



the north shore harmony rag



Joseph Schlesinger, Third Assistant
Temporary Editor and Royal Keeper
of the Minor Typos

North Shore Chapter,
Society for the
Preservation and
Encouragement of
Barber Shop Quartet
Singing in America, Inc.

Meetings:
7:45 p.m. Wednesdays,
Presbyterian Home,
3131 Simpson St.
(Golf Rd.), Evanston, IL
(Guests are welcome!)

December 2002

29 Members

Volume 30, Issue 12

Sales of
Entertainment
2003 coupon
books con-
tinue apace.

In the mean-
time, Pete
Brandt reminds
us that out-
standing
monies are due
by the end of
the year.
Please settle
up with Pete as
soon as you
can.

Pete estimates
that we have
sold about 50
books and may
yet tie or break
last year's total
number of
books sold.
(They make
great stocking
stuffers, espe-
cially if you
have big, cube-
shaped feet.)

New Music Introduced Titles Include Possible Contest Songs

Amid our preparations for the holiday season, we have introduced three new repertoire songs: "I'm Sitting on Top of the World," "Oh! You Beautiful Doll," and "Yes Sir, That's My Baby." Actually, the last two songs were in the **Shoreliner Chorus** repertoire more than 10 years ago, but they are being reintroduced to a chorus that is largely unfamiliar with them. These two songs are also being considered as our set in the upcoming spring district contest, Apr. 26.

Our plan is for all chorus members to be off the paper on "Oh! You Beautiful Doll" and "Yes Sir, That's My Baby" by Jan. 15.

We are also learning some new songs for holiday caroling: "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" and "We Need a Little Christmas." At the same time, we are review-

ing all the songs in our red holiday music books.

The Salvation Army kettle sing is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Jewel Foods, 2485 Howard St., Evanston. That means we'll want to be warmed up and ready to start at 11 sharp. We plan to knock off around 3 p.m., at which time we invite as many members as would like to do so to form a group to go to Presbyterian Home to carol for about 30 minutes, as our way of thanking our hosts for their hospitality. Again, former members, inactives, other Barbershoppers, and singers from the community are welcome to sing with us.

Once we reconvene in January, it's back to work on regular repertoire and contest songs. We hope to see you then.

Chapter Directory Update

Yes, you're absolutely right: some of the Dec. 31 expiration dates in the November 2002 chapter directory are flat-out wrong. We apologize and thank you for not ribbing us too mercilessly. Please change expiration dates to 12/31/02 for the following members:

Kevin Jones
Tom Leaveck

John Martini
Tom McCracken
Edward Price

Joseph Schlesinger
Elmer Sweet

Come to the Annual Dinner and Officers' Installation

Mark your calendars for the first important chapter event and social gathering of the new year: the North Shore Chapter Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers.

Location is Hackney's on Lake, 1514 E. Lake Ave. (just east of Waukegan Rd.), Glenview. **Bill Remien** is taking reservations now, so please contact him no later than Thursday, Dec. 26. After that date, he and Marilyn will be out of town till the new year, and you'll be out of luck.

Cocktails will be available starting at 5:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30.

More information about the dinner will be provided as it becomes available.



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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:
Joseph Schlesinger — 847/328-0921
V.P. Membership & Chapter Development:
Kevin Jones — 847/869-2441
V.P. Music & Performance:
Bill Remien — 847/864-8753
Secretary: Phil Schwimmer — 847/298-4283
Treasurer: Edward Price — 773/334-1419
Immediate Past President:
Bill Remien — 847/864-8753

Bulletin Editor:
Joseph Schlesinger
1570 Oak Avenue, #416
Evanston, IL 60201
phone: 847/328-0921
e-mail: zinger99@juno.com
(backup: schlesmail@yahoo.com)

Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
The January Board meeting will be held at 7:45 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, at **Bill Remien's** home, 2121 Madison Pl., Evanston. All chapter members are welcome.

Chapter Web site: www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat
(Current Rag issue is also on the Web site!)

North Shore Chapter, SPEBSQSA, is proud to support the following charities (in addition to our annual holiday singing around the kettle for Salvation Army, Evanston Corps):



“From the Top”

Saw the following quote by American theologian **Charles Swindoll**, and it gave me something to think about. Hope it does the same for you.

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company . . . a church . . . a home. The remarkable

thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past . . . we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string that we have, and that is our attitude . . . I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you . . . we are in charge of our attitudes.

We've got some big plans for North Shore Chapter during the coming year, including events that we hope will garner greater public recognition of who we are and what we offer to the community. Our chapter's success rests on *your* attitude.

Here's to a new year full of new possibilities, opportunities for growth and self-expression, and continued happiness through pursuit of the greatest hobby in the world!

—**Joseph Schlesinger**
President

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**
Sat., 12/21—**Sing Around the Kettle for Salvation Army**—11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Jewel Foods, 2485 Howard St. (just east of the North Shore Sanitary Canal), Evanston.
Wed., 12/25 and Wed., 1/1—**No Chapter Meeting.** Happy Holidays!
Sat., 1/11—**Annual Chapter Dinner and Installation of Officers**—See story on page 1.
Sun., 1/19-Sun., 1/26—**SPEBSQSA International Midwinter Convention**—Albuquerque, N.M.
Fri., 2/7 and Sat., 2/8—**IDAH (Illinois District Academy of Harmony)**—Springfield.
Fri., 4/25-Sun., 4/27—**Illinois District Spring Convention**—Peoria.

North Shore Chapter Web Site:
www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat

Elsewhere:
Fri., 12/20—**Interstate Woodshed**—8 p.m. (dinner at 6:30) at American Legion Hall, Hwy. B, Silver Lake, Wis. All Barber-shoppers invited; \$5 donation requested to defray expenses. For information, call the hall at 262/889-8255 or **Gerry Carroll** at 630/543-8808 (days).

Barbershop Harmony Chicagoland Web site:
www.bbs.singer.as

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
North Shore Chapter of SPEBSQSA is a group of men of all ages who enjoy gathering in fellowship to sing in the four-part, a cappella, close harmony style known as barbershop. As we participate in our varied social and musical activities, including quartet singing, our members can develop their vocal skills and their appreciation of the rich heritage of American song, which we share with our community through performances in a variety of settings.

It's not too early to think about registering for IDAH (Illinois District Academy of Harmony).

Four Shoreliners attended IDAH 2002, and their general consensus was that it was a weekend well spent.

IDAH 2003 will be held in Springfield over the weekend of Feb. 8 and 9.

See the Illinois District Web site (www.harmonize.ws/ILL) for more details, or get information from Bill Remien.

Director's Creed

—**Matt Swann** (Dundalk, Md. and Miami, Fla. Chapters) from the Harmonet

(As long as we're presenting creeds for singers to follow, let's not forget that all-important guy up front.)

1. I will ALWAYS show up on time for rehearsal (not early, 'cause I like to make an entrance, and not late for obvious reasons).
2. I will remember that my singers are hard working amateur singers, no more, no less.
3. I will strive to be the best vocalist that I can be, for I set the biggest example (well, maybe a tie between me and the singers on the learning tapes.)
4. I will ALWAYS remember that the chorus is not there to serve me, I am there to serve THEM.
5. I will direct with the utmost meaning and emotion from the first run-through, so that my singers will sing that way from the first run-through.
6. I will be a model Society member, and that includes being in a quartet, being willing to sing in ANY pickup quartet, and participating in every job that needs to be filled other than directing that I am offered.
7. I will NEVER beat a dead horse in rehearsal. When a song is done for the night, it is exactly that and nothing else.
8. I will always insist on professional attitudes from my singers.
9. I will never mislead my singers on anything. AND LASTLY . . .
10. I will do everything in my power and ability to make the singers in front of me into more sensitive human beings.

And, since what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander . . .

The Chorus Member's Creed

—**Sam Wallace** (Spring, Tex. Chapter) from the Harmonet

Seeing and reading the various creeds submitted to the Harmonet and realizing that there has been none for a chorus member in general, I thought the subject should be addressed. Here is my submission. Any suggestions appreciated.

1. I will learn my notes and SP without having to be harangued by the director, section leader or choreographer.
2. I will, at all times, keep my eyes on the director or his/her assistant and try not to laugh.
3. I will remember: There are others singing in the chorus who also need to be heard—even though they may not create dulcet tones as well as I do.
4. I will remember the creed for my individual part and follow it faithfully.
5. I will always remember to keep the pitch firmly in mind; I shall not intentionally flatten any note.
6. If I sing a part other than lead, I will listen and follow the leads wherever they leadeth (pun intended).
7. I will arrive at rehearsal fully warmed up and ready to start.
8. I will arrive at rehearsal early, if at all possible, to sing tags or in a pick-up quartet.
9. I shall always attempt to bring others to rehearsal so that they, too, can learn the joy of harmonizing.
10. I will not interrupt the director when he is instructing or directing. (Unless, of course, I feel the director has made an egregious error.)
11. I will always remember: Good singing is fun; poor singing is garbage.
12. I will keep in mind that we come to practice to have fun and to ring chords.

Blessed are they that matcheth vowels, for they shall be rewarded with overtones.



Quartet News

Alchemy caps off a busy year with a holiday party performance in Orland Park Saturday, Dec. 21. They will undergo Top Gun coaching at IDAH in February. (Do we see district gold in their future?)

Special thanks to **Chordmasters** for stepping in at the last minute to sing at the Royal Order of Jesters brunch Sunday, Dec. 15, when **Hospitality** was unable to fulfill their commitment.

North Shore Four (Mimura-Remien-Jones-Schlesinger) will entertain at a surprise party Saturday evening, Dec. 21, at a home in Glenview.

A family of mice once found a rare underground deposit of Brie cheese. It took three excavations before all the cheese was removed. Which raises the question: Have you ever seen such a sight in your life as Brie mined thrice?

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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“Of all noises,
I think music is
the least
disagreeable.”

—Samuel
Johnson

“If one hears
bad music it is
one’s duty to
drown it by
one’s conversa-
tion.”

—Oscar Wilde

Fractured Christmas Carols

No one can fracture a Christmas carol better than a kid. Sing along with these new takes on old favorites:

- Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly
- We three kings of porridge and tar
- On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me
- Later on we’ll perspire, as we dream by the fire
- He’s makin’ a list, chicken and rice
- Noel, Noel, Barney’s the king of Israel
- With the jelly toast proclaim
- Olive, the other reindeer
- Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say
- Sleep in heavenly peas
- In the meadow we can build a snowman, Then pretend that he is sparse and brown
- You’ll go down in Listerine
- Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay
- Come, froggy faithful
- You’ll tell Carol, “Be a skunk, I require”
- Good tidings we bring to you and your kid

—source unknown,
found on the Internet

’Liner Notes

- ♪ Once again, we wish **Phil Schwimmer** a speedy recovery from his upcoming surgery.
- ♪ Speaking of surgery, **Harriet Brandt** has just had her second knee replacement. (Look out, Pete—pretty soon Harriet will be able to outrun you!)
- ♪ Sadly, we must report the passing of another former member, **Ed Reinholzen**.

May your days be merry
and bright,
And may all your seventh
chords be right!

Happy holidays, a prosperous
new year, and, as always, I wish
you whatever you wish me.