



We're having "A Swingin' Little Christmas" Feast or Fête

The Greendale Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society Presents

# *A Swingin' Little Christmas*

*featuring*  
Midwest Vocal Express  
Forward Harmony  
*- and -*  
The Kenosha Madrigal Singers

*Saturday, December 16th*  
*7:00 pm*

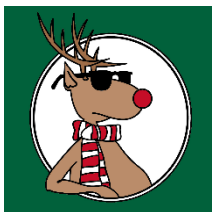
Pewaukee High School Auditorium  
510 Lake St, Pewaukee



Plan now to attend! Tickets cost \$20 and may be purchased:

- from any Greendale Chapter member
- at the door -or-
- online at [mve.org](http://mve.org)

A photograph of a large group of people, likely the chorus members, standing in several rows. They are dressed in formal attire, including suits and dresses, and are holding microphones, suggesting they are performing or about to perform.



## Calendar for December – **FH & MVE & Both**

**Sunday, Nov 26– FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at EUCC**  
**Monday, Nov 27 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

**Sunday, Dec 3 – FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at EUCC**  
**Monday, Dec 4 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**

**Sunday, Dec 10 – FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at EUCC**  
**Monday, Dec 11 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL**  
**Saturday, Dec 16 – Greendale Christmas call time to be determined.**

**Monday, Dec 18 – Singout at the VA Hospital, call time likely 6pm**

**Monday, Dec 25 - Christmas**  
**Wednesday, Dec 27 – Board Meeting from 7-8:30 via Zoom**



## Cleveland Bound in Early July 2024 – Dick Marcus

Both the **MVE** and **Forward Harmony** are headed to the *International Barbershop Harmony Society* convention in Cleveland next year. As your editor, I will share something about Cleveland each month as we gear up for this adventure (after our **A Swingin' Little Christmas** Show on December 16). **Tom Weber** scouted out the best deals and best locations for our Greendale Chapter's hotel downtown and will send information soon. He also has comments on the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. But I lived in the Cleveland area both as a tiny kid and taught at **Cleveland State University** for a bunch of years, so I'll give my somewhat out-of-date comments about Cleveland. I will try to disabuse its harsh nick-name, *The Mistake on the Lake* ([Why Cleveland Is Often Called 'The Mistake On The Lake' \(thetravel.com\)](http://www.thetravel.com) )



This month, we feature a natural for a singing society, **The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**. A one-day ticket now costs \$35. ([Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame Tickets | Rock & Roll Hall of Fame \(rockhall.com\)](http://www.rockhall.com))

The **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame** is right on **Lake Erie**, next to the **First Energy Stadium**, where the

Cleveland Browns play.

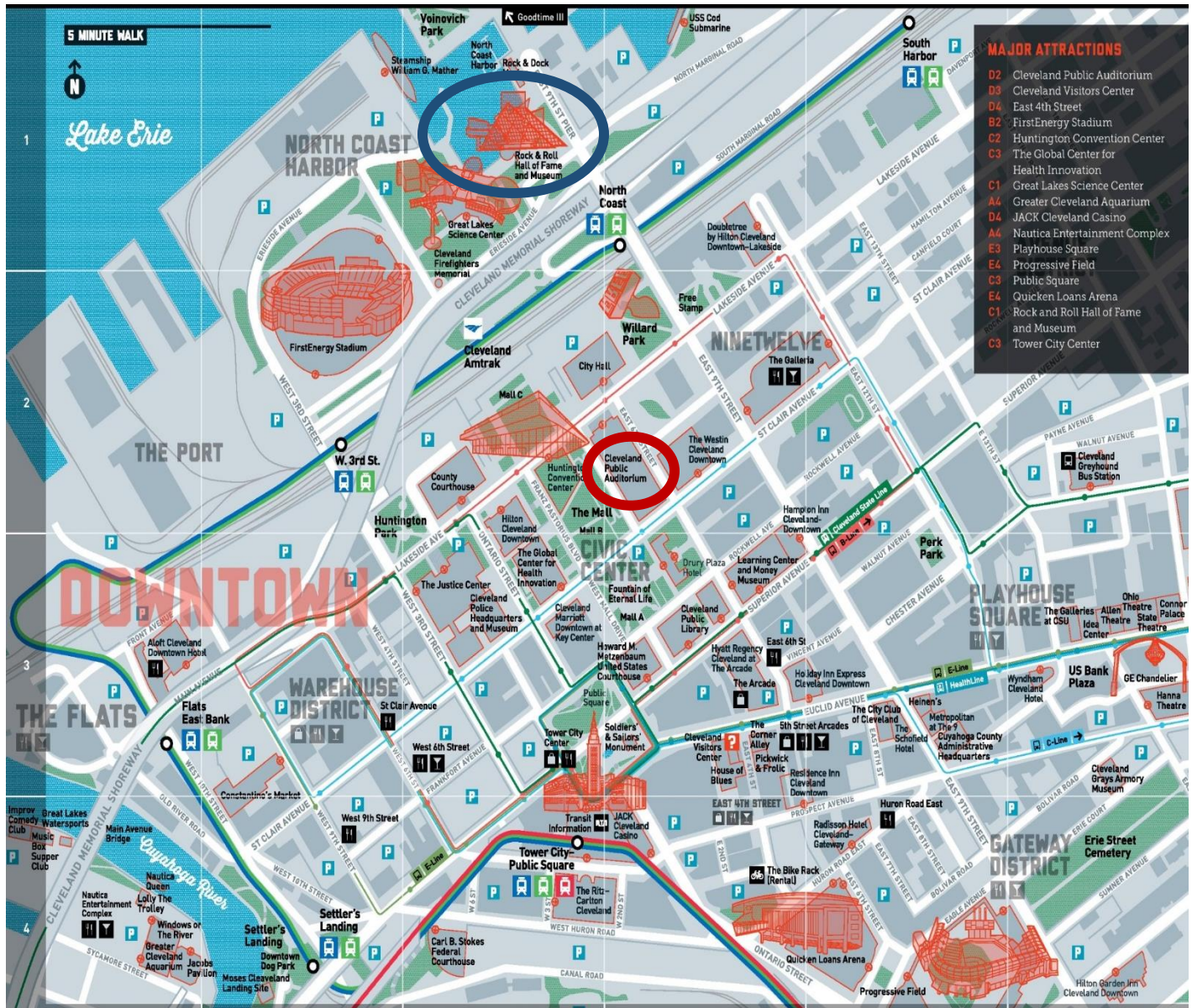
The Hall of Fame is a 10-block walk from where we perform, at the **Cleveland Public Auditorium** and the many hotels in the



December 2023



downtown area. For a map of the area go to our BHS site, click [registration](#) at ( [2024 International Convention • Cleveland, Ohio | Barbershop Harmony Society](#) ) or look at the map below. **The Cleveland Public Auditorium** is circled and as well as the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**. As Bryan likes to say, "Cool cool." Watch a 3½ minute kid-friendly video on visiting the Hall of Fame <https://youtu.be/8jlkAXy3pjo>



## The VA Hospital Singout on Monday, December 18

After a several-year hiatus due to COVID is a trip to entertain people at the **Zablocki VA Hospital** at 5000 W. National Avenue in Milwaukee. Before COVID, the chorus would help to live up to our **Mission Statement**, which was last modified in February 2006 to be:



The Greendale, WI Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society, is a fraternity dedicated to providing members, audiences, and the community with:

- ***A cappella*** entertainment excellence
- Education in this unique American musical style
- **Altruistic service**



Our visits to the **VA Hospital**, Candy Cane Lane, donations made from **Singing Valentines**, and visits to the McDonald House helped to substantiate that last mission of providing **altruistic service**.

Formerly, the chorus would sing in a dining area on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the **VA Hospital**. This year, the venue is an auditorium in the facility.

We'll sing many of the songs we performed at our **Swingin' Little Christmas** concert, two days earlier.

**Candy Cane Lane** – After the VA, we may head to West Allis. Whether we go or not is still being decided. In the past, we parked at a Walgreens near the highly lighted, perhaps **50-Kilowatt Candy Cane Lane** area.

The **Walgreens** is at the juncture of Oklahoma and Beloit Rd at **9100 W Beloit Rd, Milwaukee**. If you have something Christmasy to wear, this is surely a spot for it. See the fun hats and sweatshirts at last year's Candy Cane Lane caroling. Santa came to hear us sing!



## Interview with Mary Fitzgerald of Forward Harmony

*Greendaler asks:* Mary, you are the lead of a great quartet, **By Request Quartet**. How did you get started singing and singing barbershop?

*Mary replies:* I don't think I can remember a time when I didn't sing! I was active in choirs and theater all through Junior High and High School. I started leading worship music at church when I was fourteen, and by fifteen, it led me to sing for many weddings. It paid better than babysitting! I continued to do lots of church music, and then as my kids grew older, I got involved with Community Theater.



**By Request** – I am closest to the camera.

One evening in July of 1997, I was helping a friend's mother with a catering event at the Como Lake Pavilion in St. Paul, MN. She told us to go take a break and listen to this great group that was singing at the Music in Park event that evening. I was mesmerized, and immediately knew I wanted to join them. I didn't know that barbershop music even existed. The main group was called **City of Lakes Chorus**, and the featured quartet was the newly minted Queens of Harmony, **Four Star Collection**. I attended the next rehearsal, got on the risers, and never got off them!



*Greendaler asks:* What led you to join Forward Harmony? Are you also a lead in Forward Harmony?

*Mary says:* When I moved to Madison, one of the hardest things I had to leave behind was **Mixed Company**, directed by **Scott Kvigne**. It was an auditioned group of 20-24 singers, and I had gotten a taste of what mixed harmony could sound like. I was sad there was not a mixed group for me to join here, so when I heard a mixed harmony group was being formed in SE Wisconsin, I knew I had to be a part of it. I do sing **lead** in

**Forward Harmony** but will occasionally sing the **tenor** part as it is in a more comfortable place in my tessitura. However, I'm a storyteller at heart, so the melody line is where I truly live.

*Greendaler asks:* Where did you grow up and go to school? Where do you live now? And what do you do for a living?

*Mary answers:* I was born in Brooklyn, NY. My dad was transferred to MN when I was five years old, so I grew up in St. Paul Park, MN. It was a small town about seven miles southeast of St. Paul. I graduated from Park Senior High in Cottage Grove, MN. I live in West Madison now, about a mile from my youngest daughter. I moved here in the fall of 2020 to help her with my granddaughters. My daughter was teaching her 5<sup>th</sup> grade class online, and I helped her kindergartner and 4<sup>th</sup> grader with their online schooling. I continue to be there for the kids after school every day until their parents come home from work.

My dream was to be a music educator, but I married right out of school and had my three girls by the time I was 21. College was not in the cards for me. I worked in banking and investments for the first 15 years, and then the next 20 years were spent in sales support for business markets with the phone company. I'm now happily retired. We had a joke that you knew you worked for the phone company when you sat at the same desk for ten years and had worked for 4 different companies!



*Greendaler says:* Yes, I remember the antitrust breakup of Ma-Bell into eight parts in the early 1980's, and then over time it reassembled itself again by mergers.

Congratulations to you and **By Request Quartet** for winning the women's quartet contest at the Land O' Lakes District in October. What was the experience like for you as a quartet competitor as well as a chorus competitor? What were your fondest singing moments at District, or International or some other event?

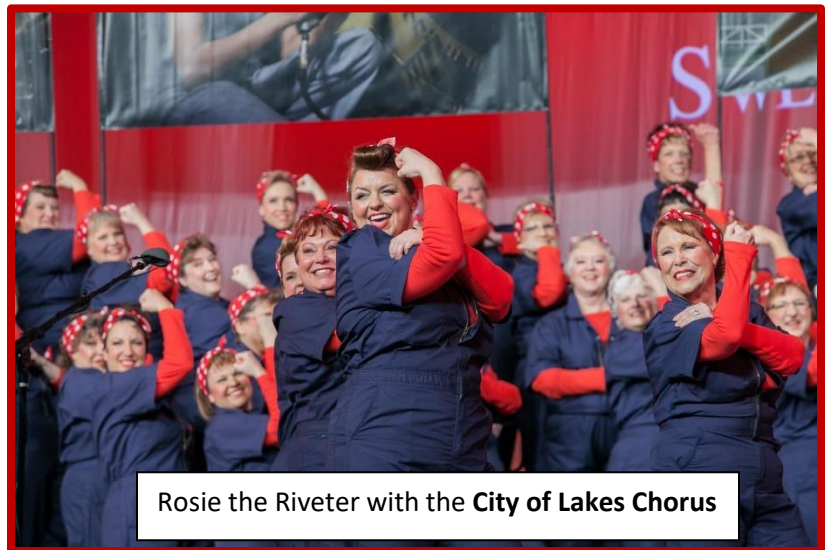
*Mary says:* Thanks! We had a wonderful, relaxed singing experience from the time we hit the stage to when we walked off. It was a bit difficult for us to turn around from the chorus contest to the quartet competition only because of the luck of the draw. Three of **By Request Quartet** also competed with **Forward Harmony**, so we had very little time to change costumes, get to the rehearsal room, warm up and get our minds focused. I would say we made it work!

Asking what my fondest singing moments are is like asking me to choose my favorite child! In the last 27 years, first with SAI, and now BHS, my life has been enriched by the music and friendships I've been blessed to experience.



That being said, I think some of my favorite moments have been on the International stage. With **City of Lakes Chorus**, the *Rosie the Riveter* package in 2014 in Baltimore (developed by **Mike Lietke**), With **Skyline Chorus** of Denver, *Cruella DeVil* package in Seattle, 2010 and of course competing with **Forward Harmony** at International in Louisville, my first BHS International.

*Greendaler says:* Thank you, Mary, for this interview. The Greendale Chapter is enriched by your experience, voice, and dynamism.



### **Your Greendale Board Nominees We are Voting on are:**

President - **Brian Lynch**  
Immediate Past President - **Jim Franklin**  
Secretary - **Bonita Ziegler**  
Treasurer - **Jim Ansay**  
VP Music - **Matt Post**  
VP Membership - **Dylan Keegan**  
VP Marketing - **Rhonda Gould**  
BMAL (MVE) - **Tom Rogina**  
BMAL (FH) - **Deana Grade**

Thank you for your past and future service to our Chapter. And thank you to all the family and friends that help our Chapter at shows, selling tickets, setting up and taking down at rehearsals, and the many other things that make the lives of Greendalers run smoothly.



## **Music and the Mind** – from **Renew** Magazine by **United Healthcare\***

No matter how you listen, studies have shown music's positive effects on the brain. Here are a few ways you can tune into the benefits of music.

### **Explore something new**

New music pushes the brain in ways the old favorites don't, says *Johns Hopkins Medicine*. Ask your friends, grandchildren, or neighbors what they're listening to. It might not be your favorite at first, but unfamiliarly will challenge your brain to understand new sounds.

### **Combine music and movement**

Moving to music not only helps improve your workout, but also puts you in a better mood, says the *National Institutes of Health (NIH)*. Try a dance class, invite a friend to go dancing at a free concert in the park or simply rediscover some new moves in the comfort of your living room.

### **Add background noise**

While the greatest benefit comes from *focused listening*, just playing music in the background has its advantages, too. It can lift your mood and relieve stress, according to a 2020 study. Put on a playlist, radio, or old record while you cook or do chores.



### **Start the day with a song**

Swap out the standard jarring alarm buzz for a melodic track. Starting the day with a song can help you wake up more naturally and feel less groggy, according to the *Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology*.

### **Join a music class**

Maybe you used to play an instrument and want to try it out again. Or perhaps there's a local choir group you've been interested in joining. Whatever you choose, the NIH says learning to play music can help decrease anxiety, improve communication, and promote cognitive function. It's also a great way to connect with fellow music lovers.



**Local find:** **Giving Voice** brings people with Alzheimer's and their care partners together to sing in choruses that foster joy, purpose, and community understanding. Find a chorus near you at [givingvoicechorus.org](http://givingvoicechorus.org).

**Editor's Note:** Or if you'd love to sing, you can check out either **Forward Harmony** or the **Midwest Vocal Express**, just go to: [SING WITH US \(mve.org\)](http://SINGWITHUS(mve.org))

\*Reprinted with permission from **Renew** Magazine

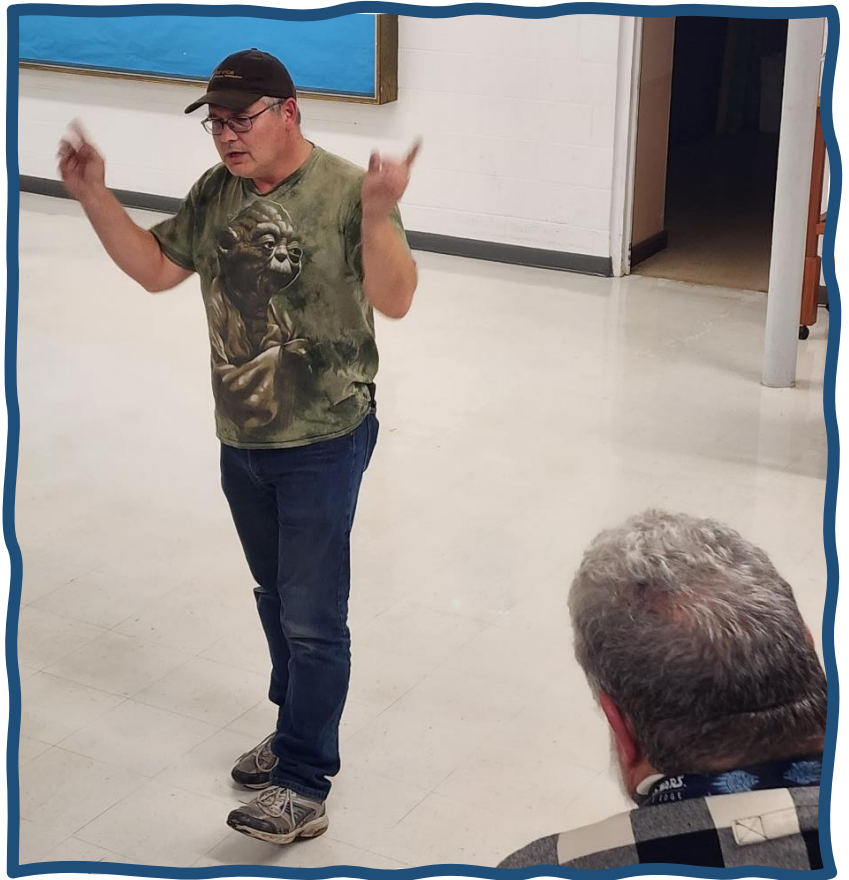


## Who's That Directing?

Is it (a) Yoda, (b) Bryan Ziegler, (c) Brian Lynch, or (d) Chip Hackmann?

You got it, it is **(d)**. **Chip** directed the MVE on October 30 to **Keep the Whole World Singing**.

**Keep the Whole World Singing** (which is also the **BHS's official motto**) was written by Willis Alcott Diekema. **Willis A. Diekema** was a Holland, Michigan, businessman who helped propel barbershop quartet harmony to nationwide prominence in the 1940s and 50s. He was inducted into the **Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Fame** at the society's 2010 International Convention in Philadelphia.



*Diekema (1892-1988)* capped a 50-year career at Holland's DePree Chemical Company with 33 years as president, interrupted only by service in **World War I** as an aviator in France, where he won the **U.S. Distinguished Service Cross for Extraordinary Heroism** with the 91st Aero Squadron of the Army Signal Corps. He was the son of 1895 Holland Mayor Gerrit John Diekema.

**Willis Diekema**, familiar to many as **Bill**, had been an avid and accomplished musician since his years at **University of Michigan**, 1910-14, where he wrote and directed several comic operas that toured Detroit and Chicago. When the Barbershop Harmony Society was formed in 1938 — then known as **S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.**, an acronym for **Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America** — Diekema's enthusiasm for the musical art form led him to organize about 30 local businessmen into **Holland Windmill Chorus** as Holland's chapter of the new society, in 1945.

## **A Short Quiz – Oh, Yes, Virginia, there is a Quiz!**

1. What is the meaning of a **fête**?
2. What is the **official motto** of the Barbershop Harmony Society?
3. What is the meaning of **S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A?**

*The answers are on the next page in a box.*

## **We Miss our Friend and Barbershopper, Dale Heinen**

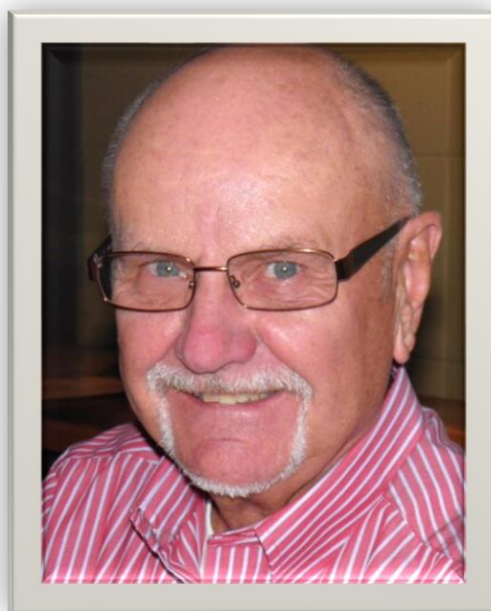
**Dale Herbert Heinen** of Waukesha, passed away peacefully on Nov. 18, 2023 at the age of 82. He was born on May 25, 1941 the son of Herbert and Gladys (Neerhof) Heinen. He grew up farming west of Cedar Grove, WI and attended Maple Grove School through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He then graduated from Cedar Grove High School and furthered his education at Sheboygan County Teachers College. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree from UW-Oshkosh and his Masters in Administration from UW-Milwaukee. On July 3, 1965 he married his beloved wife, Carolee (Sharratt) Heinen at Algoma Methodist Church in Oshkosh, WI.

Dale's career was one of teaching and caring for children for 31 years. He began teaching at Salem Elementary School in Kenosha County and then for the School District of Waukesha teaching at Hillcrest for one year before becoming principal at Hillcrest for one year. He then served as a principal of Northview (9 years), Prairie (8 years), Blair (6 years) and Saratoga (4 years) Elementary Schools.

Dale enjoyed cross country skiing, biking, hiking, motorcycle trips, golfing, gardening, 30+ trips to the Quetico Provincial Park in Canada, traveling, **singing barbershop**, playing and cheering on his grandkids, 20 years singing with the MVE, and volunteering for many years at the Salvation Army. He was a member of Jerusalem Presbyterian Church and past member of Zion Presbyterian Church.



He will be sadly missed by his wife of 58 years, **Carolee**; sons **Wade** (Chris) Heinen and **Chad** (Peg) Heinen; grandchildren, Brynn and Grant Heinen and Claire and Andrew Heinen and sister Muriel (Heinen) Ledeboer. He is further survived by other relatives and friends. Dale was preceded in







death by his parents Herbert and Gladys Heinen; sister Lois Soerens and brothers-in-law Harold Soerens and Garrett Ledeboer.

Visitation will take place on **Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023 from 5:00pm** until 8:00pm at **Jerusalem Presbyterian Church, 207 W. Main Street, Wales, WI 53183**. Visitation will continue at the church on Monday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am

until the 11:00am memorial service.

Memorial donations in Dale's memory are appreciated to Jerusalem Presbyterian Church (address above), Waukesha Salvation Army (445 Madison Street, Waukesha, WI 53188) or to Aurora Zilber Family Hospice (1155 N. Honey Creek Pkwy, Wauwatosa, WI 53213).

The family wishes to thank Dale's family, friends, and faith community for all they did for him over the years.

*Editor's note:* Taken from [www.randledable.com](http://www.randledable.com). See the next article by **Jim Franklin** on singing there on Sunday before the FH rehearsal. The plan is to sing *I'll Walk with God* and *Irish Blessing* (both PDFs are on MVE.org, as well as tracks for *I'll Walk with God*).



Dale was featured in the **September 2022** newsletter, see [2022 - Google Drive](#) or go directly to the **Waukesha Freeman** newspaper article about Dale at: [Former teacher reunites with his 'kids' after 53 years | Waukesha Co. News | gmtoday.com](#)

### **Answers to the Short Quiz**

1. Fête is a **feast** or festival or celebration (pronounced *fate*, from French for feast). It is a word that appears in the opening song, *Swingin' Little Christmas*.
2. **Keep the Whole World Singing**, which is sung at the end of most rehearsals. The phrase, "**Everyone in Harmony**," is our strategic goal.
3. **Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America**, which was our name from 1938 to 2004. The mouthful of letters was something of a spoof on the depression-era creation of many acronyms, like the WPA and the CCC. The spoof wore off and we became the *Barbershop Harmony Society*. The new name is much clearer to everyone than the bewildering alphabet of letters.

## **We Will Sing for our Friend, Dale Heinen** - *Jim Franklin*

This past Saturday, we lost a longtime friend, 20-year MVE member and supporter, our MVE brother **Dale Heinen**. Dale entered hospice a couple weeks ago and he and his son, Wade, have been corresponding with me about Dale's wish to have MVE sing at his visitation. I spoke with Wade today and have final details on how we will gladly honor Dale's wish.

MVE will sing one song from our repertoire which we prepared last night, I'll Walk with God. Afterwards, we will invite any member, former members, and Barbershop friends to join us in singing Irish Blessing. If you know someone who may want to join us in Irish Blessing, please share this information with them.

Meet this Sunday Nov. 26th at 5PM

### **[Jerusalem Presbyterian Church, 207 West Main Street, Wales, WI 53183](#)**

Warm up before arriving, then find us downstairs to

5:00 warm up

5:10 rehearse I'll Walk with God

5:20 rehearse Irish Blessing

The family will pause the visitation at approximately 5:30pm so that we may sing I'll Walk with God, then Irish Blessing, from the Choir area at the front of the Sanctuary.

Dress appropriately, no uniform or Greendale apparel is expected. You are free to depart discretely after we sing.

**Forward Harmony** members, this location is just ten minutes away from your rehearsal site.



Newer Greendalers, you may best know Dale from his generous help with our recent shows. Dale and Wade Heinen have already expressed deep appreciation for our willingness to do this, and I am moved by how many have committed to being there for our friend and his family.

## **The 2023 Holiday Gift Guide is here!** – Brian Lynch

Hey y'all — With holiday shopping gearing up, now is a great time to explore scrip gift cards. Use when you purchase or give them as gifts! See this great interactive guide to all the ways you can raise funds for the **Greendale Chapter** while shopping.

To sign up for this program visit [www.RaiseRight.com/enroll](http://www.RaiseRight.com/enroll). You need the following enrollment code as part of the set-up process: **2BGPWWFMGL5Z**



## Share the 2023 Holiday Gift Guide to unwrap holiday earnings

Gear up for another great season of earning opportunities for your participants! The Holiday Gift Guide is now available for you to share with participants—existing and new. It's an exciting opportunity for everyone to get the gifts they want and your organization to get the support it needs. That's a win-win!



### Spread the word

- Use the link below to share an interactive experience of the guide with your participants
- Print or email the flyer
- Use the social post template to share on your Facebook page

Find all of these tools and more on the guide page.

### [GET THE GUIDE](#)



### Interview with Jonah Jaeger of the Midwest Vocal Express

*Greendaler asks:* Jonah, you are a Tenor in the MVE. How did you get started in singing and singing barbershop?

*Jonah replies:* I joined choir in 8th grade, my introduction to barbershop was in my freshman year of high school. The first time I sang barbershop was at a youth in harmony festival in Oshkosh.

*Greendaler asks:* How long have you been a member of the *Fox Valleyaires Chorus*?

*Jonah answers:* I have been with the **Fox Valleyaires** for just over a year.



*Greendaler asks:* What led you to join MVE? How did you find us?

*Jonah says:* I went to the sounds of summer show earlier this year, it looked like fun so I joined.

*Greendaler asks:* Where did you grow up and go to school? And what do you do for a living?

*Jonah answers:* I grew up in Theresa Wi, but I went to school in Lomira, WI. My job is in industrial sharpening and manufacturing.

*Greendaler says:* Family businesses are families. Even the non-family employees tend to be life-long friends and co-workers. What do you love about your family business (or don't like if you wish)?

*Jonah replies:* Getting to work with my dad

*Greendaler says:* Jonah, thanks for doing this interview. We are so glad you've become a member of the chorus. Thank you for joining the Mighty MVE.

## **Humor Corner**

### **TENOR**

- **Why do tenors like *The Pirate Song* so much?** These high-pitched scallywags crave being terrors on the high C's.

### **LEAD**

- **Why do directors encourage leads to work in ice cream shops?** To get the scooping out of their system.

### **BARITONE**

- **How many baritones does it take to screw in a lightbulb?** Just one, but s/he likes to have a dozen leads watch and say: "Oh boy, that looks hard, I'm glad I don't have to do that."

### **BASS**

- **Hot tip for basses:** In case of doubt on the next song, the first word is "doo."

### **QUARTET**

- **Why did the ladies in the barbershop quartet refuse to go fishing with their tone-deaf friend?** She couldn't hold a tuna.



[Amazon.com: Barbershop Quartet Music Harmony Funny Tag Singing T-Shirt : Clothing, Shoes & Jewelry](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08K9K9K9K) \$15.99