



the north shore harmony rag



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

North Shore Chapter,
SPEBSQSA
(The Barbershop
Harmony Society)

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

July 2004

27 Members

Volume 32, Issue 7

Where can
you find the
world's largest
repository of
trivia about
international
barbershop
contests?

At the Web
site created by
New Zealander
Benjy Trollip:
www.geocities.com/ace_of_ice/ICQ.xls.

You need to
have Excel on
your computer
in order to read
the files (and
loads of spare
time to go
through all the
information).

So Close . . .

It wasn't the Miami Beach squeaker in 1995, when the **Alexandria Harmonizers** edged them out by a mere four points . . . and it wasn't the agonizing, onionskin thin two points that dropped them into second place behind **Masters of Harmony** in 1999 at Anaheim . . . but Northbrook Chapter's **New Tradition Chorus**' third-place finish in Louisville, 63 points behind the champs, really hurt. They were shooting for their second gold medal, and many New Tradition members and spectators felt the chorus had turned in a gold medal quality performance. However, the final scores showed the judges felt two other choruses were better.

The top five finishers in the 2004 international chorus contest were **Ambassadors of Harmony** (St. Charles, Mo., who earned their first gold medal), **The Northern Lights** (Toronto, Ont., who received their fourth consecutive silver), New Tradition, Alexandria Harmonizers (Alexandria, Va.), and **The Alliance** (Greater Central

Ohio). In all, 22 choruses competed.

To make matters even more agonizing, **Alchemy**, Illinois District's lone representative quartet, ended up a single point away from being in the semifinals. All things considered, they were thrilled to be 21st-place mike testers. Of the 52 competing quartets, **Gotcha!** won the championship with 8145 points, followed by **Max Q** (7958 points), **Rip-**

tide (7943 points), **Metropolis** (7822 points), and **Saturday Evening Post** (7576 points).

Although this convention was sparsely attended, there were new events, presented under the collective name of Louisville X-treme and designed to spark everyone's interest. The weather was pleasant, although very humid.

Continued on page 3
—see LOUISVILLE

Shoreliners Return to Elliott Hall

The swallows eventually return to Capistrano. The turkey buzzards eventually return to Hinckley, Ohio. And, now that renovation of Elliott Hall is completed, our chapter meetings are returning to our former home, effective immediately.

But this new and improved Elliott Hall is not like our old digs: the room has been carpeted, the walls have been repaired and redesigned, new lighting fixtures have been installed, and the kitchen has been removed. The old upholstered chairs have been replaced with lighter molded plastic chairs with fabric covered seats and backs, designed to harmonize with the new look of our surroundings. At present, there is no storage area for our supplies; we are trying to find alternative storage offsite and would appreciate any suggestions from members.

Our hosts at the Presbyterian Home welcome us back to Elliott Hall. Let's all show the same respect for our hosts as we have in the past and leave the hall as clean and orderly as we found it each time we conclude our meetings.

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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
 The August Board meeting is scheduled for 7:45 p.m. Sunday, **Aug. 1**, at **Marty Steigman's** home, 4322 Greenwood St., Skokie. All chapter members are welcome.

Chapter Web site:
<http://www.harmonize.ws/shoreliners>
 (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.

June/July Guests

Harry Herbert (LeHew)
 (Don't stop now—keep bringing 'em!)

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
 Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night**—BRINGASINGA!
 Sun., 8/1-Sun., 8/8—**Harmony College/Directors College**—St. Joseph, Mo.
 Wed., 8/11—**Guest Night/Open House**—7:45 p.m. at our regular meeting place.
 Sun., 8/22—**Potential Shoreliner Chorus Performance at Evanstock**—sometime between 3 and 8 p.m. at Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Ave., Evanston. If we perform, it will probably be for 30 minutes.
 Sat., 9/11—**Evanston Not-for-Profit-Day**—9 a.m.-noon at Evanston Farmers' Market, University Pl. and Oak Ave., Evanston.
 Fri., 9/24-Sun., 9/26—**Illinois District Fall Convention**—Peoria.
 Sat., 10/2-Sun., 10/10—**Arts Week Evanston**.
 Wed., 10/6—**Guest Night/Open House**.

North Shore Chapter Web Site:
<http://www.harmonize.ws/shoreliners>

Elsewhere:
 Fri., 7/23—**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.
 Sun., 8/1—**North Shore Harmonizers Show**—7 p.m. at Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Featuring: **Alchemy** (current Illinois District Champs), **North Shore Harmonizers Chorus**. Tickets: \$20. For more information, call **Joanne Alexander** at 312/409-4215.
 Sat, 8/7 and Sun., 8/8—**Midwest Barbershop Showcase**—Best Western Prairie Inn, 300 S. Soangetaha Rd. (I-74 at E. Main St.), Galesburg. See story on page 5.

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

Guest Nights Are A-Comin'!

Two more Guest Night/Open Houses have been scheduled for 2004: Wednesday, Aug. 11 and Wednesday, Oct. 6. The latter will occur during Arts Week Evanston. Both will start promptly at 7:45, and both will occur in Elliott Hall.

Please line up your prospective guests now, and provide **Joseph Schlesinger** with names, phone numbers, and snail-mail and e-mail addresses for each person you'd like us to invite formally.

Whom should we invite? "Let's invite Greg and Gary!" said Tom gregariously. (Sorry for the Tom Swifty, but you get the general idea.)

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.

Want more barbershop news? The latest issue of Illinois District's *Attacks & Releases* is now online.

See what it has to say at www.harmonize.ws/ILL/news/attacks_releases.cfm.

As always, a few printed copies will be available at chapter meetings for our technologically challenged brethren.

We Can Now Pronounce Our Society Name

It's finally easy—and okay!—to pronounce the Society's name. The Board of Directors Tuesday [June 29] authorized use of "**Barbershop Harmony Society**" as the Society's official name in all communications. The action makes official use of a name that has been in common use for more than a decade.

"We think this will help people more easily explain and understand who we are and what we do," President **Rob Hopkins** said in announcing the news. "Legally, we're still the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. But we found that many people like the shorter name—including our own members, who are more apt to use it in day-to-day business and contacts."

The evolution of "Barbershop Harmony Society" from nick-

name to primary brand name is the result of extensive consumer market research conducted by the Society. The move is only one facet of a much broader Strategic Marketing Plan received by the Board at its summer meeting. While our name has often evoked a smile, it also has been preventing our art form from being taken seriously in some important circles such as music education, the media and entertainment, and with potential sponsors.

"SPEBSQSA was unpronounceable," he said. "In fact, our public relations department always asked that people avoid trying to say it. We trust everyone will say Barbershop Harmony Society aloud any and everywhere they talk about our hobby."

—from SPEBSQSA 2004 International Convention *The Daily Sprint*, **Warren Donaldson**, editor

Recognizing a Very Special Shoreliner

Most of us have seen **John Martini's** name on the North Shore Chapter roster, but have never met him. Last year John completed 50 years of membership in our chapter and in the Society, but we somehow failed to notice that milestone. Even though John has been an inactive member for many years due to a chronic throat problem that has prevented him from singing, he contributed much to our group during his active membership. So, here's a little background info to help you get to know him better.

John was introduced to North Shore Chapter by **Tom McCracken** while attending U.S. Air Force Reserve meetings in the armory next door to where we were meeting. Like

many of us, John says he was hooked on the hobby at his first meeting and became very active for many years. During that time, John sang lead in a number of quartets—one was **The B-Naturals**—and served on the chapter Board.

John and his wife Mary have been married 59 years. They moved to Illinois from Boston in 1952, and John took over management of a produce brokerage office in Chicago. Eventually he opened and operated his own brokerage business, and has since retired. They have raised four sons (how's that for starting a quartet?) and have four grandchildren. Although our roster shows John and Mary with a Grayslake address, they spend the winter months in Florida

Louisville

(continued from page 1)

One highlight of this year's AIC (Association of International Champions) Show was a special performance given by **Grandma's Boys** in observance of the 25th anniversary of their quartet championship.

Of course, no rundown of an international convention would be complete without our mentioning former Shoreliners that we encountered. In Louisville, we saw **Ron Hurst, Don Barnick, and John Miller**, and sang a Barberpole Cat song with **Tom Noble, Jr.** and his wife.

Contest scoresheets are available at the Society Web site (www.spebsqsa.org). Photos from the contests and elsewhere at the convention have been posted to the Internet. You'll find them at the PROBE Web site (www.harmonize.com/PROBE/louisville) — click on "Convention Photos" in the left-hand menu).

and much of the summer in Maine.

John's hobbies are music and sports, particularly golf and hockey. When his sons were growing up, he coached them in youth hockey and little league baseball. A World War II and Korean War veteran, John sums up his life by saying, "God has been good to us and we live in the greatest country ever known to mankind."

Chapter Directory Update

new address and phone:
Bill Remien
1482 Mattke Rd.
Arbor Vitae, WI 54568
715/356-9489

Speak Correctly to Protect Your Singing Voice

Protect Your Singing Voice by Using Your Speaking Voice Properly

—Jim DeBusman (SPEBSQSA Music Staff)

I don't know how many times I've noticed singers actually speaking out of their range. Their singing voice has good focus and breath support, but when they speak it's actually at the bottom of their range, unsupported, and with little or no head voice in it.

When I first started teaching, I could sing for hours, but couldn't lecture for more than 20 minutes without feeling my voice was at risk. It would become tired and sometimes hoarse.

Two great singers were in vogue at that time, **Robert Goulet** and **Julie London**. Being a tenor, I wanted to have a manly voice, but I could not speak in the baritone range without forcing my voice downward and muscling the tone. I also found my singing voice more tired after a long day in the classroom. Sound familiar for an improper vocal approach to good singing?

Fortunately for me, I ran across a *Journal of American*

Medical Association article that addressed the issue. It said that too many tenors and sopranos were destroying their voices by trying to be baritone/basses and very low-voiced, airy altos. The article went on to say that you should support and focus your speaking voice the same as your singing voice.

According to the JAMA article, the way to find your best

Continued on page 6
—see CRAFT

The Art of Getting Along

—“Murph” Johnson (San Francisco, Calif. Chapter)

Sooner or later a barbershopper, if he is wise, learns:

1. That barbershopping is a mixture of good days and bad—days when he is on and days when he is off—victory and defeat.
2. That it doesn't pay to be a sensitive soul. He should let some things go over his head like water off a duck's back.
3. That he who consistently loses his temper consistently loses.
4. That all men occasionally have a burnt offering for dinner and he shouldn't take the other fellow's grouch too seriously.
5. That carrying a chip on his shoulder is not the way to a woodshed session.
6. That carrying tales and gossip about others, their families, their business and their friends is the quickest way to barbershop oblivion.
7. That passing the buck and never shouldering responsibility always turns out to

- be a boomerang and never enhances his popularity.
8. That the chapter can run just as well without him.
9. That it doesn't do any harm to smile, shake hands and say “hello,” even if it is raining.
10. That the other fellow has a good voice, too, and that hard work in a quartet or chorus, and not cleverness, is the secret of success.
11. That he should be tolerant, considerate and sympathetic with a new member, because he remembers how bewildered he was when he started.
12. That he should not worry when he “blows one,” because experience has taught him taught him that if he always gives his best, he will have a break-even average in the long haul.

13. That the officers, quartet coach and director are not monsters, trying to sweat the last ounce of blood out of him. Instead, they are gentlemen and true barbershoppers who have succeeded through hard work, and are just trying to make barbershopping more enjoyable for him.
14. That the judges are human beings, well educated and not against his favorite quartet or chorus for personal reasons. They are 100% barbershoppers who call 'em as they hear 'em.
15. That members of one chapter are no harder to get along with than those of another, and that the art of getting along depends about 99% on him.

—from San Francisco, Calif. Chapter *Fog Horn* by way of Palomar-Pacific, Calif. Chapter *Pal-Pac Choruspondent*

You know who you are, and most of our established members know who you are.

But our guests and any new members who join our ranks won't know who you are unless you identify yourself.

Let's give 'em a break and wear our North Shore ID badges with pride at all barbershop functions!

“There is really only one quality of great music and that is emotion.”

—Frederick Delius

Quartet News

Alchemy will sing at a private party in Lake Forest July 17 and on the **North Shore Harmonizers** show Aug. 1.

Chordmasters have been spreading the joy of barbershop harmony at: Tamarack Retirement Home in Palatine (June 14), Cognitive Concepts' employee party in Evanston (June 30), a private party in Glencoe (July 3), the Mount Prospect July 4th Parade (July 4), the Arlington Heights July 4th Parade (July 5), Mount Prospect Butternut Apartments' POA (July 11), Hampton Plaza Retirement Home in Niles (July 12), Night-life at Noon in Elmhurst (July 14), and LTD Commodities, Inc.'s ice cream social in Bannockburn (July 16). Whew! We're tired just typing this list! And there's more to come (Arlington Heights Summer Concert Series with the **Arlingtones Chorus**, July 22).

North Shore Four (Mimura-Prieto-Jones-Schlesinger) sang for a private party in Northbrook Saturday afternoon, June 19. Seems the host's dad, a former Chicago-area Barbershopper who now lives in Florida, was in town to visit relatives in the area.

Gentlemen, Start Your Soup Spoons

You may remember when we collected Campbell's labels for Heartspring. The response was not great. The only regular contributors (besides me) were **Pete Brandt** and a friend of mine, **Stan Sclove**.

Now we have a chance to help some needy people again with Campbell's labels, and I hope we can do better. St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Nevada would like these labels. This charity is not affiliated with the research hospital in Memphis, started by **Danny Thomas**, but, they say, they "share the same patron saint." The St. Jude's ranch provides a caring

Here's a New Summer Attraction: The Midwest Barbershop Showcase

Greetings from The Midwest Barbershop Showcase, mid-America's premier barbershop event on Aug. 7 and 8, 2004 in downtown Galesburg, Illinois!

As the date rapidly approaches for this fun-filled weekend, we would like to announce a major improvement to the format and update room rates for those attending the event. **The Midwest Barbershop Showcase has added a quartet competition with a \$1,000 Grand Prize!** The only eligibility requirement to meet is that each quartet must participate in the noncompetitive event on Saturday. The \$1,000 quartet competition will be held on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 8, and will be judged by certified judges in the music, singing, and presentation categories. Our Headquarters Hotel is Best Western Prairie Inn. Regular room rates are \$89.95 for your choice of two queens or one king, but ask for the barbershop rate of \$65!

Call the hotel directly toll free at 866/343-7151, or use the following address: jill@prairieinn.biz

The Saturday evening show, with Top Ten quartets from around the Midwest and featuring **The Gas House Gang**, is selling at a brisk pace, and it's no wonder, considering tickets are only \$12 each! But if you sing with a participating quartet or chorus, your ticket is only \$6! You'd better get your tickets soon before we run out of seats! To order your tickets, make check payable to "Midwest Barbershop Showcase" and send to 435 Mulberry, Galesburg, IL 61401. Be sure to include your shipping address and number of tickets. And don't forget the Afterglow! Information will come out soon for this event, so keep checking the website!

Check out our new website at: www.midwestbarbershopshowcase.org

Here you will find updated information and links for room reservations. Hope to see you in Galesburg for The Midwest Barbershop Showcase!

—**Ken Palmer**,
Co-Chairman
ken@midwestbarbershopshowcase.org

environment for abused, abandoned, and neglected children.

The labels will enable them to get a van to transport these children to school, doctor appointments, counseling, and other activities. One can also order both religious and non-religious Christmas cards from them, as well as assorted cards for birthdays, get well, sympathy, and just simply note cards. Anyone interested can see me for more information.

Please bring your Campbell's labels to me at any meeting. As I did before, I will forward them on, on a quarterly basis,

and also acknowledge your names (and how many labels per quarter you contributed) every three months in the *Rag*.

—**Phil Schwimmer**
Charity Chairman

[Editor's note: For more information about Campbell's Labels for Education Program and what types of labels to submit, visit the Web site www.labelsforeducation.com or ask Phil for details.]

**North Shore Chapter proudly supports
Harmony Foundation and EISMA.**

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When all is
said and done,
more is said
than done.

Craft (continued from page 4)

speaking voice is to sing a descending scale down to your lowest quality pitch. Go up a fifth and that would be the best pitch to move around for speaking.

I started using the concept and immediately found myself

with a much healthier speaking voice. As a teacher and avid chorus/quartet singer, I know it has made a huge difference in my ability to speak and sing at a higher level of consistent quality. This concept can do the

same for you and you'll be surprised how much stronger your voice will be.

—from SPEBSQSA
On the QT

**I'd Rather Be Singing Well.
Wouldn't You?**

Does This Sound Like Anyone You Know?

Your editor recently enjoyed the rare experience of having a little spare time on his hands. So, naturally, he proceeded to waste it at the computer by running his name through the Microsoft Word spell check. Here is how **Bill Gates'** brain-child prefers to describe yours truly:

Scaremonger
Scheduler
Scheming
Schilling
Schlep
Schleps
Schussing
Screwing

Secluding
Seclusive
Secreting
Shebang
Shedding
Shelling
Shelving
Shoeing

Shoeshine
Shredding
Shrieking
Sickening
Socketing
Sphering
Splashing
Stressing

Ain't technology grand? Shriekingly, sickeningly, stressingly yours till next month . . . J.S.