



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!)

February 2002

28 Members

Volume 30, Issue 2

Notice something missing from meetings lately?

That's right . . . since the beginning of the year, we've had no guests.

Won't you do something about that? Tell a friend about us. If you don't have any friends, tell a stranger. Even better, offer 'em a lift to meeting.

We need guests in order to grow. In fact, we need them merely to retain our current numbers.

Please . . . BRINGASINGA!

Singing Valentines: Successful Venture

North Shore Chapter's 2002 Singing Valentines were our best ever, with a record number of members participating, a record number of orders taken and filled, and a record sales volume. Our gross sales come to \$380.

We're grateful to all members who sang or offered to make their time available,



and to their wives or sweethearts who were willing to give up their menfolk on Valentine's Day. Special thanks go to **Paul Mimura** for bringing in two orders and to the Arlington Heights Chapter for referring many orders to us.

We brought a lot of joy to couples and families this past week.

Chapter to Support Two Charities

At its February meeting, your Board decided to change the allocation of proceeds from the drawings we hold at our weekly meetings.

Starting with the first meeting in March, the amount remaining in the pot will be split equally between Harmony Foundation and EISMA (Evanston In School Music Association).

Have We Got a Contest Set for You!

Our Music Team has selected "Hello, Mary Lou" and "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby" as the songs they will recommend to the Board as the spring contest set.

We are now in the critical 12-week period preceding contest, and we are planning to bring in a guest coach. More details later.

Add This to Your Calendar

Sunday, May. 19: Skokie Festival of Cultures. The **Shoreliner Chorus** has performed at this event for many years in the past. We've been invited to submit a bid for this year. Please reserve late morning and early afternoon of this day. We will be notified later—probably some time in late March or early April—whether we are selected.

Entertainment Book Sales Close for 2002

Another successful *Entertainment* book selling season has come to a close. Chairman **Pete Brandt** informs us that a total of 57 books were sold this year for a total net income of \$285.

That total is down a little from last year, but more telling is that 36 of those books were sold by **Dick Yanow** and **Mindy Lazor**. Next year, let's *each* bring individual sales up to Dick and Mindy's level. Thanks to all who made the effort.

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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 March Board meeting will be held at 7:45 p.m.
Sunday, March 3, at Phil Schwimmer's home, 3432
Salem Walk E., Northbrook. All chapter members
are welcome.

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

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
Fri., 4/19-Sun., 4/21—**Illinois District Spring
Convention**—Peoria.
Sat., 7/20 and Sun., 7/21—**Evanston Ethnic
Arts Festival**.

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

Elsewhere:
Fri., 3/15—**Interstate Woodshed**—8 p.m.
(dinner at 6:30) at American Legion Hall,
Hwy. B, Silver Lake, Wis. All barbershop-
pers invited; \$5 donation requested to de-
fray expenses. For information, call the hall
at 262/889-8255 or **Gerry Carroll** at
630/543-8808 (days).
Sun., 3/17—"Young Men in Harmony"
Boys' High School Quartet Contest—
1 p.m. at Barrington H.S., 616 W. Main St.,
Barrington. Hosted by Arlington Heights
Chapter. FREE!! Open to the public. For
more information, call Jack Musich at
847/255-0589.

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



Welcome to the Wonderful World of Woodshedding

Woodshedding is how our Society began: three individual voices (tenor, bari & bass) harmonizing to a lead's melody without reference to any written arrangement. An intensely pleasurable experience for the four singers involved, woodshedding is meant for their ears only rather than for general audiences'. Of course, anyone wishing to become more adept at the art of woodshedding is welcome to listen.

As the idea of woodshedding [in the barbershop sense] is

“From the Top”

This message is a quick one, to match the month's brevity.

We're on a roll now, preparing for spring contest, making plans to polish existing repertoire numbers and introduce new ones, and beating the

to ring chords rather than "sing songs," the best "woodshed" melodies strongly imply many barbershop-7th chords and are readily harmonized by those with a fair sense of our style's chord progressions and the production of overtones. There are so many existing and undiscovered "woodsheddable" melodies that we will always have a great variety of material to enjoy! Also, woodsheddors are free to pitch songs where the singing is comfortable.

bushes for chorus performance opportunities.

Let's not run out of steam—we all need to make the commitment to be at every meeting, with a guest if possible, ready to enjoy singing at its

Woodshedding ISN'T done by more than four singers at a time, except during a group-learning process or when a novice needs to hear barbershop chords; woodshedding ISN'T "faking" a fourth part along with three singers who are replicating an existing written Barbershop arrangement; and woodshedding ISN'T singing Polecat songs, tags, or other music that is highly stylized.

—from AHSOW Web site
(www.harmonize.com/ahsow)

best. The refreshing change in our quartet activities these days is just the first of many new steps we'll be taking. Let's take them together.

—Joseph Schlesinger
President

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 both choral and 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.

"I think music itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music."

—Billy Joel

"There are more love songs than anything else. If songs could make you do something we'd all love one another."

—Frank Zappa

Meet North Shore's Newest Members

Four — count 'em, FOUR — new members have joined our chapter as actives. Get to know them; sing a tag or two with them.

Gary Goodfriend came to us via Northbrook Chapter, which he visited following one of their shows last year. An Evanstonian, Gary (call him "G-Man" if you like) is senior vice president for a public relations agency. He and his wife Carole have two daughters, both in college, and enjoy cruising the high seas, as well as the high C's. Gary also is a sports enthusiast, having coached girls' softball and soccer teams. He sings in our lead section and was sponsored by **Joseph Schlesinger**.

Paul Mimura has already made a name for himself as the foundation of our mighty tenor section. He and his wife Pamela live in Skokie; they have one son who lives in Hawaii. Paul is a computer systems administrator for Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation and enjoys playing piano, flute, and golf in addition to singing barbershop. He adds with pride that his father was a decorated World War II veteran. Paul's sponsor was **Joseph Schlesinger**.

Rick Prieto's vocation is the same as his avocation: rehabbing houses. He sings in our baritone section and also in the First Presbyterian Church of Evanston choir, where sponsor **Kevin Jones**

met him. Rick is no stranger to barbershop, having sung with members of Chicago #1 Chapter during the 1960s. He has lived overseas, including two years in Shanghai, China, and now resides in Evanston with his wife Carol. They have one grown son and one grown daughter. Later this year, Rick will begin teaching a product development course at Keller Graduate School of Management.

Dave Wuebben is a Northwestern University freshman majoring in civil engineering. He's from Oregon, Ill., and he's the genial giant of our lead section. His other interests include golf and weightlifting; he also sings with N.U.'s University Singers. **Bill Remien** is his sponsor.

Quartet News

Everybody wants to get into the act! **Chordmasters** has joined the ranks of quartets with their own Web site. Check theirs out at:

<http://chordmasters.4t.com>

—we've linked it to North Shore's home page.

Hospitality is idle for the time being, while they scout out spring and summer performance opportunities.

North Shore Four (Yanow-Remien-Schwimmer-Schlesinger) gave a Valentine's Day performance at the Moorings at Arlington Heights. They (Sweet-Remien-Schwimmer-Schlesinger) will sing at a Mother's Day Tea May 11 at The Seasons at Glenview Place.

Alchemy will compete in district contest in April.

Chicago Shuffle Brings Senior Gold Back to Chicagoland!

Congratulations to **Chicago Shuffle**, winners of the International Senior Quartet Championship at SPEB-SQSA's Midwinter Convention last month. All four quartet members are from Lake County Chapter.

Don't Miss the Harmony Sweepstakes!

The Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival, the premier American showcase for vocal harmony music, celebrates its 18th year in 2002. The annual national competition draws from hundreds of vocal groups from around the country with regional competitions in eight cities. The winning group from

each festival is flown to perform in front of celebrity judges and a sold-out house of enthusiastic a cappella fans at the National Finals in San Francisco.

This year's Harmony Sweepstakes will be held Saturday, March 9, starting at 7:30 p.m., at North Shore Center for

the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are \$17 and may be purchased via the Internet at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 847/673-6300.

The 2002 contest will be hosted by past Midwest regional champions **Chicago Voice Exchange**.

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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Now that we know what the contest songs are:

- Let's *really* learn the notes and words.
- Let's sing "from the heart."
- Let's tell each song's story with our faces.

The Very Best Vocal Coach

—by Carol Johnson, Director, Manahawkin, NJ Chapter

I will remember the first time I heard myself on a tape recorder. It didn't sound anything like me! My friend sounded exactly like herself, but that strange voice singing with her just wasn't mine. I was shocked to realize that it was indeed me. I suddenly know that the "wonderful voice" I have lived with all of my life isn't the same voice that everyone else hears. For months, I taped myself singing in the chorus. I listened in amazement to this awful voice...it sang wrong notes, wrong words, bad vowels, made funny sounds, scooped, and even went flat! I became very aware of pitch and went right to work to produce a better voice.

Little by little, I improved myself as a singer under the cold truth of this heartless coach, my tape recorder. Yes, your tape recorder is the best coach you'll ever find! It gives you the opportunity to hear the voice that everyone else hears.

Remember that the only person who hears the voice in your head is you! Any time you are serious about good singing, the truth is there for you to hear. Just press the button.

—seen in many bulletins, most recently Atlantic, Iowa Chapter *Nishna Notes*,
Gordon Renfeld, Editor

Use Society Site for Updates

We encourage all members to use the Members Only site on the Society Web page (www.spebsqsa.org) to update changes in their personal information. The site can and should be used by all members for any changes such as e-mail, home address, phone number, etc. But please remember to inform the chapter secretary of these changes as well.



HARMONY FOUNDATION
Sing . . . for Life