



The Greendaler Monthly February 2024

Calendar for February – FH & MVE & Both

Sunday, Feb 4 – FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at EUCC

Monday, Feb 5 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

Sunday, Feb 11 – Super Bowl - No Rehearsal

Monday, Feb 12 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

Wednesday, Feb 14 – Singing Valentines (see article)

Monday, Feb 19 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

Saturday, Feb 24 – Annual Chapter Banquet & Awards – 5:30pm

Cocktails/6:30pm dinner at the Delafield Brewhaus – see p. 10

Sunday, Feb 25 – FH Rehearsal at 6-9pm at EUCC

Monday, Feb 26 – MVE Rehearsal at 7pm at EGL

Wednesday, Feb 28 – Board Meeting from 7-8:30 via Zoom



How May We Participate in Singing Valentines, You Asked?

We have two fantastic opportunities to make someone's day brighter on Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14, 2024!

1. **Pick-up quartets** (or established quartets) can learn 1 (or 2) love songs and make a day of bringing sunshine (and often blushes) to people in the Milwaukee/Waukesha area. The day runs like this:



- a. Meet at Bonita's house in the morning to pick up your assigned singouts, roses, cards, and info cards (and have a cup of coffee and a sweet roll).
- b. Your quartet travels according to the list (some are time specific) and finds the recipient, serenades them with a love song, presents them with a rose and a personalized card, and gets your picture taken (by the 5th wheel*) with the delighted recipient.

c. Anyone who says, "That was great! Can I get one done for my sweetheart today?" – hand them an info card (they can call and probably get one

done that day)

d. Repeat b. & c. until your assignments are complete.

e. Go have a cocktail and toast yourselves to make someone's day perfect.

2. ****NEW !**** **Established quartets** (or pick-up quartets who want to learn 4 or 5 new songs) are being asked to stroll through a restaurant for an hour, singing for

whoever would like a song. You will also present a rose and offer to take a picture (see 5th wheel* below). Your evening would go like this:

- a. Collect roses from Bonita
- b. Sing at an assigned restaurant
- c. Anyone who says, "That was great! Can I get one done for my sweetheart today?" – hand them an info card (they can call and probably get one done that day)
- d. Go have a cocktail and celebrate your part in a delightful surprise for someone.

YOUR ACTION ITEMS:

I. We currently have 2 ½ quartets registered to sing. Please consider joining us on Weds, February 14 to sing for the day and indicate on the Google form <https://forms.gle/kQeV4zCp7cz2LGWn9>

- a. What part you'd like to sing
- b. What other people you'd like to sing with or
- c. Put you with anyone
- d. You'll be a 5th wheel
 - (1) With anyone
 - (2) With a specific quartet
- e. You are an established quartet and would like:
 - (1) To sing all day
 - (2) To sing in a restaurant
 - (3) Both



II. **What's a 5th wheel** you may ask? The 5th wheel is usually the driver and always the one who takes the picture of the quartet and recipient. The 5th wheel will also carry a bunch of roses to distribute in the restaurant setting. 5th wheels can be anyone who wants to have a fun day but not necessarily sing. (If the 5th wheel pouts, you can let them sing too.)

III. Established quartets (or overachiever pick-up quartets) – Is there a favorite restaurant you would like to contact to see if they'd let you sing? We're asking \$200.

IV. The serenade songs are on the cloud. bit.ly/mvemusic

Thank you for participating in this great marketing promotion for our chapter and its quartets!

Sing on!
Bonita Ziegler

Interview of Robin Kelby of Forward Harmony

Greendaler asks: Robin, how did you get started in singing? What part do you sing in **Forward Harmony**?

Robin says: I have been singing since I was two; my mom would stand me up on a piano bench while she accompanied the both of us. We have sung together for longer than I can remember.

She also got me involved in barbershop when I was in 7th grade through Harmony Camp, which was a barbershop summer camp the **Singing Buckeyes** used to organize. I am a baritone in **Forward Harmony** (as well as in **Yahara River Chorus** in Sweet Adelines).

Greendaler asks: Where did you go to High School? Tell us about your family when growing up.

Robin replies: I'm from SE Ohio, and I went to Ohio Virtual Academy, which is an online, public charter school, from 3rd grade through the end of high school. I was doing online learning waaaaaay before it was cool!

I am an only child, but because my parents are divorced and both have remarried, I now have 4 stepsiblings, which is a lot to wrap one's head around.



Greendaler asks: Where did you go to college and what was your major?

Robin answers: I went to **Ohio University** (not to be confused with THE Ohio State University) and got both my bachelor's and master's in computer science. I ended up attending Ohio University for a total of 7 years, due to 2 years of college classes while in high school, 3 years of undergrad, and 2 years of graduate studies.

Greendaler asks: Wow, that's great. Where do you work? And where do you live now?

Robin says: I work at **Epic Systems** in **Verona, WI** and I live just a few minutes from Epic. I am a software developer on the Beans team, which supports dialysis and kidney care organizations and providers.



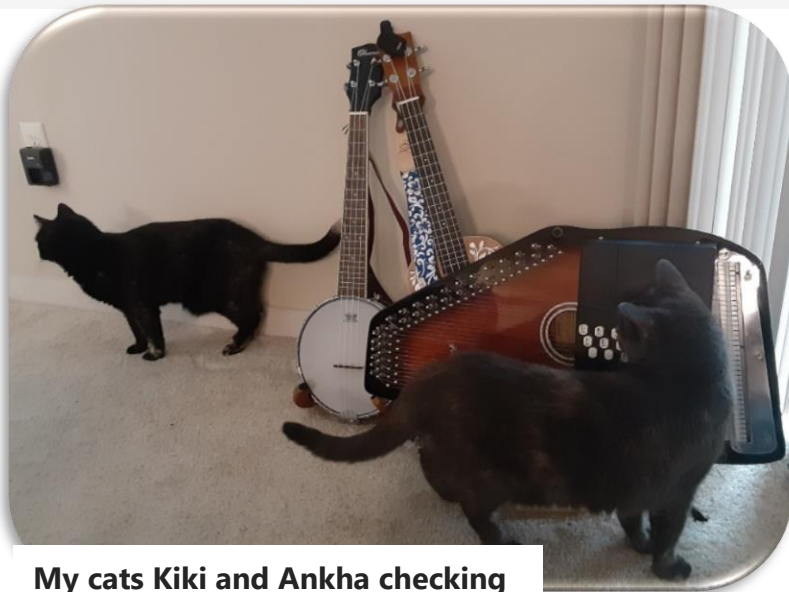
A work photo onsite on an immersion trip for work at a dialysis clinic.

Greendaler asks: I know you have preferences in the pronouns you use, such as they/them. If you wish, tell us a bit about your pronoun usage, please.

Robin answers: I am a nonbinary person, which means that I do not identify as either male or female. I'm just me! I really appreciate it when folks refer to me using they/them/theirs pronouns because they are the closest pronouns that "fit" who I am. One of the reasons why I really love singing with **Forward Harmony** (besides our amazingly gorgeous sound) is that when I watch us perform, we reflect the way I see myself.

Greendaler says: What are some of your non-singing talents or interests?

Robin replies: I do a lot of crafts (primarily knit and crochet, but also diamond painting, nalbinding ([The Beginner's Guide to Nalbinding](#) ([Scandinavian Knotless Knitting](#)) ([morningchores.com](#)), pin loom weaving, beading, origami, and so much more).



My cats Kiki and Ankha checking out my musical instruments.

I am also heavily involved in my church as a Certified Lay Speaker (I can preach when there's a need for someone to fill in) and as the District Lay Leader for the SW district of the Wisconsin Conference of the **United Methodist Church** (I help with programming and organizing the non-clergy United Methodists in Wisconsin).

I also play several instruments, including banjo and autoharp, I love to cook, and I enjoy photography (especially in nature).

Greendaler asks: What has surprised you most as a member of **Forward Harmony**?

Robin says: One of the things that surprised me was the dedication that we all share and a drive to do the very best we can, both as individuals and as a chorus. I have also really appreciated how welcoming folks are and the ways we support and encourage each other.

Greendaler says: Robin, thanks for this great interview. Your enthusiasm and musicality adds to **Forward Harmony** and adds to the excitement in the whole Greendale Chapter for 2024.

Interview with Deana Grade of Forward Harmony

Greendaler asks: You have started as a Board Member of the Greendale Chapter, called BMAL, or Board Member at Large. Are you enjoying this important service to our Chapter?

Deana replies: Yes, I am enjoying learning how the chapter is run. I have been involved in the Board in the past of the **Yahara River Chorus** of Sweet Adelines.

Greendaler asks: What part do you sing in **Forward Harmony** and how did you get your start singing in the barbershop style?

Deana says: I sing Lead. I started singing barbershop back in 1999 with the **Yahara River Chorus** of Sweet Adelines. I had never sung barbershop before.

The only other singing experience I had was singing in our church choir and of course in my bedroom with a hairbrush as a microphone.



Deana holds the LOL District Trophy!



Yahara River Chorus at the International Competition in Honolulu Hawaii in 2013. We were Harley Mamas!

I played the organ when I was young and played flute in band in middle and high school. I am currently the lead section and visual leader of the **Yahara River Chorus**. I also sang in the **Charisma! Quartet** of Sweet Adelines for 17 years.

Greendaler asks: Tell us about your family when growing up. Where did you go to High School? Did you sing in their choir?

Deana replies: I grew up in Madison, WI and am an only child. I went to **East High School** but didn't sing in the choir. I was in the band though. I danced in a group from my junior and senior years of high school that did ballroom and folk dancing and we performed around the city.

Greendaler asks: Where did you go to college? What did you major in?

Deana answers: I went to the **Madison Area Technical College** (now **Madison College**) and majored in Medical Secretarial Science.

Greendaler asks: So, what do you do for a living? Are you using that major from college?

Deana says: Well, I just retired this past June, but when I was working, I worked for the **University of Wisconsin** for 38 years. I had various administrative positions in the medical field, but for the last 27 years I was the Program Manager for the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship program. Which is a training program that prepares physicians to be Hematologists and Oncologists. It was a rewarding experience working with excellent people who are passionate about patient care and research.

Greendaler asks: Deana, where do you live now? Tell us about your family.



Family photo including my Mom, Sharon Kittle, who also sings in YRC.

Deana answers: I live in **Waunakee, WI** which is just north of Madison and have been here for 30 years. My husband **Tom** and I have been married for 37 years and have two sons, **Derek** and **Brandon**, who both live in the area.

We also have a dog, **Fritz**, who we rescued in 2020 during the pandemic. He keeps us active both in exercise and laughter.

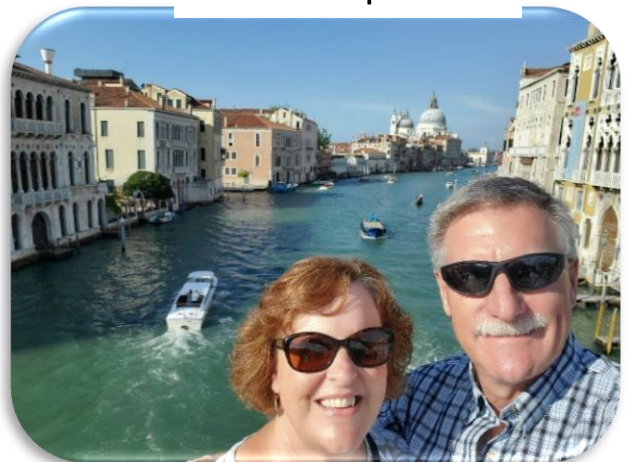
Greendaler says: Besides singing, what are some of your non-singing talents or interests?

Deana replies: We have a cabin just outside of Rhinelander, WI on the Moen Lake chain of lakes and enjoy spending all seasons in the great outdoors boating, fishing, hiking, and snowshoeing.

In retirement we plan to travel as much as we can. We took a trip to Europe and Italy this past fall, we have a trip to Mexico coming up in February. We have a big trip planned for February 2025 to Australia and New Zealand as well as possibly a trip to Iceland in fall of 2025.

I also enjoy creating and nurturing the perennial gardens in our yard and my many houseplants. I enjoy cooking, baking, and reading too.

Deana and Tom enjoying Venice this past fall.



Greendaler asks: What have you most enjoyed as a member of Forward Harmony?

Deana says: I love the challenging music we sing. The first LOL district competition was so much fun and the cherry on the top was winning and then going to the International Competition in Louisville. I had never been to a BHS competition before let alone sing in one. Such an amazing experience! It is so great singing with such a wonderful group of people who also love singing barbershop.

Greendaler says: Deana, thanks for this great interview. Thank you very much for your service on the Greendale Chapter's Board of Directors, bringing your previous experience from the **Yahara River Chorus** board.

Save the Date #1 – Saturday, July 20, 2024 for Both FH & MVE

The city of Two Rivers was so thrilled with the **Schmitt Brothers** stage dedication last year that they would love to have barbershoppers back in town for another performance. Please save the date for Saturday, July 20, 2024. Details to come.



Thanks,

Bonita Ziegler

Interview with Gerard Potvin of Forward Harmony

Greendaler asks: When did you get started with the **Capital Chordsmen**? What part do you sing with them? And What part do you sing in **Forward Harmony**. How did you get your start singing in the barbershop style?

Gerard says: I started in May, 2018; I sing tenor with them. With **Forward Harmony**, I sing lead.

My love for barbershop started as a very little boy. The local chapter, the **Indian Head Chorus** would visit the local churches. That was my favorite Sunday every year. Fun thing is one of my best friends from high school (**Karl Wicklund**) is now the director of that chorus. I get to see him every October at the LOL District contest. Here is Karl's picture with me on the next page at District.





I really didn't start singing barbershop until I joined the **Chordsmen**, but I've been performing this whole time in many different aspects. For example, last spring, I was in **Rent** with the **Sun Prairie Civic Theater**.

Greendaler asks: Tell us about your family when growing up. Where did you go to High School?

Gerard replies: My family is my everything! I'm the baby of two amazing older brothers, **Rich** and **Garrett**. Two of the greatest guys that I could ever know.

We grew up in the tiny town of **Grantsburg** in the far northwestern part of Wisconsin, 30 minutes west of Spooner, 45 from Hayward. Really close to the Minnesota border.



With my Mom and Dad, and my brothers on the ends, Rich and Garrett on the right.

Greendaler asks: Where did you go to college? What did you major in? And where are you living now?

Gerard answers: I am a very proud graduate of UW-Madison. I got my degree in history. I wanted to be a high school history teacher and be the school's baseball coach. Neither of those happened, but I did coach my daughter's fast pitch little league team. Here is good picture of **Jaelyn Potvin** and me. She is a music therapist living in Rochester, Minnesota.



I have lived in Madison ever since I came to college. I love this little city.

Greendaler asks: So, what do you do for a living? Are you using that major?

Gerard says: I'm responsible for accounts payable and vendor relations for a wholesale distributor. If you shop at a Hallman Lindsay paint store to buy brushes, rollers, or anything other than paint, you have purchased something that we sold them. Not very close to my major, however my education there gave me loads of knowledge in a wide area of things.

Greendaler says: What are some of your non-singing talents or interests?

Gerard replies: There are many, as I love to be active.

I play tennis, pickleball, softball, golf, disc golf, downhill ski, snowshoe, hike, run, walk, workout, basketball, football, baseball.

We love to go to microbreweries and distilleries with friends, so many around the area.

I am a huge board game geek and own over 120 different games. My favorite is **Dominion**. I own all 15 expansion packs and supplemental cards.

I love yard games too, such a great summer activity.

As far as talents go, I am not near as good as I used to be, but I've played piano since I was four.

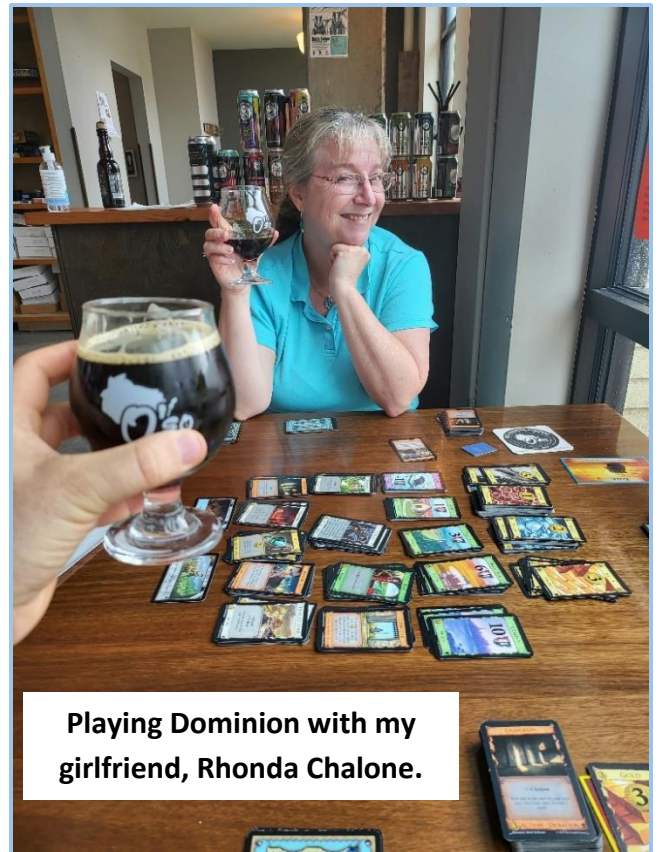


My favorite talent though, is creating someone's smile. 😊

Greendaler asks: Yes, you sure do make us smile. What led you to join **Forward Harmony**? How did you find us?

Gerard says: **Bryan Ziegler** brought it up long ago, and I said, I'm all in. I am a Charter Member and so very proud of it!

Greendaler ends: Thanks **Gerard**. Great interview.



Annual Chapter Banquet and Awards!!! – Joe Biwer (joe.biwer220@gmail.com)



Greetings barbershoppers,

This year's banquet will be held at the **Delafield Brewhaus** on **Saturday, February 24th**. To finalize some event details, I'd greatly appreciate it if you all helped me get an accurate headcount. Below, you will find a link to a google survey where you can RSVP.

Note - If you RSVP for someone else, kindly submit an additional response for each individual. **1 response = 1 RSVP** at [Link to Google Survey](#)

Stay tuned for more details, but the current expectation is 5:30pm for cocktails and 6:30pm for dinner.

SAVE THE DATE #2 – For MVE – Jim Franklin

The **Midwest Vocal Express** plans to perform at a benefit Fundraiser for Froedtert Hospital on **Friday, April 19, 2024**. The approximate time is **7:30 – 9:00pm** at the **Brookfield Conference Center, 325 S Moorland Rd**, Brookfield, WI 53005.



Congratulations to Checkmate Quartet at Midwinter – Dick Marcus

Checkmate Quartet competed in the **Midwinter Seniors Quartet Competition** in New York City in early January 2024. They were pleased with their singing and the wonderful experience. Congratulations to (L-R) **Dave Baxter, Jim Franklin, Brad Charles**, and **Harry Hanson** in the top bakers dozen quartets!



Checkmate sends their sincere thanks to all their brothers and sisters in harmony for their well wishes and support leading up to the competition.

Follow **Checkmate** at on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CheckmateQuartet96>

GREENDALE CHAPTER SINGING VALENTINE ORDER

8	30	Delivery Day	Weds, Feb 14	Sold by:	_____
9	30	From	_____am/pm	To	_____am/pm
10	30	<u>Charges:</u>			
11	30				
12	30	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 hr window		\$40.00	
1	30	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 hr window		\$50.00	
2	30	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 hr window		\$60.00	
3	30	<input type="checkbox"/> Exact time _____ am/pm		\$75.00	
4	30	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional rose & card		\$12.00 additional	
5	30	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Quartet		<u>\$10.00</u> additional	
6	30	<u>TOTAL</u>		\$_____	
7	30				
8	30	Special Quartet Name _____			

Recipient Name:	_____
Delivery Addr:	_____
City:	_____ Zip _____
Special Directions:	_____

Contact that day _____ Phone _____

Accomplices:	_____
Presentation Instructions:	_____

Card Message:	_____

Card Signature:	_____

Buyer Name: _____
Address: _____
City/St/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Payment Method: ☐ Cash ☐ Check # _____ ☐ Venmo
 (payable to Greendale Chapter) @James-Ansay

Credit # _____ - _____ - _____
exp ____ / ____ security code ____ - ____ - ____ zip _____

Exact Name on Card