

## Harmonious Benefit for Corner Food Pantry

**BY KATHRYN BOUGHTON**

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SALISBURY — The HousaTonics, the Salisbury-based barbershop singing group, celebrated its two-day benefit event Saturday and Sunday at the Salisbury School. The group performs there annually for the benefit of the Corner Pantry, an area food bank.

The event includes a cocktail hour and gourmet supper on Saturday, seasoned with music performed with good old-fashioned harmony, and is followed by a luncheon on Sunday, with similar musical accompaniment. In addition to singing for the supper and luncheon, the men pitched in and helped to serve the meal.

The group is currently led by its fourth director, Donald Sosin, internationally known for his piano accompaniments of silent films.

According to the group's historian, Edward Nickerson, the HousaTonics grew out of a former singing group at the Salisbury Congregational Church in the late 1980s, led by Lee Collins, known in the region as a teacher and brass band leader.

By 1990, it had adopted the name HousaTonics.

In the years since the HousaTonics have performed widely throughout the region, singing as far south as Bedford, N.Y. under the direction of Collins, singer Monte Stone, Christine Gevert of the award-winning vocal group Crescendo, and Sosin.

"We've had members who were everything from farmers and vets to newspaper publishers and academics," said Nickerson. "We've had a huge variety of members. We have even had women."

Over the years the number of singers has varied from a high of 40 to its current 20. The group rehearses at the Salisbury Congregational Church. Those interested in learning more or joining can contact Lloyd Wallingford at [Lloyd@HousaTonics.org](mailto:Lloyd@HousaTonics.org).



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**Donald Sosin of Salisbury introduces the HousaTonics barbershop singing group Sunday during the group's benefit performance for the Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville. Sosin is the group's director.**

**KATHRYN BOUGHTON** *REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN*