter and did mostly comedy sets for the chapter shows. We also did Christmas and other singouts. In 2007, Roger invited me to an MVE practice and here I am.



Final Approach

MVEer asks: As our Chapter's Secretary for the last four years, you've just been given the **President's Award** for your superb service by Chapter President **Mike Lietke**. What do you most enjoy about your administrative work for the **Midwest Vocal Express**?

Fred replies: I have been a Controller for various manufacturing companies during my career and on the church councils at churches that we have belonged to. With that background I have been in administrative rolls and feel that is the best way that I can contribute to the MVE.

MVEer asks: Many of us have met and know your lovely wife Karen, but tell us about your family and being a grandpa too.

Fred replies: Karen and I have been married for 44 years and have two lovely married daughters. We are both retired and in January we decided to relocate to Janesville to be closer to our grandsons and their activities. It also keeps us close to both families. Amber, husband Corey, grandsons Evan 10 and Broden 7 live in Janesville and our daughter Brenda, husband Joe live in Sun Prairie. Amber works with the *Friends of Noah* an animal rescue group in Janesville and has worked part-time during tax season at *Baker-Tilly*. Her husband Corey is an electrician with *Alliant Energy*. Brenda is a Dental Hygienist at *Madison Family Dental* and her husband Joe is a civil engineer at *Strand Associates*. The grandsons are big into baseball and basketball. Evan has been on several tournament teams and kept us on the run this summer. Broden is not far behind him.



MVEer: Thanks, Fred. We hope that your grandsons will become barbershoppers someday.

Singout at St. Luke's on Sunday January 6 – MVE's use of the Church's basement for Monday practice includes paying rent plus singing once a year. January 6, we sing at the 10:30 service.

January 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 The Rose Bowl A HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4	5
6 Singout at St. Luke's Lutheran Church	7 MVE Practice at 7PM	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 MVE Practice at 7PM	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 MVE Practice at 7PM	22 MVE BOARD MEETING	23	24	25	26
27	28 MVE Practice at 7PM	29	30	31	How many barbershoppers does it take to change a light bulb? FIVE - 1 to change the bulb and 4 to sing about how much they miss "that old light bulb of mine"	

Lullabye (Goodnight, My Angel) is by Billy Joel (1993). The song went through several stages. At first, it was written as a Gregorian chant about a man who had lost his faith. Then he had the words translated into Latin. He changed his mind and instead revised the lyrics that provided his reassurance to his daughter (Alexa Ray) as he was breaking up with his wife, Christie Brinkley. It is widely recorded including **The Gas House Gang, King Singers, and Celtic Woman.**

Savor these gorgeous lyrics:

Goodnight, my angel
Time to close your eyes
And save these questions for another day
I think I know what you've been asking me
I think you know what I've been trying to say
I promised I would never leave you
And you should always know
Wherever you may go
No matter where you are
I never will be far away

Goodnight, my angel
Now it's time to sleep
And still so many things I want to say
Remember all the songs you sang for me
When we went sailing on an emerald bay
And like a boat out on the ocean
I'm rocking you to sleep
The water's dark
And deep inside this ancient heart
You'll always be a part of me
Goodnight, my angel
Now it's time to dream
And dream how wonderful your life will be
Someday your child may cry
And if you sing this lullabye
Then in your heart
There will always be a part of me
Someday we'll all be gone
But lullabies go on and on...
They never die
That's how you
And I
Will be