



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!)

January 2002

27 Members

Volume 30, Issue 1

REMINDER . . .

Entertainment
Book Chairman

Pete Brandt

would like to
close the books
on this year's
sales program.

Please return
all unsold books,
and pay him all
outstanding
monies by
Wednesday
night, Jan. 30.

If you have any
questions con-
cerning the
amount you
owe, give him a
call before next
Wednesday at
847/674-6349.

Thanks for help-
ing us bring this
year's program
to a satisfactory
close.

We're Ba-a-ck!

Back in print! After a 36-month hiatus, the *Rag* has resumed publication—and with a new look, no less. This year is shaping up to be a very eventful one for North Shore Chapter, and this issue will attempt to bring our readers up to date with the latest developments.

Back in Contest! The **Shoreliner Chorus** is returned to the contest stage. Our sixth-place finish in 1998 tied our best ranking since 1988. Many spectators at that contest remarked about the surprisingly clean, full sound our 13-man chorus produced. Because of small numbers, we had to forgo competing in 1999 and 2000, and our last-place performance in 2001 was less than inspiring—but we're preparing to make up for lost time in 2002.

Back in Growth Mode! With everything else that's going on in our chapter, your Membership Team has established an ambitious program of member recruitment, with our "Every Night's a Guest Night" plan. Don't wait to invite or bring guests; visitors—especially prospective members—are welcome any Wednesday night. The excellent new members we gained in December have set the ball in motion—let's not lose momentum.

Back at Ubaa! After meetings, some members go to Ubaa Old Crawford Inn, 9956 Crawford Ave. (at Old Orchard Rd.), Skokie, for their own little afterglow. Why not stop by and ring a few with them?



2002 Music Outlook

Your Music Team, headed by **Bill Remien**, plans a busy year. In addition to preparing for spring contest and continuing our successful Singing Valentines program, we will revisit some of the songs in our active repertoire that have been neglected in the past few months—AND we will intro-

duce some new songs to the repertoire.

We're also looking for more performance opportunities for our chorus and quartets.

In short, this is no time to take a hike. Let's all be part of the North Shore musical experience each week.

Remember These Dates!

Thursday, Feb. 14: Valentine's Day. If you want to perform in a quartet for our Singing Valentines program, we'd like you to be available during the day, as well as in the evening. We anticipate that many of the orders we receive will be for the 11 a.m.-5 p.m. timeframe. If you're one of our many 9-to-5 grunts, please plan now to take a vacation day that day.

Friday, April 19-Sunday April 21: Illinois District Spring Convention. This is the culmination of our musical efforts for the next three months. Don't miss it!

Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21: Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival. We plan to do something at the festival—perform, exhibit, or both—and we'll need every active member's participation. Please mark this weekend on your calendar and keep the dates clear.



Inside This Issue . . .

We're Ba-a-ck! • 2002 Music Outlook • Remember These Dates!	1
Calendar • Wanted . . . • "From the Top"	2
Singing Valentines • Charities • Holiday Sing • Chapter Roster Update	3
A Free Music Course • Chapter Quartets Have Own Web Pages	4

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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month; however the February Board meeting will be held at 7:45 p.m. Sunday, **Feb. 10**, 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:
Wed., 1/30—"Fifth Wednesday"—???.
Fri., 2/15 and Sat., 2/16—**Illinois District Academy of Harmony (IDAH)**—Springfield.
Sun., 1/20-Sat., 1/27—**SPEBSQSA International Midwinter Convention**—Riverside, Calif.
Fri., 4/19-Sun., 4/21—**Illinois District Spring Convention**—Peoria.

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

Elsewhere:
Fri., 1/18—**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 630/543-8808 (days).

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



Wanted . . .

North Shore Chapter is looking for interested, qualified members to fill the following positions:

Program Chairman. Reports to V.P. Music and Performance. Plans and runs weekly chapter meetings,

interfacing with musical director and other Music Team members as necessary. Also plans, coordinates, and oversees special events, such as social activities and nonstandard chapter meetings, either directly or through a designated chairman.

Quartet Activities Chairman. Reports to V.P. Music and Performance. Encourages formation of quartets within the chapter. Moderates quartet activities at weekly chapter meetings. Interacts with other Music Team members.

“From the Top”

It's a new year, and the wheels are already in motion. Wasn't that a fantastic Installation Party? The food was enjoyable, and it was a pleasure to share the festive occasion with the ladies. **Retrofit** added just the right note of harmony, and our chapter coach, **John Cain**, helped make the evening one to remember as the dignitary who installed our new team of leaders. Thank you **Bill Remien** for getting us

off to a good start—and thank you **Marilyn Remien**, **Flora Steigman**, and **Marge LeHew** for their culinary contributions.

What's next? We want to strike out in new directions, but we also want to retain and amplify the qualities that have worked well for us in the past. This means we'll focus efforts on increasing our exposure in the community, improving the musical

product our chorus and quartets have to offer, and introducing new singers to the wonderful brotherhood we share.

Won't you help us by arriving early at each meeting, coming to rehearsals prepared, and pitching in whenever you can? Let's make this year one of North Shore's best!

—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.

"Having served on various committees, I have drawn up a list of rules: Never arrive on time; this stamps you as a beginner. Don't say anything until the meeting is half over; this stamps you as being wise. Be as vague as possible; this avoids irritating the others. When in doubt, suggest that a subcommittee be appointed. Be the first to move for adjournment; this will make you popular; it's what everyone is waiting for."

—Harry Chapman

Won't You Be Our Singing Valentine?

North Shore Chapter's Singing Valentines program is under way. As in past years, we will operate in tandem with the Arlington Heights Chapter program. We plan to make quartets available to fill orders to sing up to three songs ("I Love You Truly," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," and "Story of the Rose") at requested times during Saturday, Feb. 9; Sunday, Feb. 10; and Thursday, Feb. 14. In addition to singing, the quartet will present each recipient with a rose and a personalized card. Our pricing for the package will range from \$40 to \$60 depending on how large a window of time the customer chooses.

While checks and cash are the preferred method of payment, we will be able to accept Visa or Mastercard charges this year through Arlington Heights Chapter's account. All we need to provide is the customer's name as it appears on the charge card, the complete card number, the type of card, and the expiration date. Naturally, we will need for all orders to be paid in advance.

Our agreement with the Arlingtones commits us to marketing our program vigorously. To that end, there will be Singing Valentines brochures available at each chapter meeting. We ask all members to help us fulfill

our commitment by taking brochures, posting them, passing them out . . . in short, doing whatever is necessary to reach the greatest number of prospects as soon as possible.

Joseph Schlesinger is the answer man for Singing Valentines 2002. Call him with any questions or orders: 847/328-0921—or e-mail him at zinger99@juno.com. This is one of the most exciting ways to raise funds for the chapter, and it's also an excellent way to get our name out into the community and perhaps attract some new singers.



Kettle Sing Tops Previous Year

Our Dec. 22 Caroling Around the Kettle for Salvation Army at the Howard St. Jewel in Evanston was one of our more successful efforts. Not only was the total collected in the kettle during our shift, \$241.32, better than our total for 2000, we

also made a very good impression on the store management, staff, and customers. The officers at Salvation Army Evanston Corps thank us for our efforts in this, our 20th year of service through song. Give yourselves a big hand, guys!

Chapter Roster Update

Add to list of registered quartets:

Golden Boys
Bill Gallagher (tenor)
Frank Schneider (lead)
Pete Brandt (baritone)
Paul Watts (bass)

Chapter Considers Supporting Additional Charities

Since our Society adopted its current Charitable Mission, which ultimately ended SPEBSQSA's long-term relationship with Heartspring (formerly the Institute of Logopedics) and shifted its financial support to Harmony Foundation, our chapter Board has been looking at the possibility of additionally assisting an Evanston-based charity. That way, we hope to cement our

presence in the community and obtain some public recognition as well.

The two worthwhile organizations we are investigating are Evanston United Way, which supports a variety of local social service agencies, and EISMA (the Evanston In School Music Association), which provides children in Evanston with exposure to a myriad of mu-

sical styles by coordinating and funding musicians' performances at grade schools.

One likely way for us to support the organization we select is to split the remainder in the pot from our Wednesday night drawings evenly between Harmony Foundation and the local charity. The Board will vote on the matter at their February meeting.

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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Going to IDAH?
It's your best
opportunity to
learn a lot about
your hobby in a
little time!

- Read Bill Remien's handouts.
- Ask Bill about it.
- Check the district Web site.

A Free Music Course

(Adapted from an article in the San Diego, Calif. Chapter *Sun Harbor Light*, **Don Renz**, editor)

If you are one of our readers with Internet access, a free music course with 26 self-taught lessons is just a click away. Set your browser to <http://www.musictheory.halifax.ns.ca/> – when the home page appears, click on “Free Lessons” in the top menu.

This music course was put together by a Canadian barbershopper and music teacher, **Gary Ewer**. You can pursue the music course in the privacy of your own home and at your own pace.

Once you enter the URL (user resource location) in

your browser, bookmark the location (Ctrl+D) or add it to your “Favorites,” so you can easily return to it for the next lesson.

The lessons include such topics as notes, durations, major and minor scales, intervals, time signatures, key identification, triads, triplets, and a number of other subjects. Each lesson has an instruction sheet to study, then you can return to the site to take a quiz on the lesson and also to see the answer sheet.

–from Oak Lawn Chapter
Woodshedder,
Pat Conran, editor

Chapter Quartets Have Own Web Pages

North Shore Four and **Hospitality** now have their own presence on the Web. Both quartets have new Web pages that are linked to North Shore Chapter's home page. The addresses for the quartet pages are:

North Shore Four:
<http://www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat/ns4.html>

Hospitality:
<http://www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat/hospmain.html>

Both addresses are quite a mouthful, so **Hospitality** is planning to simplify theirs. We'll keep you posted.