



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!)

September 2004

25 Members

Volume 32, Issue 9

HAPPY
HOLIDAZE!

We're not referring to the Jewish High Holidays, of which we are in the midst. We're referring to the joyous and hectic Christmas/Hanukkah/New Year's season.

Why? Because on Sept. 22, we will begin working on our holiday music and assembling this year's holiday chorus. Time to start getting in the spirit!

Change Is in the Air!

You won't see "Under Construction" signs or hardhats at our meetings, but North Shore Chapter is being rebuilt from the ground up.

At this point in our development, especially now that **Dick Yanow** has stepped down after 14 years as our musical director, it's important that we reassess our chapter's goals and operating procedures, to ensure that we are truly meeting our members' needs.

This is a tremendous opportunity for our chapter to make a brand-new start—and, quite honestly, it's also a scary prospect—but we must take this very necessary step if our chapter is to have a future.

Contradictions Need to Be Addressed

Recent events have underscored the need to resolve contradictions that hamper our functioning effectively. For example, our Mission Statement and Vision Statement (see page 2) both include public performances as chapter activities. However, we have had to cancel a recent planned chorus performance due to low member commitment

and insufficient preparation. In addition, some of our performances earlier this year were not up to our usual standards.

We need to understand that if we wish to continue to be a chorus that performs in public, as stated, we must each make a commitment to learn the notes, words, and choreography for each song in our repertoire and be able to demonstrate, individually and as a group, that we can perform each song at an acceptable level of artistry.

If, instead, we choose to become a social club whose members get together weekly to sing informally, then perhaps we should abandon the idea of being a performing chorus. Or we might decide to adopt a completely new and different chapter structure.

In any event, the question of what type of chapter North Shore is to be must be answered before we can approach any candidates to fill the director's position. For that matter, the question must be answered before we even proceed with considering implementing the Society's Music Man program, which we have been chosen to pilot.

Special Meeting Called

For that reason, a special meeting for the good of the chapter has been called for **Wednesday night, Sept. 29**. It will be at our usual meeting place, Elliott Hall, and will begin at the usual meeting time. All North Shore Chapter members are encouraged to attend.

At the meeting, members will be asked what activities they would like to see occur at chapter meetings and, more importantly, what kind of chapter they want North Shore to be. A number of alternative formats that have been used by other chapters may be presented—with the understanding, of course, that North Shore has a unique identity and that we will ultimately need to develop a structure that is uniquely suited to North Shore Chapter.

Following the meeting, the music team and then the Board will incorporate member input into developing a chapter plan that will be voted on by members at an upcoming meeting. The new plan may retain or alter our current Mission and Vision Statements.

REMINDER: Special Meeting for the Good of the Chapter—Wednesday, September 29 7:45 p.m. at Elliott Hall

Inside This Issue . . .

Change Is in the Air!	1
Calendar • Guests	2
Directions to Oct. 4 Bash • What About Oct. 10? • A Note from Your MVP	3
Quartet News • New Tradition Are Coming to Evanston Oct. 23!	4

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
 The October Board meeting is scheduled for 7:45 p.m. Sunday, **Oct. 10**, 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.

August/September Guests

Dale Jergensen (Arlington Heights Chapter)
 Gus Roddy (Schlesinger)
 Lisa Steinman (Mimura)

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
 Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**
 Fri., 9/24-Sun., 9/26—**Illinois District Fall Convention—Peoria.**
Wed., 9/29—Meeting for the Good of the Chapter—7:45 p.m. at Elliott Hall. All members are encouraged to attend.
 Sat., 10/2-Sun., 10/10—**Arts Week Evanston.**
 Mon., 10/4—**Area Bash Hosted by DuPage Valley Chapter—7:30 p.m. at Moose Lodge #1539, 1030 Warren Ave., Downers Grove. All Barbershoppers and their guests welcome; open to the public. Admission: \$5. Sandwiches will be provided, and a cash bar will be available. For more information, call Tom Jones at 630/420-9170. See page 3 for directions.**
 Wed., 10/6—**Guest Night/Open House.**
 Sun., 10/10—**Shoreliner Chorus Performance in Evanston Arts Week Music Showcase—** sometime between 2 and 5 p.m. at Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave. (at Grove St.), Evanston. Performance most likely will be 30 minutes. See page 3.

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

Elsewhere:

Fri., 9/17—**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.
 Sat., 10/2—**Chicago Metro Chapter Cabaret—** 6 p.m. at Irish-American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. Featuring: **Jukebox**, chapter quartets, **The Bataille Brothers**, **Edge O' Town Chorus** (Sweet Adelines International, Inc.), **Chicago Metro Chorus**. Tickets: \$14 (food available separately). For more information, call **Nick Grib** at 847/692-5036 or **Bill Gallagher** at 847/869-2707.
 Sat., 10/16—**Arlington Heights Chapter Cabaret—7:45 p.m.** (cocktails at 5:30, dinner at 6:30) at St. Viator H.S., Oakton and Dryden Sts., Arlington Heights. Featuring: **Chordiac Arrest** (past International Medalists/1987 Illinois District Champs), **Radio Flyers**, **B-Flats**, **Chordmasters**, **Arlingtones Chorus** (past Illinois District Champion Chorus). Tickets: \$25 (includes dinner and show). For more information, call **Herb Nicolai** at 847/827-6417 or **Elmer Sweet** at 847/827-4136.

continued on page 3
 —see CALENDAR

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.

Words we can
all live by:

“Mini mini mini
mini

ming ming ming
ming

what a pity

what a pity

what what what
what

zoom zoom

zoom zoom

zah!”

Calendar

(continued from page 2)

Sat., 10/23—**Melodeers Chapter (Sweet Adelines International, Inc.) Show**—3 and 7:30 p.m. at The Gateway Theatre, Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. Featuring: **Growing Girls** (1989 SAI International Champs), **Swinglish Mix** (2002 SAI International Champs), **SALT** (current SAI International Third Place Medalists), **ReMix** (current SAI International Fifth Place Medalists), **Rönninge Show Chorus** (past SAI International Medalist Chorus), **Melodeers** (current and three-time past SAI International Champion Chorus). Tickets: \$50 (VIP), \$20; all seats reserved. For more information, call 800/ACA-PLLA (222-7552).

Sat., 10/23—**Choral Concert**—8 p.m. at Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Rd., Evanston. Featuring: **New Tradition Chorus** (current International Third Place Chorus/current Illinois District Champion Chorus), **University of Illinois Varsity Glee Club**. Tickets: \$10 (\$5 for senior citizens and Northwestern University students with ID). For more information, see **Joseph Schlesinger**.

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

What About October 10?

The **Shoreliner Chorus** has been chosen as one of the acts to perform in the Oct. 10 Musical Showcase at Music Institute of Chicago (1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston), in connection with Arts Week Evanston.

No details have been furnished yet regarding warmup or performance time. We presume our set will run for 30 minutes, as has been our practice in past years.

Directions to the Oct. 4 Bash

If traveling south on I-94 (Edens Expwy.), continue south onto the Kennedy Expwy. At the Chicago Circle interchange, exit to I-290 (Eisenhower Expy.) westbound; continue to I-88 (East-West Tollway) westbound.

If traveling south on I-294 (Tri-State Tollway), continue south and exit onto westbound I-88 (East-West Tollway).

Then . . . continue approximately 5.7 miles on I-88. Exit at Highland Ave. (southbound) in Downers Grove—use ramp toward Midwestern College/Keller College. Turn left onto Highland and follow it until it becomes Main St.—should be a total of about 2.6 miles. Turn left onto Warren Ave. (just before the Metra tracks). There should be on-street parking, or park in the adjacent lot.



A Note from Your Membership VP . . .

Anyway, members who have indicated on the signup sheet that they will participate in the Oct. 10 performance are:

Kevin Jones
Tom Leaveck (most likely)
Phil Martin
Paul Mimura
Rick Prieto
Joseph Schlesinger
Phil Schwimmer
Martin Steigman

Just wanted to thank all of you who showed up for Evanston's Not-for-Profit Day. It's a little early to determine the success of our efforts, but a good number of flyers were passed out, and we gathered a few prospects' names. I will phone them the weekend of Oct. 2-3 and remind them about the Oct. 6 guest night. I appreciate your patience.

We need more of you to sing that day, if you are available.

—Joseph Schlesinger

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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“Old songs are more than tunes. They are little houses in which our hearts used to live.”

—Ben Hecht

Quartet News

Alchemy and **Savoir Four** both contributed very entertaining sets to the Saturday Night Show at the Barbershop Pioneers Convention in Elk Grove Village on Sept. 11.

Chordmasters appeared at a surprise party in Arlington Heights Saturday, Aug. 21, and at the Arlington Heights Art Festival the following day. On Tuesday, Aug. 31, they gave a performance at Devonshire Retirement Home in Hoffman Estates. Look for them at the Arlington Heights Chapter Cabaret Oct. 16.

Hospitality will stroll and sing at Balmoral Park Racetrack in Crete for the Illinois State Championship for Harness Racing Saturday evening, Sept. 18.

North Shore Four (Mimura-Prieto-Jones-Schlesinger) delivered a surprise Singing Anniversary-gram to a Morton Grove couple Saturday afternoon, Sept. 18.

New Tradition Are Coming to Evanston Oct. 23!

Find out more about their upcoming concert at Alice Millar Chapel—see the calendar on page 2.

SMILE FOR YOU

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin
When he smiled I realized I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile then I realized its worth,
A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

Keep the smile going by sending this on to a friend.
Everyone needs a smile!!!