



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!)

June 2004

27 Members

Volume 32, Issue 6

For singers at
all levels:

NATS (National
Association of
Teachers of
Singing) offers
extensive
links to Web
resources on
proper singing
and care of the
voice. Click on
"Related
Links" in the
"FYI" section
on the left side
of their home
page ([www.
nats.org](http://www.nats.org)).

Also, The Uni-
versity of
Pittsburgh's
Voice Center
offers a simple
list of do's and
don'ts for
singers: [www.
upmc.edu/
upmcvoice/
dos.htm](http://www.upmc.edu/upmcvoice/dos.htm).

A Fond Farewell . . .

What a great time we had May 22 reminiscing, harmonizing, and wishing all the best to **Bill** and **Marilyn Remien** prior to their move to northern Wisconsin at the end of this month! **Rick** and **Carol Prieto's** home was the perfect setting for our party, and we appreciate their willingness to host it. Here are some photos **Kevin Jones** took of our get-together.



The entire photo album is located on the Web at www.harmonize.ws/shoreliners > Additional Photo Albums or at <http://hometown.aol.com/bbsbasso>.

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:

Martin Steigman — 847/675-9223

V.P. Membership & Chapter Development:

Joseph Schlesinger — 847/328-0921

V.P. Music & Performance:

Paul Mimura — 847/677-8092

Secretary: Pete Brandt — 847/674-6349

Treasurer: Edward Price — 773/334-1419

Immediate Past President:

Joseph Schlesinger — 847/328-0921

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 July Board meeting is scheduled for 7:45 p.m. Sunday, **July 11**, 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.

May/June Guests

Jonathan Herbst (Mimura)

(Keep 'em coming, guys!)

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:

Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**

Sun., 6/27-Sun., 7/4—**66th International Convention**—Louisville, Ky.

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. to noon at Evanston Farmers' Market.

Fri., 9/24-Sun., 9/26—**Illinois District Fall Convention**—Peoria.

Sat., 10/2-Sun., 10/10—**Arts Week Evanston**—see story on page 6.

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.

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

Wanna See New Tradition Perform Their Contest Set for Free?

New Tradition Chorus will follow the procedure they established in 2000 of four days' intensive rehearsal of their Louisville contest set, Monday, June 21 through Thursday, June 24. The rehearsals will be at Glenbrook North High School, 2300 Shermer Rd., Northbrook, starting at 7:30 p.m., and chorus members are encouraged to show up in full costume (Tuesday's rehearsal actually is a dress rehearsal).

As in past years, selected members of the public are invited to attend these rehearsals. Since **Joseph Schlesinger** and **Dick Yanow** will not be at our regular chapter meeting on Wednesday, June 23 (since they will both be rehearsing with New Tradition), we may want to consider canceling our regular meeting and going out to Glenbrook North.

Let's plan on having a show of hands tonight (June 16) on that suggestion.

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.

Wondering how many persons have registered in advance for International Contest? The latest count is 7,683 (as of May 31). That means that if you're still thinking about attending the convention, there should be plenty of registrations left. But finding hotel rooms is another story. Find out more by calling 800/876-SING or on the Web at www.spebsqsa.org/louisville.

The Next Best Thing to Being in Louisville . . .

. . . is watching and listening to events at our International Convention that will be broadcast live over the Web.

The URL to key in is <http://webcast.spebsqsa.org> — the page that opens contains a schedule of events, technical requirements, and other information you will need in order to logon.

For your information, the schedule is as follows (all times are Eastern Daylight, and start and end times are subject to change):

Wednesday, June 30
 Quartet Quarterfinals
 11:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. EDT
 6:30 p.m.—11:00 p.m. EDT

Thursday, July 1
 AIC (Association of International Champions) Show
 6:30 p.m.—10:00 p.m. EDT

Friday, July 2
 MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest
 11:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. EDT
 Quartet Semifinals
 7:00 p.m.—10:30 p.m. EDT

Saturday, July 3
 Chorus Finals
 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. EDT
 Quartet Finals
 6:30 p.m.—10:00 p.m. EDT

Access is free, but, of course, if you stay home you'll miss out on all the fun of meeting and singing with your barbershop buddies. Visitors must register for a login password, and the public, as well as SPEBSQSA members, may view the Webcasts.

More information will be posted on the Web site as it becomes available.

In addition, up-to-the minute news and photos from International Convention will be posted on the PROBE Web site (www.harmonize.com/probe).

PROBE contact **Grady Kerr** explains:

"The Website is ALREADY up and running. There you will find a 'one-stop-shop' for the event with the convention schedule, order of appearance and competitor rankings. When they are available you can read the daily convention bulletins, the official convention program, links to the live web cast and, of course, the official score sheets.

"You will also find web cams from around the city of Louisville, maps, time and temps and even a conversion chart for the time zone impaired.

"We may soon be adding an area where you can post your predictions, news items, questions, tickets for sale, and even your thoughts of the Website and maybe even a poll or two.

"Be sure to check back often as we will be posting photos from in and around the convention (and in many cases) just hours after the event.

"So if you can't make it to the convention, you can keep up with the happenings there from your home computer (some have even accessed it from their hotel room on site).

"The man making this happen this year is legendary New Zealand Barbershopper, **Steve Currington**. He's



done a great job already and will keep it updated with the news as it happens.

"One note: Presently it's BEST viewed with Internet Explorer.

"All this is provided as a FREE service of PROBE. Members welcome. Consider joining us and allowing us to continue this type of support throughout the year."

Incidentally, PROBE is SPEBSQSA's subsidiary association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors. Any SPEBSQSA member is eligible to join—annual dues are \$10.

Latest Chapter Developments

Paul Mimura has volunteered to act as our assistant director, and he's off to an impressive start. Dick's wacky work and shoulder therapy schedules have given Paul ample opportunities to put his skills to work.

The word from our hosts at Presbyterian Home is that the renovation of Elliott Hall appears to be on track for completion some time in July. More specific information will follow. In the meantime, we need a member to serve as our facilities liaison. See **Marty Steigman** if interested.

Hats off to **Rick Prieto** for taking the initiative in remastering our learning tapes, with the help of **North Shore Four**. It is hoped that the new tapes will be ready for use as soon as this summer.

Society Considers Name, Logo Change

A recent letter from Society President **Rob Hopkins** was circulated via the Harmonet. The letter, reprinted below in its entirety, tells of moves being taken by our Society Board to revamp SPEB-SQSA's identity and therefore the image we present to prospective Barbershoppers we may wish to attract to our hobby. You may agree or disagree with the letter's salient points or our president's intentions, but you ought to read it through carefully before expressing your opinion.

The following letter has been sent out to all chapter presidents and secretaries with a request that it be read at chapter meetings so our membership has advance knowledge of the Society Board's consideration of a name and logo change for the Society. I thought all of you would be interested in seeing it, too.

Rob Hopkins

TO BE READ AT YOUR
CHAPTER MEETING FOR
THE BENEFIT OF ALL
MEMBERS

Gentlemen:

At the Leadership Forum last October, I challenged each of us to see the world with new eyes: "The only real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes. Having new eyes helps us to see where we are and discover where we would like to be, in seeing who we are and discovering who we would like to become."

The Marketing Task Force is one group that has been working hard on this assignment. Charging ahead with world-class professionals in research (Harris Interactive) and strategic marketing (Clarke Communication Group), the task force has been systematically asking the hard questions of ourselves and our prospective members to reveal why men join the Society; public perceptions of the Society and barbershop harmony; ways to identify and turn prospects into members; and ultimately, how we grow and flourish for generations to come.

Our Board received the preliminary report from the Marketing Task Force in March, and we enthusiastically directed the task force to continue the next phase of brand research and development. Our Board was specifically invited to offer additional insights into the plan, and encouraged to add suggestions that were incorporated into the brand research phase. That work is being completed and analyzed even now, and will be part of a report and presentation to the Board in Louisville.

That event may be a defining moment for this Society, a time for us to see ourselves with new eyes. Today, much of the world sees us not at all, or through a sepia-colored glass that shows them only what we were once in an imagined past, not as a future-looking group of committed singers. However, we must change if we are to grow and flourish in a bright and prosperous future.

The time has come for change. And today, we are preparing ourselves for just such a change. We're preparing our members to change themselves, and how they define themselves to the world. Our brand—our name, logo, and description—must change to encompass our 21st-century vision. At the Louisville convention, the Society Board will be voting on a new name and logo (which have not yet been submitted) for our Society.

Working with Clarke Communication Group, the Marketing Task Force will ask the Society Board and you to step forward and say,

— "Yes, we will call ourselves something new: the _____;" (how's that for keeping you in suspense?)

— "Yes, we will support that relatively simple measure with a comprehensive marketing effort that reflects our new position, openness, and nimbleness."

— "Yes, we will fund a full marketing communications and public awareness campaign that builds on our successes."

— "Yes, we will undertake this big, expensive, overwhelming challenge now—while we can still muster the manpower, willpower and resources to do so—because ten years from now, we'll have insufficient amounts of any of these if we don't act now."

We simply must rise to our calling. We must see ourselves with new eyes, yes—then make the changes required to become what we see.

Sincerely,

Rob Hopkins, 2004 Society President

(Editor's Note: Several years ago, the Society adopted as an alternative name the Barbershop Harmony Society. However, our legal name is still the one with which we were incorporated: the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.)

As might be expected, the proposed name change has generated a humongous volume of postings—pro and con—to the Harmonet. The total number of comments may well surpass those submitted as part of the long-running KIB (keep it barbershop) vs. non-KIB debate.

To read the comments in support of and in opposition to the name change, visit the Harmonet at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bbshop> — a free subscription is required in order to post messages.

“[T]here’s no bad day that can’t be overcome by listening to a barbershop quartet; this is just truth, plain and simple.”

—Chuck
(The World According to Chuck Weblog, Sept. 30, 2003)

Five Tips for a Better Performance

—Author Unknown

Our goal is to make the best possible visual impact on the audience. How can we as individuals and as a group go about doing that?

1. Know Your Music

Wait a minute, you say, I thought she was going to talk about stage presence. Knowing your music is an inherent part of every successful performance. No amount of clever choreography or dazzling costuming can compensate for the absence of accuracy and basic musicality. Being musically accurate gives you confidence in your ability, which is reflected in the selling job you do with a song.

2. Know Your Choreography

I’ve heard all the detractors’ complaints, so there’s nothing else you can tell me. So you thought this was a singing society! Wrong. People don’t want to just hear us, or they’d listen to a record. Just like knowing your music can add to your air of confidence, knowing your choreography can, too. The look of fear and worry and discomfort about your next move will not enhance your visual performance. Your nerves are bad enough on the competition stage without that added factor. If you know your music and your moves, you can’t help but feel confident, and a confident chorus gets higher marks.

How do you go about practising your stage presence? Aside from attending all rehearsals, you can tape the chorus singing and practise at home in front of a mirror. When you’re not sure which foot goes where—check with the notes we’ve written for the song. Practise with a friend or two. Check to make sure you’re all doing the same thing at the same time.

Check to see that you blend with each other. Remember, creativity is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration.

3. Be an Actor

If there weren’t a bit of HAM in you, you wouldn’t even be here, so don’t tell me you can’t do it. Being an actor means assuming a role: forlorn lover, father, soldier, errant child, bandleader—whatever. You are temporarily cast into that role and it’s your job to convince the audience that you are that person. How do you create that illusion? First of all, convince yourself. Believe you can be that person by relating to the story your musical package depicts. Pretend you are away from home, longing to return to its emotional comforts. Think of a quartet you sang with or a special friend no longer in your life. Summon up your fond memories of that person and reflect on them. The emotional commitment to the words and feeling of a song is best reflected in your face. Like everything else, facial expression must be practised so that it becomes part of the harmony between movement and music. Movement without expression degenerates into robot-like mechanics. And don’t tell me you can’t sustain it in rehearsal, but you’ll “turn on” when you get on stage, because it doesn’t happen. If you’re boring to look at during rehearsal, you’ll be boring to look at on stage.

Work on “turning on” every time you’re on the risers and it will become natural. Getting inside a song and transmitting that feeling to an audience can be an electrifying experience. Ask anyone who’s “been there.” Leap emotionally across the footlights—it will be as exciting for the audience as it is for yourself.

4. Believe in Yourself

You have to believe that what you’re doing has meaning. If you do, your audience will find it meaningful. The assurance and command resulting from your inner strength and confidence will visually enhance and illustrate the musical presentation.

And finally . . .

5. Believe in the Group

The performing group is a unit—a single entity—no one is a star. It is essential that rapport be developed within the team, if it hopes to develop rapport with the audience. You have to be able to count on each other and your director. Like a good marriage, you recognize your differences but within that context you have common goals. Your main goal is to do the best possible performance on stage.

Remember . . .

KNOWLEDGE produces
CONFIDENCE
produces SUCCESS

—from East York, Ont. *Rag*
by way of Burnaby, B.C.
Chapter *Fortune Teller*

Audiating— What a Concept!

It’s pretty simple, really. When our director is working with an individual section or individual singers on a segment of a song, the rest of us should mouth the words, singing our respective parts silently, with appropriate facial animation. That’s all there is to audiating. Let’s all get into the habit of doing that; it will help us learn our parts better and become more capable performers.

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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The North Shore Harmony Rag • June 2004

"... you want to
tempt the wrath
of the whatever
from high atop
the thing?"

—Toby Ziegler
(from *The
West Wing*)

Planning for Arts Week Evanston Commences

The Evanston Arts Council has announced that Arts Week Evanston 2004 will be held Oct. 2-10.

While North Shore Chapter has not yet made any plans for events to tie in with this nine-day-long celebration of the arts, we anticipate that we will, at the very least, host a guest night/open house on Wednesday, Oct. 6, so please plan accordingly. There may also be other activities, such as public performances.

In any event, we have no intention of producing anything as ambitious as the Evanston Harmony Days program we presented last year.

Stop Waiting . . .

Until your car or home is paid off.
Until you get a new car or home.
Until your kids leave the house.
Until you go back to school
Until you finish school
Until you lose 10 pounds.
Until you gain 10 pounds.
Until you get married.

Until you get a divorce.
Until you have kids.
Until you retire.
Until summer.
Until spring.
Until winter.
Until fall.
Until you die.

There is no better time than right now to be happy. Happiness is a journey, not a destination. So work like you don't need money, love like you've never been hurt, and dance like no one's watching.

—from Conejo Valley, Calif. *Harmony Notes*,
Gee Bee Brinkman, editor

Let's get good together
It's the only way!