



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!)

March 2004

26 Members

Volume 32, Issue 3

WANTED:

Assistant
Director

With Bill

Remien's im-
pending move
to Wisconsin,
the assistant
director posi-
tion has be-
come vacant.

Minimum

qualifications:
basic knowl-
edge of music,
ability to hear
whether sing-
ing is in tune,
familiarity with
our repertoire,
leadership
capabilities,
reliability in
attending re-
hearsals and
performances.

If interested,
talk to Dick
Yanow.

More About the April 7 Barbershop Road Show

During the past month, we have announced that the April 7 chapter meeting has been canceled, so that all members can attend the Barbershop Road Show in Northbrook. Here are excerpts from a recent memo in which Society Membership Development Managing Director **Ev Nau** explains what the Road Show is all about.

"Wednesday, April 7 at 7:30 pm, **Joe Liles** will be conducting a 2-hour inter-chapter meeting called a Roadshow at Northbrook Theatre, Northbrook Park District Leisure Center, 3323 Walters Avenue, Northbrook, IL.

"You will learn some music and sing a whole bunch more. The evening is designed to relight members' fire for barbershopping. Each attendee will receive a packet of music and recruiting ideas that he can do himself. Chapters are encouraged to bring guests and potential members, and any potential member who shows up will receive a free CD. The evening is designed for participation,

fun, quarteting, fun and tags . . . did I mention fun? Check out the Society web site for more information and background about Joe.

"Please, make this an important event that you and your chapter will attend. I am urging you to make the Roadshow your meeting for the week. Hire a bus, if you need to, to make sure that your guys get there. It's important that we rally around our hobby and see what we've been missing in recent years. You are being invited to partake in this Roadshow because your chapter is roughly within a 125-mile radius of the event. You can be there, enjoy it and be home at a fairly reasonable

hour. Let's all build some more wonderful memories of this great hobby.

"Please notify your coordinator for the event, **Ralph Brooks** ralphbrooks@juno.com, and let him know how many from your chapter to expect. [I'll take care of that.—J.S.] He'll want to have plenty of materials and refreshments to handle everyone. He can also provide you with directions to the event, if necessary.

"Thanks for your consideration. Before we can ask anyone else to join our organization, we really need to be sure we know what we have, don't we?

"Here's to our every success."

Here's How to Get to the Road Show . . .

From the north, west, or south: Take I-294 (Tri-State Tollway) to Willow Rd. exit (mile marker 50), approximately 10 miles north of O'Hare. Turn east onto Willow Rd. and go to Landwehr (first stoplight east of the I-294 interchange). Turn left (north) onto Landwehr. Go approximately two miles to Walters (second light north of Landwehr). Turn left on Walters. Approximately one city block on the left side is the Leisure Center. The theatre is on the rear (south side) of the Leisure Center.

From Chicago and southeast: Take I-94 (Edens Expwy.) northbound from Chicago and exit at Dundee Rd. westbound. Take Dundee approximately five miles to Landwehr Rd. Turn left onto Landwehr and proceed one mile to Walters Ave. Turn right onto Walters and proceed to the Leisure Center approximately one city block west.

There is limited parking along the drive that circles the Leisure Center and additional parking in the lot to the west of the center.

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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, **April 4**, 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.

March/April Guests

David Pietz (former member)

Flora Steigman (Marty Steigman)

[Your guest's name here—if you bring him!]

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:

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

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.

Sun., 4/11—**Happy Birthday, SPEBSQSA!**

Wed., 4/14—**Guest Night/Open House.**

Sat., 5/22—**Potential Shoreliner Chorus Performance at Skokie Festival of Cultures**—Sometime in the afternoon at Oakton Park, Skokie. We'll keep you posted.

North Shore Chapter Web Site:

<http://www.harmonize.ws/shoreliners>

(Hooray! We finally remembered to change the URL here, too!)

Elsewhere:

Fri., 3/19—**Interstate Woodshed**—8 p.m. (dinner at 6:30) at American Legion Hall, Hwy. B, Silver Lake, Wis. 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

We Get E-Mails

From: MFutrell@MatherLifeWays.com

To: zinger99@juno.com

Subject: performance at The Georgian

Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2004 10:51:47 -0600

Hello!

I just wanted to let you know that since your performance here at The Georgian, I have heard many wonderful comments from our resident on your group's performance. They loved it, and have said they have never heard such a good barbershop group!

I hope we can have your group here again sometime!

Thanks,

Mary Futrell

Manager of Resident Services

Mather Place at The Georgian

422 Davis Street

Evanston, IL 60201

phone: 847-492-4630

fax: 847-492-5010

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.

"There is one practice that many of those who accomplish great things will admit they have indulged in, especially during their leaner years. They were able to picture themselves, vividly, having already attained their goals, and they retained that image in their minds constantly, assuring themselves again and again that they knew they would succeed."

—Dr. Marcus
Bach

Spring Convention and Contest Update

Contest Songs Selected

The two songs that will constitute our contest set have been chosen: "Hello, Mary Lou" and "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby." The order of the songs remains to be determined. From now till contest day on March 27, it's polish, polish, polish.

Chorus Photos

Mindy Lazor is coordinating the ordering of all photos of our chorus for this contest. Photos are in color, will measure 8 by 14 inches, and are priced at \$12.75 each (the chapter will cover the \$8.50 packaging/handling charge). Orders must be placed before the shooting session, and photos will be shipped to the chorus after the convention.

"Who Knows Where or When?"

We do . . . and in a moment, so will you. Our special Saturday morning rehearsal in Peoria will be at Civic Center Room 134, starting **promptly** at 10 a.m. Each chorus has the room for only 30 minutes, so we need to be on time and conduct our practice expeditiously. Let's be there by 9:45.

Here's Our Contest Timetable

Photographs in Civic Center lobby: 12:30 p.m.

Warm-up in Civic Center Room 136: 12:40-1:00 p.m.

On stage: 1:10 p.m.

IMPORTANT: All competitors will be expected to present their convention registration badges prior to their performance on stage.

Disclaimer: We've been wrong before.

Miscellaneous Information

As of March 14, there are 11 choruses registered for this contest. North Shore is second in order of appearance, which means we will be able to watch most of the other choruses.

One that will be of particular interest is Lake County, scheduled to sing tenth. Since the last time they have competed, they have moved their meetings from Libertyville to Hoffman Estates, merged with the Naperville **Brotherhood of Harmony**, and taken the latter chorus' name to replace their old **Great American Chorus** moniker. **Greg Lyne** will direct them.

Membership and Finances

—Joseph Schlesinger

There is an issue that has been nagging some of our members for several years, which I feel I ought to address in my role as V.P. of Membership and Chapter Development. That is the matter of the cost of our chapter's carrying inactive members.

With our hosts allowing us to use their facilities rent-free, and with our having renegotiated our director's compensation, the biggest single expense our chapter faces each year is the insurance premium assessed by SPEBSQSA. This premium is determined by the total number of members in each chapter, and not by the number of active members.

Because North Shore currently has 26 members on the books, our annual insurance assessment, based on categorization as a chapter of 20-40 members, is \$295. However, we have only 17 active members. If our total membership were only 17, we

Chapter Web Site Moves to New Home

North Shore Chapter's Web site has moved to a new provider. Our URL is now:

<http://www.harmonize.ws/shoreliners>

Links and other outdated information have been updated as necessary. In all other respects, the Web site remains the same as it has been.

The service has been made available to North Shore Chapter at no charge, thanks to Illinois District Marketing/Promotion Vice President **Daniel Garcia**.

North Shore Chapter proudly supports
Harmony Foundation and EISMA.

would be in another plateau (0-19 members) and, therefore, would be billed only \$140 for the year. So you see, because we have nine members on our roster who, despite their many past contributions, currently contribute nothing to the chapter, we are paying an additional \$155 per year that we could otherwise save.

Now, members become inactive for a number of reasons: some may move out of the area, but wish to maintain their identity with and membership in North Shore Chapter; some may develop a chronic illness or disability that prevents them from singing or attending chapter meetings, but they want to maintain their ties to our chapter; some have switched primary chapter affiliation, but still want to continue as dual members with North Shore; some simply no

Continued on page 5—
see MEMBERSHIP

Prepare Your Entire Body Before You Sing

—Jim DeBusman (SPEBSQSA Staff)

One of the things you can do to make your rehearsal or performance as a singer more effective is to prepare your body as well as your voice. Some vowel matching and tuning exercises are needed as you prepare for a rehearsal or performance; however, you still need to involve your entire body if you want to sing your very best.

This exercise is one way to relax and prepare your entire body.

Flex your knees, bend over at the waist and keep your upper torso higher than your buttocks. Then allow your arms, shoulders and head to go completely limp. Your upper torso should feel and look like a rag doll. The bent knees assure that there will be no tension below your waist.

Then slowly start breathing deeply for approximately 30 seconds. Having done that, slowly raise your upper torso upward half-way, with your knees still bent, and repeat the deep breathing. After another 30 seconds, slowly raise your body to an upright position. Keep your knees flexed, slightly roll your shoulders back and elongate the back of your neck. At this full and upright position, do the same deep breathing for another 30 seconds.

This is a great way to take all of the tension out of your body and to remind yourself how to breathe correctly. You can then start your rehearsal or performance and sing with ease.

—from SPEBSQSA
On the QT

How to Achieve Depth with Brilliance and Brilliance with Depth

Here's something **Jay Giallombardo** has been teaching the **New Tradition Chorus** that can also help us.

We all know there are 12 basic, pure vowel sounds. Singing coach and Music judge **Steve Jamison** introduced our New Tradition colleagues to the concept of complementary vowel sounds—that is, that most of the basic vowel sounds consist of pairs that share the same aural characteristics.

Examples of complementary pairs of vowel sounds:

OO (as in too) - EE (as in tee)
OOH (as in look) - IH (as in bit)
AW (as in call) - A (as in cat)
OH (as in go) - AY (as in day)
UH (as in love) - EH (as in get)

That's the principle behind our "We sing late at night" and "You look so on time" chord exercises.

Asking a singer to sing "darker," "brighter," or "lighter" generally makes no sense, as the singer has no frame of reference and lacks the technical knowledge to make the needed adjustment. It's much easier for a singer who is producing too "thin," "heavy," "dark," or "bright" a tone to introduce enough of the complementary vowel into the vowel sound being produced in order to remedy the problem.

Here's a simplified explanation, excerpted from a recent memo from Jay to chorus members:

Riser Discipline

Every now and then, it's a good idea to review some basic concepts that can make our time together more enjoyable and productive. One of these is riser discipline.

At its most elementary level, riser discipline is nothing more than common sense and courtesy. When the chorus is standing during rehearsal, all members' attention is focused on the director or whomever is up in front. There is no idle conversation, no wisecracking, no singing or humming aside from what the chorus or selected sections may be working on at a particular time. When the pitchpipe blows, there should be silence, so that all members can hear the pitch and prepare to sing in tune.

Finally, riser discipline should prevail whether the chorus is actually standing on risers or not. Let's all give each other the respect we deserve as musicians.

If the vowel is dark (OO, OH, AW), brighten with EE, AY, A. Keep the bulk of the tongue forward in the mouth. If the vowel is bright (EE, IH, AY, A), add the feeling of open throat. It is not bright or dark, it is: bright AND dark.

Brilliance with Depth. Depth with Brilliance. How do you do that? Blend the complementary vowels into one . . . OO/EE, OH/AY, etc.

The typical error: a bright vowel is thin without depth. Solution: add depth.

The typical error: a dark vowel is heavy without brilliance. Solution: add brilliance.

Goal: fully resonant sound 100% of the time . . .

Members are encouraged to take an interest in their chapter.

To find out more about chapter Board actions, ask Secretary Pete Brandt for a copy of the minutes from the latest Board meeting (or from any other month you desire).

To find out more about chapter finances, ask Treasurer Ed Price for the latest treasurer's report.

These documents are available to all members.

"The man that
hath no music
in himself
Nor is not
mov'd with
concord of
sweet sounds,
Is fit for
treasons,
stratagems
and spoils . . ."

—William
Shakespeare
(*The Merchant
of Venice*,
Act V, Scene 1)

Quartet News

Alchemy will sing for a Fox Valley District Boy Scouts of America banquet in Batavia April 17. The next day, they will appear at the Kaneland Fine Arts Festival in Maple Park. A corporate party at the Hyatt Chicago (21st) and the International Prelims in Pioneer District (23rd-25th) round out the month of April for them. Congratulations on their fourth-place finish in the Midwest Harmony Sweepstakes on March 13.

"The rest of the story": Here are **Chordmasters** engagements we didn't have enough room to list in our February issue: PADS at All Saints Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights (Jan. 17); 50th birthday party in Arlington Heights (Jan. 25); Valentine's Day gigs (Feb. 14 and 15); Schaumburg High School Arts Day x 2, Schaumburg (March 18).

North Shore Four (Mimura-Remien-Schwimmer-Schlesinger) will entertain at a 100th-birthday party for Paul's Grandma Sue in Chicago Saturday evening, March 20.

Chapter Directory Update

Noble LeHew:
new address:
8340 Callie Ave.
Morton Grove, IL 60053

Change exp. to 12/31/04:
Tom Leaveck
Rick Prieto
Joseph Schlesinger

Change exp. to 3/31/05:
Jack Cutrera

Drop:
Paul Smalley



Be a hero!
Write an
article for the
bulletin!

Membership (Continued from page 3)

longer have an interest in organized chapter or chorus activities. All are valid reasons for wanting to continue to be part of the North Shore family without being active, and, quite honestly, I know all of our inactives personally and would never suggest that they either drop their North Shore membership or transfer to the Frank Thorne Chapter-at-Large.

My suggestion is that, instead of persuading inactive members to leave the chapter, we bring in enough new members this year to boost our total active membership over 20. Are you with me on this? Doing so will help to:

- Add new voices to our chorus and new chapter personnel who can share some of the workload.

- Bring in "new blood" that will increase the success of our fundraising and new-member recruitment efforts.
- Justify the level of payments we are making to SPEBSQSA headquarters, based on our having more than 20 members.
- Make our chapter meetings more FUN!

Don't you agree that the benefits of increasing our active membership outweigh those of chasing away inactive members? We can all contribute to bringing in more active members. Your first opportunity is tonight (and every Wednesday night)! But our next big membership drive is April 14. Let's all make a commitment to bring at least one guest that night.

Is it possible
to have
TOO MUCH FUN
singing?



Find out
ANY WEDNESDAY EVENING
starting at 7:45

The Shoreliner Chorus
(Evanston's premier men's chorus)
invites YOU to visit us at:
Presbyterian Home, Milligan Room
3131 Simpson Street (Golf Road), Evanston

FREE Open House/Guest Night
7:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, 2004

Musical fun and new friends are waiting for you!

For more information, call:
Joseph Schlesinger at 847/328-0921

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

North Shore Chapter
Society for the Preservation & Encouragement of
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The North Shore Harmony Rag • March 2004

When we
give respect
to others,
we give respect
to ourselves.

Attention, Readers!

The *North Shore Harmony Rag* is making its grand entrance into the 21st century. Effective with this issue, we are converting to e-mail distribution of copies of the newsletter for nonmembers of North Shore Chapter. This conversion will enable us to conserve a few trees while saving money on printing and postal expenses. It will also enable us to deliver news to nonmembers in a more timely manner than we did via snail-mail.

When we distributed printed copies of the newsletter by mail, we needed to produce and distribute at least 200 copies of each issue in order to qualify for the reduced bulk mail postal rate. With e-mail, there is no minimum requirement.

Who has been receiving the *Rag* outside our chapter?

- Past chapter presidents who are no longer North Shore members.
- Illinois District officers and Board members, plus *Attacks & Releases* and key contacts.
- Key contacts at Harmony Hall, plus the SPEBSQSA president.
- Area college/university choral directors.
- Area high school choral directors and music department chairmen.
- Local public libraries (art department—periodicals sections).
- Key contacts in Evanston (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, Evanston Historical Society, Evanston Arts Council, Presbyterian Home facilities manager, EISMA).
- All district bulletin editors outside Illinois (15 other districts).
- PROBE officers and exchange bulletin editors (to make up the remainder).

I have most of the e-mail addresses I need, but I'm still lacking a few. To err on the side of caution, I'm asking all of you nonmembers who received this issue by snail-mail and wish to receive the *Rag* regularly to furnish me with your e-mail address, and I'll add it to my list. I would like to minimize the number of copies to be mailed first class. Thank you for your cooperation.