



The Greendaler Monthly May 2023

MVE Guest Night & Reunion Night – Monday, April 10, 2023



Alice, Jim, and Larry Lewis – Jim Lewis is a current MVEer and **Larry** was an MVE past president and does lots with the Land 'O Lakes District & the Chapter Development Committee.



Then Off to O'Donoghue's in Elm Grove for refreshment!





John Konichek and **Mathis Murphy** said, "Singing the **Polka Medley** is thirsty business."

Harry Hanson, Chip Hartmann, Tom Weber, and **Mike Lietke** agree.



Harry Hanson leads us in **Keep the Whole World Singing** – Photo by *Bonita Ziegler*



Interview with Bonita and Walt Ziegler

Greendaler asks: You are both at the heart of **Forward Harmony** and the **MVE**, parents of our director, **Bryan**, and **Walt** is a Founding Member of the **MVE** as well. It is time we got to hear from you. How did you meet?

Bonita says: **Walt** and I worked at the same company in Madison. He was an engineer and I was the boss's secretary.

Our first date was to a barbershop show. Walt asked me, "Do you like barbershop?" I replied that I'd never heard it before, but I like all kinds of music, so I'd love to go. We arrived at the venue, he escorted me to my seat, then said, "I'll see you after the show!" and left. The next time I saw him was when he was on stage. Even though I initially felt a bit abandoned, I thoroughly enjoyed the show – not only because of the enthralling music, but also because I was surrounded by barbershop wives who immediately drew me into their circle.

Walt adds: So, we went to this show together. My chorus was singing and it was a ways out of town for most of us. It was Mid-January and the weather was cold and felt heavy and wet. We went to a local tavern for a bit of an afterglow. When we came out a couple hours later, there was 4-5 inches of new snow that was still falling. We drove in my tiny Ford Fiesta down Hwy 151 towards Madison, being the first car to drive on the road since the snow started. Bonita said her parents lived in Sun Prairie, and we could stop at their house for the night. I said, "Not on our first date!" and continued driving with white knuckles into Madison. Great night all around.

Greendaler asks: Clearly barbershop played a role in your dating lives. But how did you both get involved in barbershop singing?

Bonita replies: Walt encouraged me to join a group of the barbershop wives who were forming a new Madison chapter of **Harmony Inc.** I immediately became the Chapter Secretary and sung with them until Walt and I married and moved to Wales, WI. The only reason I quit was because I found myself falling asleep at the wheel on I-94 after rehearsals. That's a bad way to lose a lead!



Singing with **Forward Harmony** is my first time back in the barbershop family since then. **Bryan** told me he was going to form an all voices chorus and I had to join – as a baritone! Yikes! Hats off to all baritones. It's a very challenging part!

As many of you know, **Bryan** was born on the day Greendale chartered. It was destiny!

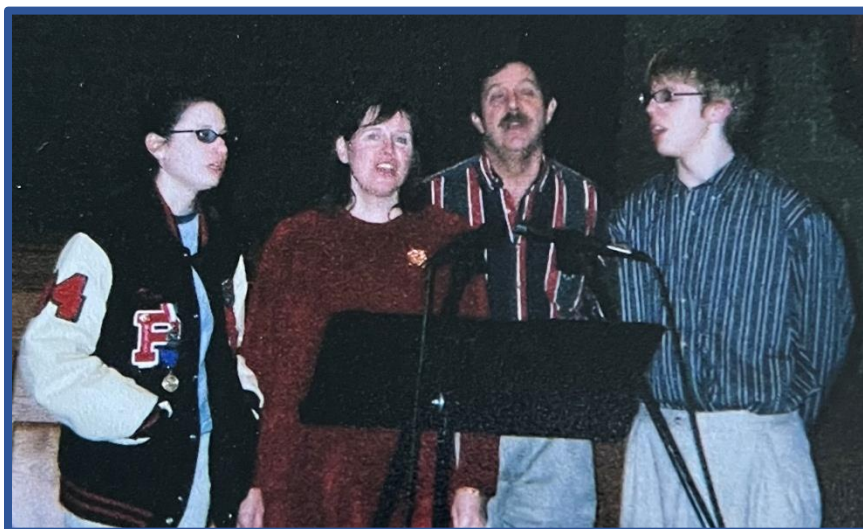
Walt says: I've been singing barbershop since shortly after I got out of high school, but it was kind of off-and-on because of some military service and a first wife that wasn't a barbershop fan. I sang for a while with the **Capitol Chordsmen**, then **Menomonee Falls**, then when the **Greendale chapter** was started, I jumped over and have been with Greendale ever since.



Greendaler asks: When your daughter and son (**Kim & Bryan**) were growing up, what were some of your favorite times?

Bonita says: Once **Bryan** joined the chapter (at 9 years old), all of our vacations were centered around going to International competition. **Kim** was as invested as **Bryan** since **Walt** used to take them both to rehearsals on Monday nights so I could have a little "Mommy Time" in a bubble bath with a glass of wine and a good book. **Kim** and I would often lead the cheering section at competition.

We eventually began singing as a quartet in church, bringing some of the religious barbershop classics to our service. Our director loved it and referred to us as "*The Von Zieglers*"





Greendaler asks: What has surprised you about singing together in **Forward Harmony**?

Walt replies: I recall well the startup of the MVE and the excitement I felt singing with this new

organization. I feel very much the same excitement now as **Forward Harmony** begins to make its mark. I am also happy that not only can my wife join in the fun, but happy for the number of other barbershop couples that are part of this great new chorus.

Bonita adds: There's a different kind of energy with mixed voices, and the instant camaraderie of everyone in the chorus was a joyful surprise. Singing with my husband is a wonderful, shared experience. We practice music together when we drive and, around the house, if one of us starts humming, the other joins in with the harmony.

But, of course, the biggest surprise was winning District competition after only 5 rehearsals! That takes the cake!

Greendaler closes: We are so glad to have you both in FH & MVE. **Bonita**, thanks also for being our **Chapter Secretary**. It turns out, an experienced Chapter Secretary from your Madison days! You both add so much to our singing adventures together. Thank you for sharing this with us.



The Sounds of Summer Concert - Saturday, June 3, 2023

The MVE and Forward Harmony team up to give you a great summer concert on **Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 7pm**. The venue is the beautiful Shattuck Auditorium at Carroll University at **218 North East Avenue, Waukesha, WI**. Tickets are just \$20 and are available from the singers from both FH and the MVE or are easily accessed at: [The Sounds of Summer \(mve.org\)](https://www.mve.org)

Get your summer going right with new songs from two great choruses.





Forward Harmony Guest Night – Sunday, April 16, 2023 – photos courtesy of Dylan Keegan and Sarah Balke

Guest night was a huge success at **Forward Harmony** at Emmanuel United Church of Christ (EUCC). Here are three photos from the big event.



From 10am to almost 4pm on Sat. April 22 for Choreography!

Mike Lietke led, with the able assistance of **Bryan Ziegler** choreography day for two hallowed songs from the MVE past – **Tin Roof Blues** and the **Polka Medley**.

Past MVEers came to assist in honoring our second director, **Russ Foris** and to sing with us on the June 3 show. With **Jim Franklin** behind them, are **Harry Hanson, Dennis Monroe,** and **Joe Lex**.



Our choreography day continued into two new songs for our International Set, which will be debuted on the June 3 – **Songs of Summer** Concert . Here is a photo as we worked on the fun moves for our show. This move, however, looks like we're in pain. I think this move will **not** be our show!



Meet the Leads of the Midwest Vocal Express



Top Row: **Matt Nagel, Chuck Stearns, and Tom Rogina.**
Front Row: **Max Mutza, Dylan Keegan, and John Ward.**
Max says, "We're the most important section in the chorus."
He's a lead, that is for sure! And a photogenic group of leads.

Calendar of Scheduled May Events – **FH & MVE & Chapter**

Monday, May 1 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at Elm Grove Lutheran (EGL)

Monday, May 8 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

Friday, May 13 – Greendale Chapter Installation (more info to come.)

Monday, May 15 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

Sunday, May 21 – FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at Emmanuel United Church of Christ (EUCC)

Monday, May 22 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

Tuesday, May 25 – Board Meeting from 7-8:30 via Zoom

Monday, May 29 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

EARLY JUNE:

Friday, June 2 – Greendale Chapter Music/Tech at Shattuck @ 5:30-8:30pm

Saturday, June 3 – Songs of Summer – 4pm Shattuck Call Time for our 7pm Show.

Mark Your Calendars for the Delafield Arts Foundation

On **Friday, July 28, 2023**, we have been invited to perform. More information will come out.

[Home - SummerStage of Delafield](#) or
[\(1\) Delafield Arts Foundation | Delafield WI | Facebook](#)



From Bryan Ziegler Hey everyone!

We have a couple of performances upcoming this summer after our AMAZING performances in Louisville! Here are the details:



SATURDAY, JULY 15

Performance for the dedication of the new Schmitt Brothers Memorial Stage in downtown Two Rivers, WI (just north of Manitowoc). We are two of 7-8 choruses and several quartets, including Happiness Emporium, St. Croix Crossing, and Coulee Classic. Dedication begins at 1:00pm, show is from 2-5pm, and there is a dinner afterward.

FRIDAY, JULY 28

Performance at Liberty Park in Delafield as part of the Delafield Arts Board's summer concert series. Our performance will be in the evening, estimated around 7pm. Please answer the questions in the following survey to help me and the P-Teams plan appropriate repertoire for the shows and ensure we will have a representative ensemble for each performance.

Meet the Leads of Forward Harmony

Back Row: **Libbie Jansen, Sherry Bengsch, Renee Rieboldt, & Laura Loucks**



Second Row: **Lynn Berton, Deana Grade, Kathryn Record, & Andrea Patnode**

Front Row: **Anita O'Keefe, Mary Fitzgerald, Julie Gottfried, Ann Elizabeth-Nagel, & Jeanette Schupp**

MVE Visits Crossroads Harmony Chorus' Send-Off Party – The Monday night MVE rehearsal in the Elm Grove Lutheran Church on April 24 was



just a mile away in Elm Grove from the send-off concert at Auxano Church at 14625 Watertown Plank Road. The MVE starts rehearsals at 7pm and the send-off was at 7:30pm, so we hopped in our cars to attend.

The MVE got to cheer on both **Cool Beans Quartet**

and **Crossroads Harmony Chorus**. They enjoyed having a larger audience for their send-off and we loved their music! *Bravo, Cool Beans* and *bravo, Crossroads Harmony Chorus*. We send cool vibes for your upcoming contest.



Baby Beaudin is arriving about June 1, 2023



Flannery Wheeler and **Nick** Beaudin have let all on Facebook know that they are having a baby boy in about a month.

His name is **Gabriel**. We are all excited to meet him. Bet he'll like to tell jokes, play games, eat cookies, throw Frisbees, and sing tags.



May 2023