



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 2004

27 Members

Volume 32, Issue 2

Never take
life seriously.
Nobody gets
out alive
anyway.

Chorus Performances—Correction

Page 1 of our January issue contained a lead article about upcoming **Shoreliner Chorus** performances. The story contained a consistently repeated error in the date of the March performance. However, the calendar on page 2 of the same issue was correct. Therefore, we are reprinting the last paragraph of the story from last month, along with a corrected version of the list of commitments. Please amend your calendars to reflect this correction.

Naturally, all chorus members are encouraged to participate—here are the members who have made their commitments via our signup sheet:

Brandt: Feb. 4 and March 10
Cutrera: Feb. 4 and March 10
LeHew: Feb. 4 and March 10
Martin: Feb. 4 and March 10
Mimura: Feb. 4 and March 10
Prieto: Feb. 4 and March 10
Remien: Feb. 4 and March 10
Schlesinger: Feb. 4 and March 10
Schwimmer: Feb. 4 and March 10
Steigman: Feb. 4 only

Achievement Award Goes to Dick Yanow

North Shore Chapter's first President's Award for Special Achievement was presented to **Dick Yanow** at the annual dinner in January.

The award, which recognizes lifetime contributions to North Shore Chapter, was conferred in light of Dick's many accomplishments over 25 years of membership:

- A record-setting 13 years as music director of the **Shoreliner Chorus**.
- Chapter officer and committee chair.
- Originator and first chairman of our chapter's *Entertainment* book fundraising program.
- Active quartet member.
- Willingness to contribute much of his time and talent to the chapter's musical development without remuneration.
- Active participant in chapter musical and fundraising activities.
- Gracious host of chapter board meetings and other chapter events.

Schlesinger Wins Chapter BOTY

North Shore Chapter members selected **Joseph Schlesinger** as the first two-time recipient of the **Tom Buckley** Barbershopper of the Year Award.

He also created and helped to develop the first-ever Evanston Harmony Days.

On a personal note, thanks so much for the honor, guys!



Our 2003 honorees: **Dick Yanow** (left) receives award from Immediate Past President **Joseph Schlesinger**. (Paul Mimura photo)

During 2003, his 27th year of membership in North Shore Chapter, Joe led the chapter in his second consecutive term as president, edited the chapter bulletin, handled the chapter's promotion, served as bass section leader, and solicited and booked performances for the **Shoreliner Chorus** and the **North Shore Four**.

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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 Joseph Schlesinger — 847/328-0921
 V.P. Music & Performance:
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 Secretary: Pete Brandt — 847/674-6349
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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
 The February Board meeting is scheduled for 7:45 p.m. Sunday, **Feb. 8**, at **Marty Steigman's** home, 4322 Greenwood St., Skokie. All chapter members are welcome.

Chapter Web site:
<http://evkhome.northstarnet.org/bflat>
 (Current Rag issue is also on the Web site!)

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

North Shore Chapter of SPEBSQSA will:

1. Provide, to whatever extent possible, organized chorus activities and organized quartet activities at every regular chapter meeting.
2. Actively seek public performance opportunities for the chapter chorus.
3. Continuously strive to increase its active membership.
4. Continuously strive to improve the musical quality of its chorus as a collective unit and the musical ability of its chapter members as individuals.
5. Contribute to the cultural panorama of the communities from which our organization draws its membership, thereby:
 - a. Increasing its visibility in the local community and fostering a positive perception of our organization,
 - b. Enhancing public awareness of, and appreciation for, barbershop harmony, and
 - c. Creating opportunities to recruit new members.

NOTICE: We have once again been invited by the Skokie Park District to submit an application to be considered as a performer in their annual Festival of Cultures. The festival is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 22-23. A show of hands at the Jan. 21 chapter meeting indicated Saturday afternoon, May 22, would probably be the best performance time for us. The Rag will keep you posted.

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
 Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night**—BRINGASINGA!
 Wed., 3/10—**Shoreliner Chorus Performance**—6:30 p.m. warmup; sing 7-7:30 at the Swedish Retirement Association (Landstrom Manor North Building game room), 2400 Colfax St., Evanston. Attire: chorus casual (blue pullovers, black slacks, black shoes and socks). Afterward we will proceed to our chapter meeting, which will begin at the customary time.
 Fri., 3/26-Sun., 3/28—**Illinois District Spring Convention**—Peoria.
 Wed., 4/7—**Barbershop Road Show**—7:30 p.m. at Northbrook Theatre, Northbrook Park District Leisure Center, 3323 Walters Ave., Northbrook. Presentation by **Joe Liles**; admission free. Our chapter meeting that night is canceled, so that all members can attend the presentation. For more information, call **Ralph Brooks** at 847/949-5023.
 Wed., 4/14—**Guest Night/Open House**.
 Sat., 5/22—**Potential Shoreliner Chorus Performance at Skokie Festival of Cultures**—See the box at the bottom of this page.

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

Elsewhere:
 Fri., 2/20—**Interstate Woodshed**—8 p.m. (dinner at 6:30) at American Legion Hall, Hwy. B, Silver Lake, Wis. All Barbershoppers invited; \$5 donation requested to defray expenses. For information, call the hall at 262/889-8255 or **Gerry Carroll** at 847/678-0092.

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

January/February Guests

David Pietz (former member)
 Robert Teng (Schlesinger)

Big Membership Recruitment Night Scheduled for April 14

Our first guest night/open house of the year is set for April 14 in the Milligan Room—unless we end up in Elliott Hall. Please start inviting people NOW. Feel free to give names, phone numbers, and snail-mail/e-mail addresses to **Joseph Schlesinger**.

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.

BY THE NUMBERS:

In spring 2003, we finished ninth out of 12 choruses, with a total score of 565 (47.1%). The top chorus scored 858 (71.5%).

When we won the Most Improved Chorus Award in spring 2002, we finished sixth out of 12 choruses, with a total score of 641 (53.4%), our best contest score under the current judging system. The top chorus scored 767 points (63.9%).

Now you know what we need to do in order to beat our best score. Or win outright.

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW—
AND SOME THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU WANTED TO KNOW—ABOUT
Spring Convention

Dates: The convention runs from Friday, March 26 through Sunday, March 28. The International Preliminary quartet contest consists of two rounds, one on Friday night and one on Saturday night. The chorus contest is **Saturday afternoon, March 27**. We will rehearse in Peoria Saturday morning—specific information is forthcoming. If you don't plan to compete in the chorus, plan on attending the convention—you'll be glad you did!

Registration: All competitors must be duly registered for the convention, and their dues must be paid up. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Illinois District Web site (www.harmonize.ws/ILL). Printed copies of the forms will be available in limited quantities at chapter meetings for members without Internet access. The registration fee is \$25 on applications post-marked through March 8; after that, the fee is \$35.

Housing: If you plan to stay overnight in Peoria, it is your responsibility to make arrangements for housing. The room reservation can be made on the same form as the convention registration. Deposit is one night's room rate, and it will be credited to your final hotel bill. The Pere Marquette is the headquarters.

Uniform: We will wear the chorus formal uniform for contest. Please check yours to make sure it fits properly, get it cleaned, and replace whatever parts you are missing. We don't want any "wardrobe malfunctions" while we are onstage.

Music: We are working on four songs: "Hello, Mary Lou," "Oh! You Beautiful Doll," "Yes Sir, That's My Baby," and "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby." As we get closer to contest, the two songs we perform best will be selected as our contest set.

When Do We Go Onstage?

As of Feb. 12, six quartets and six choruses have registered for spring contest. Most likely, there will be more.

In the meantime, North Shore is eighth in order of appearance among the 25 choruses in last fall's drawing. At present, we are second in order of appearance among the choruses who have registered for the contest.

Are Rehearsals Important?

You betcha! Please try not to miss any. Dick has been doing some wonderful things to develop our unit sound, but there's much more work to do. We need to apply what we've learned to our contest songs. And we haven't even scratched the surface on presentation. Expect to spend a chunk of time on that, too.

Remember What the Judges Told Us Last Year . . .

Presentation: Generate excitement...show pleasant faces and expressions...facial expressions must match the intensity of vocal expression...moves and singing must be in sync...song must contain constant buildups and releases of tension...mood setting must be consistent (facial expressions, body postures, and moves must be convincing in terms of song's message).

- Decide how to give each song to the audience as a gift.
- Increase and sustain energy throughout each song.
- Create a sense of anticipation in the audience.
- Appear to "propel" a song, rather than to be at rest.
- Minimize choppy singing—eliminate it if possible.
- Sing from the heart and "feel your moves."
- Involve the entire body in choreographic moves.
- Use big gestures and exaggerated facial expressions.
- Rehearse one-to-one while facing one another.

Singing: Use more air to support the tone...use more head voice rather than chest voice in higher ranges...baritones must sing with rounder, fuller sound and increased resonance...songs must start in sync...form the initial vocal sound/shape on the breath.

- Conduct more sectional rehearsals.
- Perform exercises to match the quality of leads and basses.
- Put more buoyancy in the phrasing (bubbling/hissing exercises).

Music: Increase energy through each phrase...develop sequences of tension and release into our mastery of each song...exhale and release tension when pitch is blown to hear pitch more accurately.

- Stand on the balls of the feet when singing.
- Stretch rubber bands while singing, to reinforce tension/release.
- Use all of the body's muscles to build tension.
- Give every phrase a pulse, and the audience will respond.

Improve Your Voice Between Rehearsals (Non-rehearsal activities for voice, body and mind)

—Jim Emery (Hilltop, Minn. Chapter), **Great Northern Union** vocal coach, Singing Judge

Your Voice

- Sing every day, even a little. Even five minutes per day is better than marathon rehearsals once a week.
- Breathe correctly and with good posture when you speak. You'll avoid chronic voice fatigue and be in your best voice when you come to an evening rehearsal or performance. And remember, you can't breathe correctly when you're slumped in your chair at the office.
- Speak in the right pitch and vary your pitch. Most men speak too low because we believe a low voice sounds authoritative. On the contrary, a well-supported, free, and resonant voice is the most authoritative, regardless of its pitch. Varying pitch is also good for the voice and for keeping the attention of the listeners.

Your Body

- Drink a lot of water. Water is the best medicine for a sick or healthy voice. To see why, rub your dry hands together, then get them wet and try again. The same thing happens with your vocal cords and body hydration keeps the vocal cords moist and flexible. But don't only drink a lot on the day of a big performance; your body hydration level must be built up gradually. Increase the water you drink every day and you'll be ready to sing any time. Avoid drinking too many caffeinated or alcoholic drinks, as they dehydrate your system.

- Don't smoke. Smoke inhaled from a cigarette is around 400 degrees F, which would burn your skin. Imagine what regular exposure to hot, dry air does over time to your vocal cords, which are some of the most sensitive tissues in your body.
 - Exercise your whole body. The voice can't do anything that the body can't sustain. Regular physical exercise is just as helpful as regular singing.
 - Get plenty of rest. Athletes don't perform well without rest and, for the same reasons, neither do singers.
- Listen to good singers, both recorded and live. Most golfers have noticed that they play better when they play with and watch better players. The same is true for singers. But listen to the best. Your subconscious will imitate what it hears.
 - Take voice lessons. If you can afford the time and expense, consider taking voice lessons. Even 30 minutes a week with a good instructor will give you encouragement and will help improve your singing more rapidly.

—from Akron, Ohio Chapter
Derbytown Gazette
Ed Crosley, editor

Your Mind

- Learn how to relax. Tension has the potential to reduce your effectiveness as a singer. It isn't enough to tell yourself to relax—you have to know how. There are many relaxation techniques, including yoga, meditation, and others. If practiced regularly, most can be drawn upon to help you relax when you are under the stress of an important performance. Find a technique that works for you and practice it.
- Rehearse mentally every chance you get. The voice responds sympathetically to silent mental rehearsal. If you'd like to rehearse but you're somewhere singing isn't appropriate, rehearse in your head. The vocal mechanism actually flexes in sympathetic response. Try it! It works.



Don't Miss the 20th Annual Midwest Harmony Sweepstakes!

7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 13, 2004
North Shore Center for the
Performing Arts
9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

Tickets: \$17.50—all seats reserved. To order, phone 847/673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org on the Web. Hosts: 2003 Midwest Sweepstakes Champs, **Nightwatch**.

For more information, call 847/228-1150, or visit the Web: www.harmony-sweepstakes.com

Singing
Valentines
recap:

This year fell far short of being a record breaker, largely because promotion to the media and the community was minimal.

Kevin Jones says we received five calls, which resulted in three actual valentines.

One of them grew into a half-hour quartet gig; the other was undeliverable (don't ask!).

Total chapter profit: at least \$210, possibly a little more.

Thanks to Kevin, Larry Kohn, and all others who helped out.

Don Harris, an association CEO from Dallas, has been selected as executive director of SPEBSQSA by the Society Board. Don will succeed current Executive Director Darryl Flinn when Darryl retires in August. We wish them both all the best.

Quartet News

Alchemy sang at South Cook Chapter's installation dinner Jan. 20. You can catch them at Theatre of Western Springs' Gala Dinner Dance and Silent Auction (Feb. 28), the Choral-Aires (Sweet Adelines International, Inc.) Fashion Show at Drury Lane in Oak Brook (March 6), and on a Saving a Childhood Foundation benefit show in Chicago (March 12). By the way, they plan to compete in this year's Midwest Harmony Sweepstakes (March 13)—find out more about that contest on page 4.

Chordmasters added a touch of seasoned harmony to the Northern Illinois High School Barbershop Quartet Contest Feb. 8 at Barrington High School.

Hospitality will perform at a private birthday party in Evanston Saturday afternoon, March 6. (Does anyone have a TTBB arrangement of "Hail to the Victors," the U. of Michigan fight song?)

North Shore Four (Mimura-Remien-Schwimmer-Schlesinger) entertained guests at a Hinsdale Hospital fundraiser in Chicago Saturday evening, Feb. 7. They (Mimura-Remien-Jones-Schlesinger) will sing at a birthday party in Evanston Saturday afternoon, Feb. 14.

One of the benefits of having **George Sotos** in North Shore Chapter is that he brings us the cachet of so many quartet accomplishments. Congratulations to **Savoir Four** on their fifth-place finish in the international senior quartet contest at SPEBSQSA's Midwinter Convention in Biloxi, Miss.

Charity Report: What Happened to the Campbell's Labels?

Heartspring, formerly the Institute of Logopedics, is a private school in Wichita, Kans., that serves children from all 50 states, aged 5 to 21, who have multiple disabilities. It used to be the Society's official service project, but was dropped as a Society charity because it has no singing program.

Nevertheless, Charity Chairman **Phil Schwimmer** has continued to collect labels (many brought in by you members) from Campbell's products and send them to Heartspring, to be redeemed for learning materials and equipment.

Last May, Heartspring discontinued its participation in Campbell's Labels for Education program and decided instead to concentrate on the General Mills Box Tops for Education and Tyson's Project A+ programs, which generate cash for badly-needed classroom items.

If you would still like to contribute labels to an institution that participates in Campbell's program, find out more on the Web: www.campbellsoup.com or call toll-free: 800/424-5331. For example, the Web site currently lists 28 participating schools in ZIP 60201, 13 in 60202, and 3 in 60203.

'Liner Notes

- ♫ We wish **Dick Yanow** a speedy recovery from his recent shoulder surgery.
- ♫ We hear **Marv** and **Sara Pitluk** were in a freak accident last month involving two of the family's cars. Here's hoping they're OK.
- ♫ Former member **Bud Dusenbury** passed away last month. His son, Art, was also a North Shore member and now belongs to Northbrook Chapter.
- ♫ It's good to have **Gary Goodfriend** back with us! Wanna find out more about him? Read the write-up in the February 2002 *Rag*.

Chapter Directory Update

Add:
 Gary Goodfriend (Carole) lead
 1421 Sherman Ave., #401
 Evanston, IL 60201
 (847) 733-1005/(312) 565-4627
gcmg4@aol.com
 exp. 3/31/05 (2001)

Latest Chapter Developments

New Tenor Section Leader Named

Effective with the January music team meeting, **Paul Mimura** has replaced **Dick Yanow** as tenor section leader.

Entertainment Book Update

Final figures are in! **Pete Brandt** reports that we sold 52 *Entertainment 2004* books. After some recalculation by Entertainment Publishers, our profit comes to \$260.

Formal Chorus Duds Have New Look

The chapter Board has approved a change to red, ruffled arm garters to replace the black armbands, as accessories to our formal chorus outfit. The new garters have been ordered and should arrive in the next week or two. They are priced at \$2 per pair.

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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The North Shore Harmony Rag • February 2004

“Love, I find is
like singing.
Everybody can
do enough to
satisfy them-
selves, though it
may not impress
the neighbors
as being very
much.”

—Zola Neale
Hurston

Phone Music

For those of you who always wanted to play a musical instrument but never got around to learning how, may we present: Phone music . . . to be played on a touch-tone phone.

Key to symbology: Commas (,)=pauses; hyphens (-)=held notes.

Mary Had a Little Lamb: 3212333,222,399,321233322321

Jingle Bells:

333,333,39123,666-663333322329,333,333,39123,666-6633,339621

Frere Jacques: 4564,4564,69#,69#,##*#964,##*#964,414,414

Olympic Fanfare:

3-9-91231,2222-32112312,3-9-91231,222-32112321

The Butterfly Song: 963,23621,3693236236932362,963,23621

Happy Birthday: 112,163,112,196,110,8521,008,121

Old Folks at Home (Way Down Upon the Swanee River):

321321050,6212,321321050,631221

Auld Lang Syne: 8444684891439#

(Yes, we agree, some people may have too much time on their hands.) . . . ha-ha.

—from Orlando, Fla. Chapter *Orange Slices*
George Williamson, editor

North Shore Choral Society to Perform

Phil Martin invites members and nonmembers to attend the winter concert of his other chorus, the **North Shore Choral Society**, Sunday, Feb. 29. The concert, “A Study in Contrasts,” will feature music by Persichetti, Bernstein, and Rutter, and will be presented at 3 p.m. at St. Luke’s Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. **Donald Chen** will direct.

Tickets at the door are \$20 (\$18 for seniors age 65 and older and full-time students, \$12 for children age 12 and under). To order, phone 874/272-2351, or visit their Web site at www.northshorechoral.org.